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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-FIFTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2005–2006

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Written Answers to Questions

Monday 26 June 2006

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Aid Budget

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the budget allocation for *(a)* Thailand, *(b)* Burma, *(c)* Malaysia, *(d)* Cambodia, *(e)* Vietnam, *(f)* Laos, *(g)* Indonesia, *(h)* Singapore, *(i)* Philippines and *(j)* East Timor (i) was in 2005-06 and (ii) is in 2006-07. [77795]

Mr. Thomas: DFID allocates annual programme budgets for five of the countries specified: Burma, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia and Vietnam. DFID spends modest sums in some of the other countries specified through regional projects and through support for non-governmental organisation (NGO) projects bid for through DFID's Civil Society Challenge Fund.

The following table provides details of total DFID spend by country for 2005-06 and 2006-07:

Country programme	*2005-06*	*£ million 2006-07*
Burma	7.545	8.000
Cambodia	11.834	12.831
East Timor	2.049	2.089
Indonesia	32.316	30.347
Indonesia Tsunami	14.000	18.500
Laos	0.050	0.210
Philippines	[1]—	[1]—
Regional	2.085	2.049
Singapore	[1]—	[1]—
Thailand	[1]—	[1]—
Vietnam	55.000	50.000

[1] None.

Burma

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what research he has commissioned on the role aid can play in promoting democracy in Burma. [77794]

Mr. Thomas: During the last year DFID has commissioned two research projects that examine the role that aid can play in promoting democracy in Burma.

Firstly, the Burma Strategic Development Assessment (SDA), undertaken on behalf of a range of donors currently active in Burma, identifies barriers to the achievement of sustainable peace and a successful transition to democracy. The SDA concludes that international humanitarian assistance should both ensure that conflict is not exacerbated, and, where possible, should contribute to the creation of the conditions necessary for a successful transition to democracy. Secondly, the Katalyx (Burma Change) programme has researched a number of change processes in Burma to better understand how change happens, and how change could be influenced through development assistance.

These two pieces of work suggest that there is an opportunity for donors to do more through their programmes to support peace-building and to help build the foundations of democracy in Burma. They suggest that donors should look to achieve humanitarian impact and to ensure that their programmes are conflict sensitive, but that they should also proactively seek opportunities to strengthen the key building blocks of democracy such as local accountability and local participation in decision making, through initiatives bringing together a range of Burmese partners (particularly from civil society, but also possibly the media, the private sector and local government). We are now considering how best this approach could be put into action.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of aid in the form of *(a)* food, *(b)* medical supplies and *(c)* shelter is being supplied to internally displaced Karen, Shan and Karenni people in Burma through mechanisms inside the country. [78097]

Mr. Thomas: In October 2005, the Thai Burma Border Consortium estimated that there were 540,000 displaced people in Eastern Burma. Of these, 340,000 were living in ceasefire areas; 108,000 were in State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) relocation sites; and 92,000 were hiding in conflict areas. DFID's approach to providing assistance to these IDPs has been to work inside Burma—including assistance through local civil society groups (DFID has established effective relationships with a range of ethnic minority and other groups), through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and by trying to improve access to displaced people to benefit from our project activities. These are not the only mechanisms through which donors can help (many, for example, fund cross-border teams operating from Thailand) but they enable access to IDPs who would not be reached by any other means, and through mechanisms which are much less-well supported by other donors.

However, these extremely vulnerable people are very difficult to access—both cross-border from Thailand and from inside Burma—and there are currently no comprehensive figures on how much aid reaches them. We are in discussion with groups both inside and outside Burma to try to identify how we can increase the amount of assistance that reaches displaced people and we will be reviewing the nature of our own support before the end of the year.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what budget he expects to be allocated to Burma in each year between 2006 and 2009. [79246]

Mr. Thomas: The following budgets have been allocated to DFID's bilateral programme in Burma:

	£ million
2005-06	7.5
2006-07	8.0
2007-08	8.0

In addition to this bilateral programme, approximately 18 per cent. of the European Commission's programme in Burma can be attributed to UK Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) through the UK's annual contribution. Over the past five years, the average of this amount has been £7.5 million.

The budget for 2008-09 has not yet been allocated.

John Barrow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on providing aid to internally displaced people in Burma in the last five years other than through the International Committee of the Red Cross. [79249]

Mr. Thomas: In addition to the support which we have provided to the International Committee of the Red Cross over the past five years, in 2005-06 and 2006-07, we have funded some activities which are delivered through local community organisations and are focussed on directly benefiting internally displaced people (IDPs) hiding in conflict areas (US$364,000 over two years).

Our health, education and rural livelihood projects provide assistance in eastern Burma, and support internally displaced people in temporary settlements and designated relocation sites, as well as other vulnerable people. It is not possible to provide an estimate of the percentage of spending on these projects which reaches IDPs. This is primarily because it is extremely difficult to gather reliable statistics about the demographics of the population in Burma and the origin of project beneficiaries.

John Barrow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of internally displaced people in Burma can be reached by aid delivered inside the country. [79250]

Mr. Thomas: Internally displaced people in Burma are not a homogeneous group. In October 2005, the Thai-Burma Border Consortium, a Thailand-based non-governmental organisation which receives DFID funding, estimated that the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in eastern Burma was at least 540,000. This comprised approximately 340,000 people in temporary settlements in ceasefire areas administered by ethnic nationalities, 108,000 villagers who had been evicted by the Burmese Government and moved into designated relocation sites and 92,000 civilians hiding from the Burmese Army in areas most affected by armed conflict. The recent military offensive against the Karen people has swelled the number of civilians hiding in conflict areas by as many as 18,000.

DFID provides assistance to IDPs through a number of different routes within Burma. DFID's provision of emergency assistance to IDPs hiding in conflict areas is through local community groups inside Burma. DFID's support to IDPs in temporary settlements in ceasefire areas in eastern Burma is through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to which we provide £500,000 a year, of which approximately 75 per cent. is attributable to work with displaced people in this area. In addition, our health, education and rural livelihood projects provide assistance in eastern Burma, and support internally displaced people in temporary settlements and designated relocation sites, as well as other vulnerable people.

It is not possible to provide an estimate of the percentage of IDPs in Burma who can be reached by aid delivered inside the country. This is primarily because it is extremely difficult to gather reliable statistics about the demographics of the population in Burma and often of the origin of project beneficiaries. We believe that it is not currently possible to reach all IDPs either cross-border from Thailand or from inside Burma—and that each approach enables access to IDPs who would not be reached by any other means.

John Barrow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the budget allocation is for pro-democracy projects in Burma in 2006-07. [79251]

Mr. Thomas: Increased prospects for a successful transition to a democratic society is one of DFID's four objectives in 2006-07 and all projects funded from DFID's £7.5 million budget for 2006-07 include elements contributing to this outcome. There are no current projects focused entirely on pro-democracy.

However, during the last year, DFID has commissioned two research studies that examine the role that aid can play in promoting democracy in Burma. Firstly, the Burma Strategic Development Assessment (SDA), undertaken on behalf of a range of donors currently active in Burma, identifies barriers to the achievement of sustainable peace and a successful transition to democracy. The SDA concludes that international humanitarian assistance should both ensure that conflict is not exacerbated, and where possible, should contribute to the creation of the conditions necessary for a successful transition to democracy. Secondly, the Kataya (Burma Change) programme has researched a number of change processes in Burma to better understand how change happens, and how change could be influenced through development assistance.

These two pieces of work suggest that there is an opportunity for donors to do more through their programmes to support peace-building and to help build the foundations of democracy in Burma. They suggest that donors should look to achieve humanitarian impact and to ensure that their programmes are conflict sensitive, but that they should also proactively seek opportunities to strengthen the key building blocks of democracy such as local accountability and local participation in decision making, through low-level initiatives bringing together a range of Burmese partners (particularly from civil society, but also possibly the media, the private sector and local government). We are now considering how best this approach could be put into action.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the Government will contribute to the three diseases fund for Burma in each of the next three years. [79348]

Mr. Thomas: The initial concept of DFID involvement in the new multi-donor fund to tackle HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Burma was approved in March 2006, but the final details have yet to be finally approved, including the level of DFID's financial allocation.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether resources from the new three diseases fund for Burma will be able to reach *(a)* Karen, *(b)* Shan and *(c)* other internally displaced peoples; and if he will make a statement. [79549]

Mr. Thomas: The initial concept of DFID involvement in the new multi-donor fund to tackle HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in Burma was approved in March 2006, but final details of DFID's involvement have yet to be finally approved. One of the decisions we are considering is whether the allocations of the 3D Fund would be able to reach Karen, Shan and other internally displaced people.

Indonesia

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much non-financial assistance the Government have pledged to Indonesia in the aftermath of the recent earthquake. [77933]

Mr. Thomas: DFID sent two humanitarian specialists to Yogyakarta within 48 hours of the earthquake to undertake a rapid assessment of the situation. The field team gathered first-hand information that allowed us to identify critical needs of the affected population. DFID funds were then quickly allocated. Our field team worked with the multilateral organisations and other donors especially in the affected areas to facilitate a comprehensive response.

DFID's Jakarta office supported the field team by liaising with donors and relief agencies based in Jakarta to gather information on others' plans and assessments. In addition, we were able to provide urgent relief in the immediate aftermath of the disaster through local NGOs, co-ordinated by DFID staff from a forestry project based in the affected area. With this support, volunteers organised by the DFID project provided sustenance, shelter and basic household equipment to thousands of people.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he had with *(a)* agencies capable of large-scale infrastructure projects, *(b)* aid agencies and *(c)* non-governmental organisations in relation to the Indonesian earthquake relief effort. [79908]

Mr. Thomas: DFID staff based in Indonesia have maintained close contact with agencies capable of large-scale infrastructure projects, primarily the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, in considering the case for a UK contribution to the long-term reconstruction effort. We are now actively discussing with these agencies practical options for supporting the reconstruction of housing, which was particularly badly hit by the earthquake.

In addition, DFID staff have held regular discussions with a wide range of other aid agencies and NGOs, both local and international, in assessing needs and co-ordinating responses to the earthquake. These discussions were crucial in informing the allocation of the £5 million so far committed by DFID to the humanitarian relief phase of the disaster.

Inter-American Development Bank

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's funding for South America in 2006-07 is being channelled through the Inter-American Development Bank. [78051]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's main financial contribution to Latin America (South and Central America) is through our contributions to multi lateral organisations working in the region such as the European Commission, and the concessional lending of the Inter American Development Bank (IADB) and the World Bank. There is no replenishment of the IADB's concessional lending fund in 2006-07. However, the UK has agreed to commit £2 million this year to the IADB administered Multilateral Investment Fund, which provides financial assistance primarily through grants.

DFID's bilateral programme in Latin America is £12 million in 2006-07. An additional £7 million per year is provided through six international NGOs (OXFAM, CARE, CAFOD, HIV/AIDS Alliance, WWF and Christian Aid) for work with civil society. DFID also provides assistance through centrally managed programmes (research and the Civil Society Challenge Fund) and through debt relief. DFID works with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) on the Global Conflict Prevention Pool for Latin America.

In 2005, DFID established the Markets and Governance for Poverty Reduction Trust Fund with the IADB, with funding of £1,200,000 planned for 2006-07. The IADB has also established a Trade and Poverty Trust Fund, with DFID funding of £200,000 in 2006-07. A further £400,000 will be provide through the ENLACE trust fund, which tackles social exclusion in Central America.

Iraq

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid was provided *(a)* bilaterally and *(b)* multilaterally to Iraq in (i) 2003, (ii) 2004 and (iii) 2005. [79804]

Hilary Benn: The UK Government have pledged a total of £544 million for humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in Iraq from 2003 to 2006. This includes contributions from DFID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Ministry of Defence (MOD), the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) and the UK's share of EC funding. The UK has disbursed over £533 million.

DFID has disbursed £354 million on humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Iraq since March 2003. We have also provided 19 per cent. of European Community (EC) development funding: EC assistance to Iraq totalled €518.5 million for 2003 to 2005, and a further €200 million has been approved for 2006.

DFID spending can be broken down as follows:

	Total bilateral gross public expenditure (£m)	*Total DFID bilateral programme (£m)*	*Imputed multilateral shares DFID multilateral (£m)*	*Contributions to multilateral agencies*
2003	115	110	5	£84 million to UN agencies for 2003 Appeal £18 million to Red Cross £8 million to International Finance Corporation (IFC) £0.8 million to International Monetary Fund (IMF)
2004	150	144	—[1]	£70 million to UN and World Bank Trust Funds

[1] Still to be verified.
Note:
Statistics for 2005 are, as yet, unavailable.

The Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP), funded jointly by DFID, the FCO and MOD, has disbursed £38 million on Iraq since 2003. In addition, the FCO has spent £38 million on reconstruction activities in Iraq, and the MOD has spent £35 million on Quick Impact Projects.

Millennium Development Goal

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to seek agreement to a specific millennium development goal which focuses on disability. [78425]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The Government believe that disabled people must be included in efforts to reduce poverty and achieve the internationally agreed millennium development goals (MDGs). We recognise that the needs of disabled people must be addressed across all the MDGs to ensure their achievement in an inclusive manner.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) approach to disability is set out in an Issues Paper—"Disability, Poverty and Development"—published in 2000; copies of which have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. DFID seeks to take account of disability issues across all its activities, as well as supporting a specific range of activities to empower disabled people. In September 2005, DFID also published a policy paper on social exclusion, entitled "Reducing Poverty by Tackling Social Exclusion"; again, copies of this document have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. This sets out actions that DFID is taking, or plans to take, to tackle the social exclusion faced by many poor people, including disabled people, to make a real difference to their lives.

The Government are actively supporting the drafting of a United Nations International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The purpose of the convention is to enable disabled people across the world to have the same access to human rights protection as non-disabled people. If the convention is adopted, it will enable Governments to be called to account for their record on protecting disabled people from human rights abuses and help raise the profile of disability issues worldwide.

DFID also seeks to work with our international partners—including UN agencies, the World Bank and partner Governments—to gain further support for tackling issues of disability and other forms of social exclusion. However, we do not believe this requires the creation of a new MDG and furthermore, it could also detract from efforts to mainstream disability issues across all the MDGs.

Water and Sanitation

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of his Department's budget was spent on water and sanitation in each of the last five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [79278]

Hilary Benn: The following table gives figures on water and sanitation bilateral expenditure as a percentage of DFID bilateral aid (excludes poverty reduction budget support):

	Percentage
2000-01	0.9
2001-02	1.0
2002-03	1.1
2003-04	1.8
2004-05	1.3

All DFID's bilateral expenditure is allocated to specific Input Sector Codes, and these figures are based on this information. However, as water and sanitation initiatives are so cross-cutting, this approach is not sensitive enough to identify all expenditure in this area. DFID has therefore done further research to produce a more detailed analysis of its water and sanitation expenditure. DFID does not allocate its multilateral aid by sector, but we have taken steps to estimate this for water and sanitation. Based on these figures, DFID's total expenditure on water and sanitation was £221 million in 2003-04, an increase from £147 million in 2002-03.

In response to the current situation where most of sub-Saharan Africa is off-track to meet the water and sanitation MDG targets, I have committed to double spending on water supply and sanitation sectors in Africa from £47.5 million in 2004-05 to £95 million in 2007-08. We anticipate that meeting the commitment will require an increase in expenditure through all funding mechanisms, including our own bilateral programmes, but also through encouraging others such as the World Bank and the EU to do more in water and sanitation.

A copy of the report entitled "Financial Support to the Water Sector 2002-04", has been placed in the *Libraries of both Houses in response to previous* similar questions.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abattoirs

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many abattoirs in Dorset *(a)* there are and *(b)* there were in 1997. [75846]

Barry Gardiner: There are five abattoirs currently operating in Dorset. The Department has no figure available for the number of abattoirs operating in 1997, although the national picture shows that a reduction and some consolidation has occurred over this period.

Amazon Deforestation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on illegal logging in the Amazon rain forest. [78933]

Barry Gardiner: We recognise that deforestation is a serious problem in the Amazon. Our efforts to tackle illegal logging rely on close co-operation between a number of Government Departments including DFID, FCO and DEFRA.

Estimates from the intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) suggest that deforestation (including logging in rain forests) is currently responsible for about 20 per cent. of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Our policy is that emissions reductions from reduced deforestation should be part of developing countries' participation in international climate change agreements and we are participating actively in negotiations and associated technical discussions that can help to bring it about.

The British Government have initiated a high-level dialogue on sustainable development with the Brazilian Government and national stakeholders to promote action on commonly identified sustainable development challenges—including natural resource protection.

DEFRA, through its work on the convention on biological diversity (CBD) and other fora, is committed to international efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity. Through the Darwin Initiative, it has committed more than £5 million to collaborative forestry projects, drawing on UK expertise to help developing countries design and implement conservation measures.

We are also working within the G8 and the EU to recognise our role as consumers by expressing our wish to buy forest products only from responsibly managed forests.

Bankrupt Farmers

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of farmers who went bankrupt in *(a)* England, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* Beverley and Holderness in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [77599]

Barry Gardiner: The Department does not hold this information.

Beef Exports

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how long he expects it to take for British beef exports to reach their 1996 levels. [76178]

Barry Gardiner: The Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) estimates that in 2006 UK exports could be about 40,000 tonnes divided equally between prime beef and cow beef. There is also strong interest in exporting pedigree breeding stock and other cattle (including calves).

However, it will of course take time to regain lost markets and to approach previous record export levels, which amounted to nearly £600 million for beef exports and £78 million for cattle in 1995.

Biodiversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to him comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74403]

Barry Gardiner: Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, all public bodies have a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in the exercising of their functions. There is no statutory obligation on Departments to monitor the extent to which public bodies comply with this duty. My Department is working with a wide range of partners to develop guidance for public bodies to support the implementation of this duty and will involve all relevant Departments on the development of guidance.

CAP Reform

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for further reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, with particular reference to evaluating the advantages of nationalising resources. [76046]

Barry Gardiner: We want a CAP which enables EU farming to be internationally competitive without reliance on subsidy or protectionism, so that it is able to meet the challenges and reap the opportunities of globalisation.

Farming should be rewarded by the market for its output of safe, quality food and by the taxpayer for delivering public benefits (such as environmental protection) which the market cannot deliver. Major steps have been made recently in this direction but the cost of the CAP to consumers and taxpayers is still very high in relation to the public benefits which it delivers.

The UK has long advocated reductions in CAP subsidy levels, the end of export subsidies, greater market access for developing countries, the removal of market distorting measures such as production quotas and greater transfer of CAP funding to schemes which bring environmental benefits.

Whatever reforms are agreed to the CAP on the budgetary side, it is important that EU agriculture operates within a common policy framework which does not lead to trade distortion between member states. What we have called for is a review to see how the CAP can be reformed to deliver better value for EU citizens, reduce inefficiencies and remaining trade distortion and achieve a more competitive farm industry.

Climate Change

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what contribution the UK Government are making to the development of EU policy on tackling climate change. [79332]

Ian Pearson: During its presidency of the EU the UK put climate change high on the agenda, raising its status as a key EU issue in contacts with other countries and driving forward international negotiations. Momentum built up during our presidency ensures we are able to continue working closely with our EU partners to secure agreement on further action in the EU on climate change. We are working closely with the Commission and member states on the review of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, which will help strengthen the scheme post-2012. We are participating fully in the process to develop a second European Climate Change Programme, designed to deliver ambitious cuts in emissions in the medium and long-term. And we are helping to steer the development of the EU's energy strategy to ensure that it takes into account climate change concerns.

The UK is also pressing the Commission to include aviation in the Emissions Trading Scheme from 2008 or as soon as possible thereafter. The Council of Ministers has indicated its support for this and we expect the Commission to present a legislative proposal by the end of 2006.

Correspondence

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 149-150W, on correspondence, how many letters from hon. Members failed to receive an answer in the period referred to. [77045]

Barry Gardiner: The Department has no correspondence outstanding from 2004. Of the 12,051 letters received in 2005 from hon. and right hon. Members (including Members of the House of Lords), 88 (0.7 per cent.) await reply.

Countryside Stewardship Scheme

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total level of funding is for the countryside stewardship scheme; and how much funding *(a)* has been allocated in each agreement year since the scheme's inception and *(b)* is planned to be allocated in each future agreement year. [77705]

Barry Gardiner: Details of expenditure on the countryside stewardship scheme is set out as follows.

	£ million
1994-95	10.5
1995-96	12.6
1996-97	12.5
1997-98	17.8
1998-99	22.0
1999-2000	26.1
2000-01	31.9
2001-02	43.4
2002-03	53.1
2003-04	74.1
2004-05	106.5
2005-06	117.4
2006-07	[1]96.1

[1] Estimate.

The countryside stewardship scheme closed to new applications in 2004 with the introduction of the environmental stewardship scheme. Existing agreements will continue until they expire. The last agreements will expire in 2013.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many agreements providing public access there were in each agreement year since the countryside stewardship scheme's inception; and how many such agreements applied to land within two miles of *(a)* an urban area and *(b)* the coast in each year. [77706]

Barry Gardiner: Data is only available from 1998. The number of countryside stewardship scheme agreements providing permissive public access in each scheme year since 1998 are as follows:

	Number
1998	607
1999	789
2000	1,101
2001	1,444
2002	1,954
2003	2,419
2004	2,681

The answers to parts *(a)* and *(b)* could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to how many hectares of land agreements under the countryside stewardship scheme which provided public access applied in each agreement year since the scheme's inception; and how many such agreements applied to land within two miles of *(a)* an urban area and *(b)* the coast in each year. [77707]

Barry Gardiner: Data is only available from 1998. The number of hectares of land under countryside stewardship scheme agreements which provided public access since 1998 were as follows:

	Hectares
1998	7,633.54
1999	9,926.14
2000	11,991.90
2001	9,650.07
2002	8,669.26
2003	8,406.88
2004	7,608.83

The answers to parts *(a)* and *(b)* could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding has been provided under the countryside stewardship scheme for *(a)* all agreements providing public access, *(b)* all agreements providing public access within two miles of an urban area and *(c)* all agreements providing public access within two miles of the coast in each agreement year since the scheme's inception; and how much such funding is planned to be provided in each future agreement year. [77708]

Barry Gardiner: Data is only available from 1998. The amount of funding that has been provided under the countryside stewardship scheme for all agreements providing public access since 1998 is as follows:

	£
1998	5[illegible]153.05
1999	715,461.08
2000	940,558.30
2001	848,021.80
2002	859,521.80
2003	1,769,442.55
2004	1,776,678.92

The answers to parts *(b)* and *(c)* could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public access is only one of the objectives of the scheme. As funding will be allocated to the scheme as a whole rather than to individual objectives, it is not possible to confirm how much funding will be provided for public access specifically in future years. However, funding of existing agreements will continue until the end of their 10-year life-spans.

Criminal Offences Legislation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the criminal offences created in legislation sponsored by his Department since April 2005, broken down by Act. [76909]

Barry Gardiner: A comprehensive and exhaustive list of new offences created in all legislation sponsored by Defra since April 2005 could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Much of the legislation is subordinate and regulatory in nature: some new offences have been created, some offences have been repealed and re-enacted; most of the offences relate to breach of the regulations or obstruction of officers enforcing the regulations. Many of the offence provisions relate to emergency legislation arising from the threat of avian influenza.

I can however provide the following information on primary legislation which has created offences since April 2005.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (c.16) created the following offences:

"nuisance parking" which is the selling or repairing of vehicles on a road by persons in business;

breach of "dog control orders": in relation to specified land such orders may exclude dogs from the land, prohibit the fouling of the land, require dogs to be kept on leads when on the land or limit the number of dogs a person may take onto the specified land;

in relation to certain premises in an "Alarm Notification Area" Part 7 of the Act created the offence of failing to nominate a key-holder where an audible intruder alarm is present.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 also made many existing offences punishable by fixed penalty notices.

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (c. 16) created the following offences:

possession without reasonable excuse of certain pesticides harmful to wildlife (section 43);

interfering with the vacated nests of certain birds such as the golden eagle and the osprey which habitually re-use their nests (section 47);

selling any live captive-bred wild bird which has been lawfully released into the wild as part of a re-population or re-introduction programme (section 48);

in relation to certain invasive non-native species such as the grey squirrel, ruddy duck or Japanese knotweed, selling any animal or plant, or eggs or seeds thereof (section 50);

interfering with Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in various ways including interfering with the notices or signs relating to an SSSI.

Departmental Budget

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1818W, on the Departmental Budget, what the reason was for the change in the amount spent on advertising in 2005-06 from the amount in 2004-05. [77394]

Barry Gardiner: Media expenditure reverted back to realistic levels in 2004-05, and 2005-06. Centralised media expenditure in 2003-04 was noticeably less than previous and recent years, and reflected an uncharacteristic dip in total communications expenditure for that year. Defra underwent significant structural changes in 2003-04 which was the main reason for the temporary decline in expenditure, including:

Changes in managing "statutory notice" advertising, which accounts for 83 per cent. of annual media spend. The change in process, and handover between agencies was reflected in minimal levels in advertising activity.

Defra's branding being finalised during 2003-04. This impacted on advertising expenditure, as it is usual practice that when any brand is under review or under development, advertising activity is minimised or even put on hold.

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any building in his Department falls short of disability access regulations. [73097]

Barry Gardiner: Defra, in recognising that as employers and service provider to the public they are subject to the duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, has previously undertaken extensive surveys and embarked upon improvement works in locations where the public have access to ensure compliance with the regulations. While the principle of reasonable adjustment is fundamental to the Act, Defra has adopted a proactive approach as is practicable.

Additionally, significantly, buildings used solely by staff generally comply where it is "reasonable" so to do—where specific instances arise, adjustments are usually made.

All new build projects are designed to ensure compliance with Part M of the Building Regulations.

Environmental Liability Directive

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Department's policy is on whether doctors, veterinarians and farmers *(a)* are operators under the environmental liability directive and *(b)* would consequently be considered liable for the remediation costs of environmental harm if it arose from their use of genetically modified vaccines, crops or other organisms unless UK implementing regulations define the operator otherwise. [77927]

Ian Pearson: The definition of operator in the environmental liability directive suggests that all occupational activities (including doctors, veterinarians and farmers) fall within the scope of the directive. The Government cannot amend the definition to exclude specific occupational activities. The extent to which the specific occupations referred to attract liability—whether strict or fault—under the directive will depend on the precise nature of the activities they undertake and the circumstances in which those activities are undertaken.

In respect of strict liability, genetically modified organisms fall within the scope of the directive and genetically modified vaccines may do so by virtue of the provisions relating to dangerous substances. All genetically modified substances which do not fall within the strict liability provisions of the directive would in any case fall within the fault-based liability provisions in respect of damage to EU- protected biodiversity.

Farming

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed in *(a)* dairy farming, *(b)* beef farming, *(c)* sheep farming, *(d)* arable farming, *(e)* mixed farming and *(f)* other forms of farming in Cumbria in (i) 1990, (ii) 2000 and (iii) 2005. [78941]

Barry Gardiner: The number of workers on agricultural and horticultural holdings by farm type in Cumbria is as follows;

	1995		*2000*		*2005*	
Farm type	*Employees*	*Total labour*	*Employees*	*Total labour*	*Employees*	*Total labour*
Cereals	22	74	[—]	102	74	294
General cropping	30	60	[—]	16	66	122
Horticulture	144	250	135	296	194	384
Pigs and poultry	138	273	127	325	143	481
Dairy	1,875	5,334	1,314	4,402	1,016	3,642
LFA—grazing livestock	1,179	4,024	869	3,976	843	4,097
Lowland—grazing livestock	948	3,368	776	3,331	457	2,460

	1995		2000		2005	
Farm type	*Employees*	*Total labour*	*Employees*	*Total labour*	*Employees*	*Total labour*
Mixed	219	485	162	474	248	900
Other types	106	612	90	848	113	757
All types	4,661	14,480	3,504	13,770	3,154	13,139

[1] Indicates data withheld on order to prevent the disclosure of individual holding data, in accordance with the Agricultural Statistics Act 1979.

Notes:

1. Total employees include full and part-time regular workers, salaried managers and casual workers.
2. Total labour force included all employees plus farmers, partners, directors and their spouses if working on the holding.
3. Figures for 1995 refer to main holdings only. Figures for 2000 and 2005 include all holdings.

Source:

June Agricultural Survey.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much land was given over to organic production in each region in each year since 1990; what the total land area under agricultural use was in each year; and what percentage of all agricultural land the former represented in each year. [78894]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following tables show areas of organic and in-conversion land, total agricultural land and the percentage that organic land represents for all agricultural land. Figures for organic land are only available from 2003 onwards.

UK area of organic and in conversion land by region as a proportion of total agricultural area

	March 2003			January 2004		
	Organic and in conversion area (ha)	*Total agricultural area[1] (ha)*	*Percentage of total agricultural area*	*Organic and in conversion area (ha)*	*Total agricultural area[1] (ha)*	*Percentage of total agricultural area*
North East	27,748	581,903	4.8	28,883	580,296	5.0
North West	22,804	883,952	2.6	22,507	897,417	2.5
Yorkshire and Humberside	9,225	1,093,249	0.8	9,754	1,096,226	0.9
East Midlands	14,858	1,219,865	1.2	17,737	1,225,257	1.4
West Midlands	29,401	927,970	3.2	29,180	942,592	3.1
Eastern	11,893	1,471,058	0.8	12,672	1,458,963	0.9
South West	96,059	1,765,745	5.4	97,159	1,801,559	5.4
South East (Including London)	39,848	1,155,309	3.4	41,038	1,175,079	3.5
England	251,836	9,099,052	2.8	258,930	9,177,389	2.8
Wales	55,101	1,452,199	3.8	58,246	1,458,825	4.0
Scotland	428,608	5,535,551	7.7	372,562	5,520,500	6.7
Northern Ireland	5,629	1,067,262	0.5	5,882	1,073,887	0.5
UK	741,174	17,154,064	4.3	695,619	17,212,512	4.0

	January 2005		
	Organic and in conversion area (ha)	*Total agricultural area[1] (ha)*	*Percentage of total agricultural area*
North East	29,964	587,108	5.1
North West	22,633	920,557	2.5
Yorkshire and Humberside	9,838	1,123,788	0.9
East Midlands	14,609	1,239,185	1.2
West Midlands	29,140	979,260	3.0
Eastern	12,761	1,487,805	0.9
South West	99,804	1,868,351	5.3
South East (Including London)	40,623	1,213,992	3.3
England	259,372	9,420,046	2.8
Wales	64,531	1,453,000	4.4
Scotland	359,615	4,918,055	7.3
Northern Ireland	6,750	1,033,194	0.7
UK	690,269	16,824,295	4.1

[1] Excludes common grazing land.

GM Organisms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of agricultural authorities from the new entrant countries into the EU about their policy on genetically modified organisms; and how many of those countries are permitting cultivation of GM food for export into the UK. [77805]

Ian Pearson: No DEFRA Ministers have had any recent bilateral discussions with representatives of agricultural authorities from the countries which joined the EU on 1 May 2004 about their policy on genetically modified (GM) organisms. However, periodic collective discussions are held, involving all EU member states.

The EU regulatory regime permits the cultivation of only those GM crops which have received a prior EU approval for cultivation. Any approved GM crop so cultivated could then be traded within the internal market, including being exported to the UK. All new member states signed up to this regime when they joined the EU.

Housing

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the Affordable Rural Housing Commission Report's recommendations on *(a)* second homes and tax, *(b)* second homes and planning use claims order, *(c)* public funding proportions for rural communities, *(d)* right-to-buy and right-to-acquire entitlements in rural areas and *(e)* changes in the tax system to improve supply of development sites for affordable housing. [74236]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

We are currently considering the report and will use a range of channels and mechanisms to respond in a constructive way to the agenda set by the Commission, including in the forthcoming spending review.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by his Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature of the charges brought against them were. [73965]

Barry Gardiner: No staff directly employed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs since 2001, including those on fixed term appointment and casual contracts, have been identified as illegal immigrants.

With regard to agency workers, contractors and consultants etc, security vetting of contractors' staff working in Defra's premises has led to the following:

2001—a security guard was arrested on suspicion of being an illegal immigrant and subsequently deported;

2005—a cleaner was arrested on suspicion of being an illegal immigrant;

2006—a cleaning supervisor was arrested on suspicion of being an illegal immigrant.

None were discovered as part of wider criminal investigations. The Department reports suspicions about the immigration status of staff, whether directly employed or working for contractors, to the appropriate authorities.

Ivory

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* import and *(b)* export permits the UK has processed for ivory in each year since 1997; and what (i) the nature of the item and (ii) the country of (A) origin or (B) destination was in each case. [76210]

Barry Gardiner: The UK Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Management Authority has issued over 14,000 import, export or re-export permits in total since 1997. The number of each category of permit and the number of pieces of ivory involved are set out in the table.

Because of the large number of permits, these figures cannot readily be broken down further into country of origin or destination. In most cases the country of origin is unknown, as the vast majority of applications are for antique ivory and there is no definitive proof to confirm whether the ivory is Indian or African, and even if African, which country it was originally taken from.

	Item	*Import permits*	*Number of pieces*	*Export permits*	*Number of pieces*	*Re-export permits*	*Number of pieces*
1997	Carving	163	1,802	2	11	920	2,951
	Tusk	1	1	0	0	5	55
	Ivory pieces	1	1	0	0	2	33
1998	Carving	341	1,672	0	0	1,250	3,937
	Tusk	1	1	0	0	4	19
	Ivory pieces	0	0	0	0	1	4

	Item	Import permits	Number of pieces	Export permits	Number of pieces	Re-export permits	Number of pieces
1998	Carving	127	616	3	3	1,134	4,547
	Tusk	6	11	0	0	2	3
	Ivory pieces	0	0	0	0	3	3
2000	Carving	223	572	2	41	1,275	4,151
	Tusk	4	10	0	0	1	1
	Ivory pieces	0	0	0	0	2	3
2001	Carving	278	569	0	0	1,218	2,243
	Tusk	0	0	0	0	2	2
	Ivory pieces	3	5	0	0	2	2
2002	Carving	168	317	4	6	1,079	2,441
	Tusk	0	0	0	0	1	2
	Ivory pieces	4	5	0	0	1	2
2003	Carving	732	1,323	0	0	1,626	3,916
	Tusk	0	0	0	0	1	2
	Ivory pieces	0	0	0	0	1	1
2004	Carving	318	971	0	0	1,258	5,139
	Tusk	2	2	0	0	1	1
	Ivory pieces	3	3	0	0	2	2
2005	Carving	441	845	1	1	1,689	7,520
	Tusk	8	10	0	0	2	2
	Ivory pieces	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	Carving	47	51	0	0	281	850
	Tusk	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Ivory pieces	0	0	0	0	0	0

Jubilee River, Berkshire

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations the Environment Agency has received about Jubilee River in Berkshire; and what recent assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the design adopted by the Jubilee River designers. [78490]

Ian Pearson: The major representations that the Environment Agency have received over the last few months have come from two groups—Community Support Group South and Thames Awash.

A great deal of work has been carried out to assess the current standard of protection offered by the Jubilee River, as well as the Maidenhead, Windsor and Eton Flood Alleviation Scheme (MWEFAS) as a whole, which the Agency accepts is below that expected when the scheme was designed.

Currently MWEFAS offers protection up to a flow of 420 m^3/s (82 per cent. of the original scheme design capacity). Final works are being carried out this summer, which will further increase the capacity of the scheme (to 450 m^3/s (87 per cent. of the original scheme design capacity).

Parliamentary Ombudsman

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list those occasions when the recommendations of a report from the parliamentary ombudsman were *(a)* rejected and *(b)* partly rejected by his Department since 1997. [76258]

Barry Gardiner: Neither the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) nor its predecessors have collated figures on the number of occasions where they have refused or omitted to give effect to the recommendations of the parliamentary ombudsman. While a definitive reply could be provided only at disproportionate cost, there is no immediate evidence available that suggests that we have rejected any recommendation from the parliamentary ombudsman since 2001 when Defra was established.

Payment Schemes

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what quality control checks are in place for the administration of

the single payment scheme; and what steps he has taken to satisfy himself that these are *(a)* sufficiently sound to ensure the proper disbursement of public funds and *(b)* sufficiently robust to meet EU scrutiny standards. [76602]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency is responsible for the administration of the single payment scheme. There is a framework of quality checks in place and they are undertaken at various stages during the processing cycle. For the 2005 scheme year checks were undertaken on data capture, primary and detailed validation processes. There were also authorisation checks following completion of validation. In addition the computer system was designed with internal quality checks to ensure both the proper disbursement of public funds and to meet the EU scrutiny standards.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest single payment scheme individual payment has been made to date; and whether these payments were correct. [76603]

Barry Gardiner: The highest and lowest single payment scheme (SPS) payment made up to and including 8 June are:

	£
Highest	2,242,892.10
Lowest	0.01

These payments were correct based on information provided by the claimant and were calculated in accordance with the SPS EU regulation.

The £0.01 payments are at the extreme end of where penalties apply on a sliding scale if, for example, people over-claim on their land entitlements. A number of calculations are made to the entitlement value of a claim, for example 95 per cent. on entitlement value, 5 per cent. for modulation and the final payable figure, at a low value in instances of high penalties, is subject to rounding.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether, under single payment scheme arrangements, farmers with common grazing rights are being notified of their individual share of commons allocation to enable them to check *(a)* the methodology and accuracy of the apportionment between the various right-holders and *(b)* the validity of the single payments made to them. [76604]

Barry Gardiner: Farmers are being notified of the hectarage of the common land which has been allocated to them based on the rights which they hold for the common. The calculation method is detailed on pages 14 and 15 of the 2005 SPS handbook and guidance. The vast majority of claimants making use of common land in support of their claim have now received a payment.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Department will reply to the letters of *(a)* 22 March and *(b)* 21 April 2006 from the hon. Member for West Derbyshire on representations from the National Farmers Union in respect of the single farm payment scheme. [72630]

Barry Gardiner: The problems facing the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) in getting payments out to farmers have resulted in Ministers receiving over 350 letters from MPs relating to their constituents' problems caused by non-receipt of SPS payments.

Changing policy developments, including most notably the change from 15 to 31 May in respect of the date for penalties for late 2006 applications and the introduction of partial payments, have led to regrettable delays in responding.

Replies have been sent.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers in England are awaiting payments under the single farm payment scheme. [76031]

Barry Gardiner: The total number of single payment scheme customers is approximately 120,000. As at 14 June 2006, 15,000 customers had not received either a full or partial payment.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of delays in the single payment scheme on levels of stress among farmers. [79580]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* There has been no specific assessment of stress among farmers arising out of the timing of payments under the single payment scheme. However, the Government do recognise that some farmers will have faced cash-flow problems and other hardships due to the timing of these payments. As such, an extra £115,000 in funding was made available to a number of key rural support organisations who deal with such issues.

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the forms for the 2007 single farm payments will be sent out. [67634]

Barry Gardiner: There is no regulatory deadline for the despatch of application forms to the single payment scheme. However, the Rural Payments Agency will aim to issue application forms to all known customers at least one month before the 15 May deadline in 2007.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms in the east of England have qualified for subsidies from the EU common agricultural policy fund, broken down by county. [69811]

Barry Gardiner: The single payment scheme is not administered on a regional basis so the Rural Payments Agency is not able to estimate how many applications were submitted by farmers living in the east of England.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what was the largest single farmer subsidy, including EU subsidy, paid to a farmer in Bassetlaw constituency in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005. [71924]

Barry Gardiner: The largest single CAP subsidy payment made to a farmer in the Bassetlaw constituency in each of the two years requested is:

	Amount (£000)
2003-04	248
2004-05	244

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes there have been in the number of *(a)* subsidies farmers may claim for and *(b)* forms farmers have to submit to his Department in each of the last three years. [77615]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The most significant change has been the introduction of the single payment scheme which was introduced on 1 January 2005 and replaced at least 11 direct payment schemes, which had previously existed under the European Common Agricultural Policy. It has brought the benefit of a single annual application form instead of a series of claim forms with different rules, deadlines and, in some cases, claiming frequencies.

The launch of Environmental Stewardship in March 2005 took forward two of Defra's flagship schemes, countryside stewardship and environmentally sensitive areas. Environmental Stewardship has three strands: entry level stewardship is open to all in farming, organic entry level stewardship is available to those wishing to farm organically, and higher level stewardship provides more resource in return for more specific environmental benefits in high priority situations.

In addition, Defra has made a commitment to reduce administrative burdens on farm businesses by 25 per cent. and we are undertaking a number of projects to look at the scope to consolidate and reduce the number of forms that farmers have to complete.

For example, the whole farm approach is expected to significantly reduce the bureaucracy farmers currently face. By streamlining regulation and offering a range of innovative online services the whole process of dealing with Government will become more efficient and user friendly—ultimately providing a range of benefits that will help to support a sustainable food and farming industry.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the National Audit Office on the single farm payment. [78387]

Barry Gardiner: Officials within the Department have discussed various aspects of the implementation of the single payment scheme with the National Audit Office, including in relation to the NAO's current value for money study.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department intends to make interim payments of the hill farm allowance to farmers whose claims have not been received in full by the end of May. [74860]

Barry Gardiner: Where hill farm allowance payments will not have been made in full by the end of June, The Rural Payments Agency intends to make part payments based on those land areas that have been validated for payment. In many cases, this should represent the majority of the area claimed.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons payments of the hill farm allowance to farmers on Exmoor have been delayed. [74861]

Barry Gardiner: In recent months the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has been prioritising the payment of Single Payment Scheme (SPS) claims. This has resulted in reduced processing resources being available for other schemes administered by RPA, including hill farm allowance, and consequently claims are being paid later than in previous years.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects farmers on Exmoor to receive their hill farm allowance. [74862]

Barry Gardiner: Hill farm allowance payments have now been made in full to 35 per cent. of eligible claimants. The Rural Payment Agency intends to make the remaining payments (or to make part payments where full payments are not possible) by the end of June.

Rural Payments Agency (Job Objectives)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what job objectives were set for the former Chief Executive of the Rural Payments Agency for *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; and to what extent they were achieved. [73216]

Barry Gardiner: The job objectives set for the former Chief Executive of the RPA in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 mirrored the targets set for the Agency in the business plans for each of those years and reported on for 2003-04 and 2004-05 in the published annual report with accounts. The Library of the House possesses copies of all these documents.

Each year the performance against targets of each of the Defra executive agencies is audited by Defra Internal Audit Division and the annual accounts are signed off by the Comptroller and Auditor General. Assessment of chief executives' performance takes place once these checks have been carried out.

In the light of these checks, the assessment for 2003-04 was that the RPA CE had achieved 91.6 per cent. of his objectives and the assessment for 2004-05 was that the RPA CE had achieved 100 per cent. of his objectives. The checks for 2005-06 have not yet been completed.

Rutland Water

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Anglian

Water and *(b)* Rutland county council on expanding water supply from Rutland Water. [79240]

Ian Pearson: No recent discussions have been held between my Department and Anglian Water on this issue, although I understand that discussions were held between the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and officials from this company during 2005.

School Canteens

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what support the Department is making available to allow farmers to launch initiatives to supply school canteens direct. [79071]

Barry Gardiner: My Department, under the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI), is continuing to help the nine English Government offices for the regions to fund workshops for buyers and suppliers and projects to develop the supply side. This is increasing opportunities for small local farmers and growers to tender to supply food to schools and other public bodies, either directly or through primary suppliers such as contract caterers, wholesalers and other intermediaries.

My Department is also seeking to work with the School Food Trust which is supporting schools, local authorities, school cooks and catering providers to ensure that food in schools meets the Government's new standards. My Department will also shortly be publishing a guide to help farmers and growers understand how to supply the public sector—a market worth £2 billion a year. This will supplement the advice currently on the PSFPI website, which includes case studies and reports on some of the regional projects already undertaken (http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/sustain/procurement/index.htm).

Special Protection Areas

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether a regulatory impact assessment will be published in relation to mitigation guidance for special protection areas. [78239]

Barry Gardiner: There are no plans to issue UK guidance on mitigation in relation to special protection areas. However, the European Commission is currently preparing guidance on the payment of compensation for all Natura 2000 sites, including special protection areas. Although this will not directly address the question of mitigation, it will make clear what kind of mitigation measures must have been attempted before compensation can become payable.

It is not normally necessary to publish a regulatory impact assessment when preparing guidance on existing legislation. However, we would certainly do so should it be necessary to amend the legislation on special protection areas for any reason.

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many working days have been lost to the Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated cost to the Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [77154]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* Defra was created in June 2001, and the answer given relates to the period since then.

The most significant cause of staff absence is sickness. The average number of working days lost per employee due to sickness absence in full calendar years since the creation of Defra is shown in the following table.

Department/agency	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Defra	8.7	8.3	7.5
CEFAS	5.2	7.2	6.2
CSL	6.1	6.6	6.1
FSD	6.4	5.4	6.7
RPA	10.9	10.6	8.7
VLA	8.0	8.4	8.2
VMD	6.4	8.5	5.7

Data on sickness absences for 2005 is not yet available.

The estimated total cost of sickness absence for Defra and its agencies each year is as follows:

	Cost (£)
2002	9,116,000
2003	9,580,000
2004	8,983,000

These figures represent the average salary costs for the number of working days lost.

The average number of working days lost per employee due to industrial action since 2001 is shown in the following table.

Department/agency	*2001*	*2004*	*2005*
Defra	0.93	0.15	0.10
CEFAS	—	0.05	0.00
CSL	—	0.00	0.00
FSD	—	0.17	0.00
RPA	—	0.26	0.35
VLA	—	0.00	0.00
VMD	—	0.01	0.00

The figure given for 2001 covers Defra and the agencies. Individual figures for the agencies are not available. There were no days lost to industrial action in 2002 or 2003.

Estimated cost figures for industrial action are not applicable since pay is stopped for the period of absence.

Staff Development

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total cost was of *(a)* staff away days and *(b)* staff team building exercises in his Department in each of the last three years. [59086]

Barry Gardiner: Each business area within the core Department holds its own devolved learning and development budget which it uses to fund locally arranged training for its staff, including staff away days and team building exercises.

The costs of locally funded staff away days and team building events in each of the last three calendar years were:

£

	Away days	Team building events	Totals
2003	43,659	44,162	87,821
2004	79,930	71,705	151,635
2005	84,721	71,093	155,814
Total	208,310	186,960	395,270

Sustainable Timber

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will reconsider his response to the Environmental Audit Committee's Second Report of Session 2005-06 on sustainable timber; and if he will make a statement. [76597]

Barry Gardiner: The Government's response to the Environmental Audit Committee Report on sustainable timber, as published on 4 May 2006 (HC 1078), acknowledges that more should be done to facilitate sustainable forestry both domestically and internationally. Further measures to strengthen the Government's commitment to sustainable and productive forests will be developed in the near future and the Government will write to the Environmental Audit Committee about these measures in due course.

Sustainable Water Systems

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the use of sustainable water systems in new housing developments. [79209]

Ian Pearson: Defra is working closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to introduce measures that encourage the use of sustainable water systems in new housing.

DCLG has consulted on proposals for a new Code for Sustainable Homes. This would promote sustainable drainage and set out standards for water efficiency above the current statutory baseline. DCLG has announced plans to strengthen elements of the proposed code, and is considering making minimum standards of water efficiency mandatory. From April 2006 all new homes funded by English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation will be required to meet code level three (equivalent to the EcoHomes Very Good, 2006 standard).

In addition Defra and DCLG are working jointly on new regulations to improve water efficiency in buildings. We intend to consult jointly this summer on ways of making minimum standards of water efficiency mandatory in new homes, existing buildings and in respect of domestic uses in non-household property.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions the Water Saving Group has had on rainwater harvesting for use in households. [79210]

Ian Pearson: The Water Saving Group is currently working on an agreed action plan to encourage the efficient use of water in households, although it has not looked at rainwater harvesting specifically. However, the Government's Market Transformation Programme is looking at technologies that could potentially reduce overall water consumption by reusing rainwater and/or greywater (from baths/showers etc). A project has started this year to develop the necessary evidence, economic case, feasibility, performance standards, policy action plan and impact scenarios to determine the best use of rainwater and greywater technology.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there are plans to provide financial incentives for households to use *(a)* rainwater harvesting and *(b)* other water conservation technologies. [79212]

Ian Pearson: The Government encourage the use of water butts as a sensible way to harvest rainwater for use in garden watering and car washing. As part of the duty to promote the efficient use of water by their customers, many water companies offer subsidised water butts, as well as other devices that can save water. Metered customers have a financial incentive to use water carefully and install water efficient fittings.

TRANSPORT

A303

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average daily *(a)* volume and *(b)* speed of traffic travelling on the A303 was in each year since 1997. [79988]

Dr. Ladyman: Average daily traffic flows on the A303 are available at several locations. However, not all locations have data as far back as 1997. Regular speed monitoring started in 2002-03. The following sites are typical of the flows on different sections of the road:

	Andover Bypass		East of Longbarrow Roundabout (near Stonehenge)		Ilminster Bypass	
	Flow	Speed	Flow	Speed	Flow	Speed
1997	42,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998	41,000	n/a	21,000	n/a	21,000	n/a
1999	41,000	n/a	21,000	n/a	20,000	n/a

	Andover Bypass		East of Longbourne Roundabout (near Stonehenge)		Shaftesbury Bypass	
	Flow	Speed	Flow	Speed	Flow	Speed
2000	46,000	n/a	21,000	n/a	23,000	n/a
2001	47,000	n/a	23,000	n/a	23,000	n/a
2002	48,000	n/a	25,000	n/a	25,000	n/a
2003	49,000	62	23,000	45	24,000	n/a
2004	49,000	66	23,000	45	25,000	54
2005	49,000	66	23,000	46	25,000	55

Flows are average numbers of vehicles per 24-hour day (vpd) to the nearest thousand and speeds are the average spot speed for all vehicle types during the 24-hour day, in mph.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projections have been made by his Department of traffic volumes on the A303. [79981]

Dr. Ladyman: Projections specifically related to the growth of traffic on the A303 in its entirety are not readily available.

Individual sections of the A303 have been subject to study or are part of the Highways Agency's Targeted Programme of Improvements. For each of these studies and schemes, traffic forecasts have been produced and these can be made available from the Highways Agency upon request.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities have occurred on the A303 in each year since 1997. [79982]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of personal injury road traffic accidents and fatalities that have occurred on the A303 in each year since 1997 are as shown on the tables below. The accident data for 2006 is not available at present. Information is not available for accidents where there is no personal injury.

Accidents on the A303 from its junction with the M3 at Popham to the Wiltshire/Hampshire border

	Number personal injury accidents (PIAs)	Number of fatalities as a result of accidents
1997	42	0
1998	35	1
1999	39	2
2000	24	0
2001	41	0
2002	45	3
2003	37	2
2004	36	2
2005	37	1

Accidents on the A303 between the Hampshire/Wiltshire border (A338 junction) and its junction with the A30 in Devon

	Number personal injury accidents (PIAs)	Number of fatalities as a result of accidents
1997	160	5
1998	144	10
1999	148	7
2000	167	6
2001	154	5
2002	164	8
2003	148	3

Accidents on the A303 between the Hampshire/Wiltshire border (A338 junction) and its junction with the A30 in Devon

	Number personal injury accidents (PIAs)	Number of fatalities as a result of accidents
2004	173	12
2005	139	4

This is the most accurate information that the Highways Agency is able to provide.

A380 Kingskerswell Bypass

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has approved the construction of the A380 Kingskerswell bypass; and what funding has been allocated for the construction of the road. [80165]

Gillian Merron: The Department has not received a proposal for this scheme from Devon county council. We are currently considering the advice from the South West region on the priority it attaches to major transport schemes in the South West, including the Kingskerswell Bypass, within the indicative Regional Funding Allocation (RFA) for the region. We hope to announce our response to the region's advice before the parliamentary summer recess. Any schemes identified for funding from the RFAs will be subject to the Department's approval processes.

Aeroplanes (Air Quality)

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on contaminated air in airliners; [80119]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effect on safety of contaminated air in airliners. [80147]

Gillian Merron: The House of Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology did an investigation, which reported in November 2000 and said:

"The absence of confirmed cases of tri-ortho-cresyl phosphate (TOCP) poisoning from cabin air and the very low levels of TOCP that would be found even in the highly unlikely worst case of contamination from oil leaking into the air supply lead us to conclude that the concerns about significant risk to the health of airline passengers and crew are not substantiated."

There is also a scientific inquiry under way into the global evidence and we have commissioned the independent Committee on Toxicity (COT) based at Imperial College (and funded by Government to advise the Food Standards Agency and other Government Departments) to review evidence from BALPA (the British Air Line Pilots Association).

The COT secretariat put up on its website on 21 June a draft discussion paper. It will discuss this with BALPA further on 26 June, and then there will be a full hearing, in public, which will take place on 11 July.

The next step is to wait for the COT review process to be completed. The Government will be guided by the COT conclusions and recommendations on the way forward.

Bus Journeys

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to help local councils and bus companies devise innovative ways of increasing the number of bus journeys, including by providing further Government funding; and if he will make a statement. [79183]

Gillian Merron: There are already a number of programmes in place that help councils and bus companies devise innovative ways of increasing bus patronage.

Councils have been able to apply for Kickstart and Rural and Urban Bus Challenge funding to pump-prime bus services that have the potential to increase patronage. DfT awarded £20 million for Kickstart schemes in 2005-06 to fund 43 bus services that could become self-sustaining. Between 1998 and 2003 the Rural and Urban Bus Challenge supported over 400 projects at a cost of £163 million.

In addition, the Government have provided £350 million for 2006-07 and a further £367.5 million for 2007-08 to fund free off-peak local bus travel for people aged 60 and over and disabled people. This will be extended further to national bus travel from April 2008, for which the Treasury has earmarked up to an additional £250 million per year.

Also, all bus operators receive Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) which provides a rebate of about 80 per cent. of the duty paid by them on the fuel they use, with 100 per cent. rebate for environmentally friendly fuels. The budget for BSOG in England for 2005-06 was £380 million.

The Transport Innovation Fund is a new approach to transport investment which is not geared to particular modes, but will support measures which help to tackle congestion and promote national productivity. Up to £200 million of the fund has been made available specifically to support packages of measures that will address congestion in towns and cities through demand management and public transport improvements, including better bus services.

Cloned Number Plates

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many car number plate cloning incidents were recorded in *(a)* Bedfordshire and *(b)* Luton in the last five years. [80072]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of vehicles that are, or may have been, subject to vehicle cloning in Bedfordshire or Luton is not known. Nor are national figures available.

Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the letter from the Minister of State of 8 February 2006, reference SL/00133606/06, in relation to the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority, when he expects the undertakings made in the letter to be met; and if he will make a statement. [79774]

Dr. Ladyman: We are still considering the issues raised by the hon. Member and his constituent and will be in a position to provide him with a substantive reply very shortly.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77419]

Gillian Merron: In the Department for Transport and its agencies, there are 16,530 staff under the age of 55 and 3,190 over the age of 55.

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any building in his Department falls short of disability access regulations. [73116]

Gillian Merron: Audits have been conducted at our buildings to ensure that we are complying with our responsibilities under the employment and service provider provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA). Reasonable adjustments have been made at a number of locations (including our main HQ building) and further improvement work is in hand at some sites.

Information on the extent to which each building is complying with the employment and service provider provisions of the DDA is not collected centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driver Licensing and Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the operation of the Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989; what recent representations he has received about the operation of this Act; and whether he plans to amend this Act. [80205]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 274W. We have no plans to amend this Act.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many replacement *(a)* full and *(b)* provisional driving licences were issued in each year since 1996. [80184]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of replacements issued in each year were:

Calendar year	*Number of replacements*
1996	2,905,330
1997	3,086,312
1998	2,948,074
1999	2,595,176
2000	3,154,492
2001	3,354,906
2002	3,318,851

Calendar year	Number of replacements
2003	3,017,582
2004	3,033,652
2005	2,737,448

The breakdown of these figures into full and provisional licences is not available.

Flag Flying

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) on how many days since May 1997 the St. George's flag has been flown from his Department's buildings; [77736]

(2) what his Department's policy is on flying the *(a)* St. George's flag and *(b)* EU flag from departmental buildings. [77737]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport issues the guidance for flying flags on Government buildings. This includes flying the St. George's flag on St. George's day (23 April) and the European flag on Europe day (9 May) on buildings with two or more flag poles provided they are flown alongside the Union flag with the Union flag in the superior position.

The Department's main HQ building has only one usable and accessible flag pole and therefore does not fly the St. George's flag or the European flag.

Local Transport (West Sussex)

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been made available to West Sussex county council in local transport plan funding for each year since 1997. [80505]

Gillian Merron: The table shows the funding allocated to West Sussex county council in the local transport capital settlements between 1997-98 and 2005-06. Not included in the table is an additional amount of approximately £14.5 million which we have provided to West Sussex county council between 2001 and 2005 for major local public transport schemes.

The integrated transport block allocations are available for local authorities to use on road and public transport improvements, according to their local priorities.

West Sussex county council nature of funding

£000

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Maintenance	—	—	—	2,320	6,389	6,813	8,517	9,368	7,648
Integrated Transport block	—	—	—	2,031	4,900	5,417	5,825	7,157	6,878
Total allocation[1]	2,462	2,354	2,836	4,351	11,713	12,230	14,342	16,525	14,526

[1] For 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000, no figures are given for the integrated transport block and highways capital maintenance as there were different funding streams operating then. Total figures are shown.

London Underground (Victoria Line)

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Health and Safety Executive investigated the safety implications of the incident on the Victoria Line on the evenings of 29 and 30 May 2006 between Highbury and Finsbury Park; and if he will make a statement. [79821]

Gillian Merron: Her Majesty's Railway Inspectorate (HMRI) is the independent health and safety regulator for the railways, covering the safety of the travelling public and employees. HMRI was transferred from the Health and Safety Executive to the Office of Rail Regulation on 1 April 2006.

The incident occurred when a northbound Victoria Line train was held in the tunnel between Highbury and Islington and Finsbury Park stations at around 00.30 am on Tuesday 30 May. This was the penultimate passenger service of the day. The problem required the traction current to be switched off and when repairs were completed normal passenger services had ceased and engineering hours started on the line. Delays then occurred as due to safety procedures the current could not be switched back on to move the train until it was confirmed that no workers were on the line. Eventually passengers were taken off the train and walked back to Highbury and Islington station before 03.00 am.

HMRI and London Underground Ltd. (LUL) have both investigated this incident. LUL have now modified their procedures and decision-making processes, particularly for incidents within one hour of engineering hours. This should ensure that protracted delays in detraining passengers do not occur in the future. HMRI will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these and other procedures which relate to the evacuation of passengers from trains.

Modal Shift (North Northamptonshire)

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to achieve modal shift in North Northamptonshire. [79561]

Gillian Merron: A key element of the Milton Keynes Sub Regional Strategy is to encourage a shift towards more sustainable modes of travel.

Specific funding has already been made available from the Department for Communities and Local Government (formerly ODPM) to support public transport schemes serving the North Northamptonshire area, including Growth Area Funding (GAF) of £4.4 million to improve services and infrastructure on the X4 bus route connecting Corby, Kettering, Oundle and Wellingborough, with wider links to Northampton, Milton Keynes and Peterborough.

GAF funding has also been provided to examine key issues in North Northamptonshire and this has helped identify current movement trends in the area. Northamptonshire county council has commissioned a series of transportation studies to inform the development of a specific Transport Strategy for Growth, which will address issues of modal shift across the wider area.

Northamptonshire's second Local Transport Plan also seeks to encourage modal shift through the implementation of specific strategies and programmes related to bus patronage, walking and cycling, travel planning and accessibility. Developer contributions on public transport infrastructure and service provision are also highlighted as a potential major contributor in this area.

The potential for extra rail services to the area is also being considered under the new East Midlands rail franchise specification consultation, which was launched on 8 June.

Railways, North-West

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the likely impact of the SLC2 base level specification set out in the Cross Country Rail Franchise Consultation document of June on levels of rail usage in the North West. [79806]

Derek Twigg: The changes proposed in service level commitment 2 are designed to allow longer trains to be operated on the busiest Cross Country routes. The changes also propose a new hourly service from Manchester to Bristol, which will benefit a large number of rail passengers.

The service between Scotland and Birmingham via the West Coast Main Line will continue to operate at the same frequency but with faster journey times and at regular intervals with better connections. I expect this will lead to increased levels of rail usage.

Road Accidents

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* road accident fatalities and *(b)* personal injury road accidents there were in (i) Bury St. Edmunds constituency and (ii) Suffolk in each year since 1997. [79390]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of personal injury road accidents reported to the police, and the resulting fatalities, in the constituency of Bury St. Edmunds and the county of Suffolk from 1997 to 2004 (the latest year for which figures are available) are given in the table.

Accidents and Fatalities in Bury St. Edmunds constituency and Suffolk, 1997-2004

	Fatalities		Accidents	
	Bury St. Edmunds	Suffolk	Bury St. Edmunds	Suffolk
1997	8	43	332	2,224
1998	3	23	326	2,251
1999	8	48	285	2,298
2000	10	56	352	2,312
2001	6	53	321	2,356
2002	7	43	299	2,300
2003	8	60	333	2,341
2004	5	42	301	2,220

[1] The accidents in the table are those that occurred in the 2004 boundaries for Bury St. Edmunds constituency.

Seat Belts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which bodies have *(a)* made representations to the Government and *(b)* are known by his Department to be (i) in favour of and (ii) opposed to the compulsory wearing of seat belts; and if he will make a statement. [80200]

Dr. Ladyman: Seat belt wearing has been compulsory since 1983. No representations to the Government on road safety in recent years have opposed this fundamental requirement. Information on those who specifically support the requirement is not recorded.

Traffic Growth (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assumptions about traffic growth up to 2021 are being used by his Department in discussions with the growth areas directorate in the Department for Communities and Local Government on housing expansion in the Peterborough Unitary authority area. [78394]

Gillian Merron: The East of England Spatial Strategy, which has recently been subject to examination in public following a period of consultation, will provide the overall framework for assessing and planning housing and other growth across the East of England region including Peterborough up to 2021. In that context it is for the local authority to develop detailed forecasts of traffic growth and reflect this in their local transport plans and local delivery frameworks.

WORK AND PENSIONS

A New Deal for Welfare

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the basis was for the Government's calculation in the Green Paper. "A new deal for welfare" that reaching an 80 per cent. employment rate would require getting one million people off incapacity benefit and one million more people over 50 years and 300,000 lone parents into work. [73447]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As we set out in the Department's Five Year Strategy and in the Green Paper "A new deal for welfare: empowering people to work", we have a long-term aim of reaching employment equivalent to 80 per cent. of the working age population. In order to achieve this we will reduce by one million the number on incapacity benefits, help 300,000 lone parents into work and increase by one million the number of older workers.

Because 80 per cent. employment is relative to the size of the future population, the total required increase in employment is dependent on population projections, which are revised regularly. Using the latest Government Actuary Department projections, employment would now need to increase by more than 2.5 million in order to achieve 80 per cent. in the long term. This is because the Government Actuary Department has increased their projection of the "working age" population.

We are currently considering the implications of this population change. However, our long-term aim of 80 per cent. employment is unaffected, and the commitments in the Green Paper to reduce by one million the number on incapacity benefits, help 300,000 lone parents into work and increase by one million the number of older workers will still be delivered.

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the scale of identity fraud in relation to social security benefits; how many of his Department's staff have been involved in identity fraud since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [72368]

Mr. Plaskitt: DWP estimates £20 million to £50 million of benefit fraud arises as a result of identity fraud (that is, claiming benefit in false identities).

The information requested on the number of staff involved specifically in identity fraud is not available.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total budget for the Benefit Fraud Hotline was for each year since 1997. [73253]

Mr. Plaskitt: The National Benefit Fraud Hotline is very cost effective—last year it cost nearly £1 million to run but identified £21.4 million in recoverable overpayments.

Information is not available prior to 2001-02. The available information is in the table.

National Benefit Fraud Hotline budget allocation

	£
2001-02	1,086,000
2002-03	959,277
2003-04	957,977
2004-05	1,192,843
2005-06	986,000

Notes:
1. Figures include goods, services and staffing costs.
2. The National Benefit Fraud Hotline (NBFH) commenced in August 1996. Information around budget allocation is available only from year ending 2001-02. Prior to this NBFH was the responsibility of the former DSS Benefits Agency Security Branch and figures on funding and budget costs are no longer available.
3. The operational costs of administering the National Benefit Fraud Hotline include the costs of administering the report-a-cheat-online service. These costs cannot be separated.

Source:
National Intelligence Unit and Resource Management and IT.

Benefit Overpayments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much his Department has spent on reducing benefit overpayments due to *(a)* fraud, *(b)* customer error and *(c)* official error in each year since 1997; [77955]

(2) how much his Department and its predecessor spent on reducing benefit overpayments due to *(a)* fraud, *(b)* customer error and *(c)* official error in each year since 1997. [77991]

Mr. Plaskitt: It is not possible to separate the total cost of the fraud and error reduction elements of the Department's work.

The Department's overall aim is to have a benefit system which is accurate from first claim to final payment. This means that safeguarding the benefit system from loss due to fraud and error is integral to the work of staff involved in general benefits administration, as well as those working specifically on fraud and error.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the level of fraud and error in percentage terms for *(a)* child benefit, *(b)* income support, *(c)* incapacity benefit, *(d)* disability living allowance, *(e)* jobseeker's allowance, *(f)* housing benefit, *(g)* pension credit and *(h)* council tax benefit. [78388]

Mr. Plaskitt: The most recent available information is in the following table.

Estimates of overpayments as a percentage of benefit expenditure

	Percentage
Income support	5.3
Incapacity benefit	1.[illegible]
Disability living allowance	9.1
Jobseeker's allowance	6.0
Housing benefit	5.2

Estimates of overpayments as a percentage of benefit expenditure

	Percentage
Pension credit	4.6
Council tax benefit	4.9

Notes:

1. All figures are overpayments expressed as a proportion of expenditure for that benefit and are rounded to the nearest 0.1 per cent. They are based on sampling exercises and so are subject to sampling and other uncertainties. Sampling uncertainty is expressed in the form of confidence intervals; these have not been provided in these tables.
2. Income support, jobseeker's allowance and pension credit figures come from the National Statistics report "Fraud and error in Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance and Pension Credit from April 2004 to March 2005: Full report", published more recently than the 2004-05 DWP Resource Account.
3. Disability living allowance fraud and error figures come from the National Statistics report "Fraud, error and other incorrectness in Disability Living Allowance" covering the period 2004-05. The 'customer error' overpayment figure includes around £580 million (7.9 per cent. of DLA expenditure) which was removed when reported in the Departmental Resource Account. These were cases where the change in customer's needs may have been so gradual that it would be unreasonable to expect them to know at which point their entitlement to DLA might have changed. These cases do not result in a recoverable overpayment as we cannot quantify or define when the customer's change occurred. Because legislation requires the Secretary of State to prove that entitlement to DLA is incorrect, rather than requiring the customer to inform us that their needs have changed, cases in this subcategory are legally correct.
4. Incapacity benefit estimates from the 2004-05 DWP Resource Account. Fraud and customer error estimates from April 2000 to March 2001, official error from April 2003 to March 2004.
5. Housing benefit estimates from the National Statistics report "Fraud and Error in Housing Benefit April 2002 to March 2005". They are made up of reviews of around 85 per cent. of HB expenditure (used for measuring performance against the relevant PSA target to reduce fraud and error in HB) combined with more approximate estimates of error in the remaining 15 per cent. of expenditure. For further details on this, please see the relevant National Statistics reports.
6. Council tax benefit estimates from the 2004-05 DWP Resource Account. Council tax benefit has not been measured by the Department and was assumed to have the same levels of fraud and error as the latest housing benefit estimates available at the time (October 2003 to September 2004).
7. Child benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs and is a matter for HM Treasury.

Benefit Recipients

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many workers from the EU accession countries are claiming *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* housing benefit and *(c)* other benefits in the UK. [77604]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 8 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1548W.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough receive housing benefit. [79157]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at November 2005, there were 29,280 households in the London borough of Lewisham in receipt of housing benefit.

Information is not available broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough receive jobseeker's allowance. [79158]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at May 2006, there were 3,003 jobseeker's allowance claimants in the Lewisham, Deptford parliamentary constituency and 7,689 jobseeker's allowance claimants in the London borough of Lewisham.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were in receipt of each of his Department's means-tested benefits in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [75915]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following tables.

Income support (IS) and IS minimum income guarantee (MIG) caseloads: Great Britain each November 1997 to 2005

November	All IS	MIG	Non-MIG
1997	3,956,100	1,673,700	2,282,400
1998	3,842,000	1,614,500	2,227,500
1999	3,843,900	1,591,300	2,252,600
2000	3,928,900	1,669,800	2,259,200
2001	3,985,500	1,727,000	2,258,500
2002	3,994,800	1,750,500	2,244,300
2003	2,232,800	13,000	2,219,800
2004	2,177,900	10,800	2,167,100
2005	2,136,700	9,600	2,127,100

Pension credit caseloads: Great Britain each November 2003 to 2005

November	Number
2003	2,084,700
2004	2,629,580
2005	2,708,050

Income based jobseeker's allowance (JSA(IB)) caseloads: Great Britain each November 1997 to 2005

November	Number
1997	1,041,300
1998	951,200
1999	856,300
2000	743,400
2001	663,500
2002	635,300
2003	599,300
2004	565,700
2005	647,900

Housing benefit (HB) and council tax benefit (CTB) caseloads: Great Britain each November 1997 to 2005

November	HB	CTB
1997	4,546,650	5,393,820
1998	4,382,390	5,221,710
1999	4,147,870	4,959,480
2000	3,900,620	4,674,580
2001	3,818,400	4,608,390
2002	3,796,260	4,577,690
2003	3,806,590	4,666,910

Housing benefit (HB) and council tax benefit (CTB) caseloads: Great Britain each November 1997 to 2005

November	HB	CTB
2004	3,943,900	4,897,500
2005	3,975,230	4,993,090

Notes:
1. PC/HB/CTB figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. IS/JSA(IB) figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. HB/CTB figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. HB figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. CTB figures exclude any second adult rebate cases.
6. JSA(IB) figures and IS figures for November 1997 and 1998 are derived by applying 5 per cent. proportions to 100 per cent. WPLS data and are therefore subject to sampling variation.
7. Some JSA(IB) claimants may also have entitlement to benefit via the contributory route.
8. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
9. Pension credit replaced MIG on 6 October 2003
10. Overlaps between benefits have not been removed.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS); Information Directorate 5 per cent. samples; and Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in November 1997 to November 2005.

Child Support Agency

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of administering child support payments under *(a)* the old system and *(b)* the current system in the last period for which figures are available. [75807]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the cost was of administering child support payments under (a) the old system and (b) the current system in the last period for which figures are available.

The Child Support Agency is funded to administer child support applications and payments regardless of whether the assessment is based on old scheme or new scheme rules or systems. The actual costs of administering child support under each system are not separately identified and as such we cannot supply information to the level of detail required.

The cost of administering the Child Support Agency in 2004/05 was £325.6m. Figures for 2005/06 will be available when the Annual Report and Accounts is published. A change in accounting policy proposed by the Department for Work and Pensions, and confirmed by National Audit Office, will lead to a restatement of 2004/05 expenditure reported in the Agency's annual accounts. This reflects the incorporation of costs associated with the modernisation programme in the accounts of individual Agencies rather than charging such costs directly to the central Departmental Resource Account. It is expected that the restated 2004-05 figure will increase expenditure to around £425m. Costs for 2005/06 will be prepared on the same basis.

I hope you find this helpful.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-compliant absent parents for child support purposes are *(a)* employed, *(b)* self-employed and *(c)* work abroad; and what percentage those employed are of the total number of non-compliant absent parents. [75811]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many non-compliant absent parents for child support purposes are (a) employed (b) self-employed and (c) work abroad; and what percentage those employed are of the total number of non-compliant absent parents.

The Agency records information in terms of cases rather parents. My answer is therefore provided on this basis.

At the end of March 2006, there were 127,000 cases involving non-resident parents who were non-compliant. Of these:

77,000 cases involved non-resident parents who were employed. This represents 61 per cent. of all non-compliant cases.

13,000 cases involved non-resident parents who were self-employed. This represents around 10 per cent. of all non-compliant cases.

This information reflects the status of the non-resident parent currently held on the system as at the last intervention by the Agency and will not reflect changes in circumstances that the Agency has not yet been informed of, or are currently being processed.

Non-resident parents who live abroad generally do not have any ongoing liability for child maintenance. However, the 127,000 cases which involve non-compliant non-resident parents do include:

Cases where non-resident parents accrued arrears for a maintenance liability, before permanently moving out of the UK.

Cases where non-resident parents live abroad but work for a UK-based employer, e.g. a member of HM Diplomatic Service or HM Armed Forces, although whether or not a non-resident parent in this situation will have an ongoing liability is dependent on their particular circumstances.

However, we are unable to specify the volumes of non-compliant cases in either of these circumstances.

I hope you find this helpful.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the total pensions liability in respect of the 20 most highly paid civil servants at the Child Support Agency; and if he will make a statement. [77975]

Mrs. McGuire: A technical note by HM Treasury was placed in the Library of the House following an oral statement in Parliament by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-90. This note is a full statement about these liabilities and provides detailed information about the size and nature of the liabilities and how they are calculated.

Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual departments, they are estimated for individual pension schemes, as shown in the breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme given in Table 1 of the technical note.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many single parents receive the £5 deduction which claimants on benefit have to make towards Child Support Agency maintenance payments; [78794]

(2) how many people on benefit are liable for Child Support Agency maintenance payments; and how many have automatic deductions made against them. [78795]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many single parents receive the £5 deduction which claimants on benefit have to make towards Child Support Agency maintenance payments.

You also asked how many people on benefit are liable for Child Support Agency maintenance payments; and how many of this number have automatic deductions made against them.

The Agency records information in terms of cases rather than parents. Additionally the £5 deduction from benefit only applies to the new scheme. My answer is therefore provided on this basis.

In order to obtain the benefit status of non-resident parents associated with new scheme cases, it has been necessary to match data from the Agency's administrative systems with data from the benefits system administered by Jobcentre Plus. The latter set of administrative data is published quarterly, and the latest information available is for November 2005.

At the end of November 2005, there were 70,000 new scheme cases involving a non-resident parent (NRP) in receipt of Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance or Incapacity Benefit with a positive maintenance liability. Of these, 54,000 had a deduction for benefit as the specified method of collection.

The number of new scheme cases with a deduction from benefit that at the Agency was collecting maintenance from was 26,000.

It should be noted that although a case can have a liability to pay the £5 deduction from benefit, the full amount may be owed to more than one parent with care. In this case the liable amount will be divided between the cases for which the non-resident parent has a liability.

It should also be noted that there are also a small number of NRPs (the number of which cannot be quantified) who receive other benefits against which the Agency has a claim; namely—Retirement Pension, Pension Credit, Bereavement Allowance, Widowed Parents Allowance/Pension, Incapacity Benefit, Carer's Allowance, Severe Disablement Allowance, Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Maternity Allowance, War Disablement or War Widows Pension, also certain training allowances. However, it is not possible to provide information on these cases.

I hope you find this helpful.

Children's Services

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many nursery and crèche places are provided for people working in his Department; what charges are made for the provision of such services; and what other facilities are provided for the children of employees of his Department. [67364]

Mrs. McGuire: Staff in the Department for Work and Pensions have access to 32 holiday playschemes, five supported nurseries/crèches and six on site nurseries. The Department also supports some employees with children through the supply of cash subsidies. Current numbers are as follows:

	Number
Employees supported by holiday playschemes	369
Employees supported through nursery/crèche places/subsidies	770

The Department spends approximately £1,200,000 on child care provision per year.

Existing child care provision available across the Department has been developed according to local business need and is managed and funded from local budgets. As a result the Department has a varying range of subsidies and charges in place. Examples of subsidies and charges include £6 per day per child for nurseries, £4 per day per child for Holiday Playshemes, 35 per cent. of the cost of a holiday play scheme place. Pro rata subsidies are in place in a number of local areas for siblings.

The Department will also shortly be implementing a Childcare Voucher (Salary Sacrifice) Scheme. This will be rolled out with the new payroll system provided by the Resource Management System (RMS) which is scheduled for release in August 2006. This scheme will offer the advantage of supporting parents to make their own choices about where and what type of child care they want for their child.

Compensation Bill

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effect of Clause 1 of the Compensation Bill [Lords] on duties under health and safety at work legislation; and if he will make a statement. [76599]

Mrs. McGuire: Clause 1 of the Compensation Bill, which relates to civil law, will not have an effect on the enforcement in criminal law of the duties set out in the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and its relevant statutory provisions.

Compulsory Work-focused Interviews

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of those who fail to attend compulsory work-focused interviews have been subject to sanctions; [76831]

(2) how many incapacity benefit claimants have failed to attend compulsory work-focused interviews; and what proportion this represented of the total number required to attend such interviews. [76833]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Incapacity customers, lone parents, and partners of benefit recipients are the customer groups subject to compulsory work-focused interviews (WFI) at various times and intervals throughout their claim to benefit.

The information requested on incapacity benefit claimants is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

104,545 WFIs have been booked for partners of benefit recipients between April 2004 and February 2006. As at February 2006, 14,621, or 14 per cent. of booked WFIs have been marked as "failed to attend"; of those approximately 4 per cent. have had a sanction applied and 13 per cent. have a sanction outstanding.

For information on lone parents I refer my right hon. Friend to the written answer my predecessor gave the hon. Member for Daventry (Mr. Boswell) on 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 943W.

Contracted-out Rebates

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of Government liabilities in respect of the deemed buy-back of contracted-out rebates. [78310]

Ed Balls: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not available. Where individuals opt for deemed buy-back any entitlement to state second pension (S2P) will be paid from the National Insurance Fund when they reach state pension age. Separate estimates for S2P paid under this arrangement cannot be made.

Council Tax Benefit

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate of council tax benefit was in *(a)* Peterborough constituency and *(b)* Peterborough city council area in each year since 1996-97; and how many pensioners (i) were entitled to and (ii) received council tax benefit in each year. [77910]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of take-up and entitlement for council tax benefit are not available below national level; the latest available information is in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take Up in 2003/2004", a copy of which is in the Library.

Figures for the number of council tax benefit claimants are not available broken down by parliamentary constituency. Figures for pensioners in receipt of council tax benefit are not available prior to 2004. The available information is in the following table.

Council tax benefit recipients aged 60 and over: Peterborough city council

November	*Number of recipients*
2004	2,180
2005	2,060

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Caseloads have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.
4. 'Aged 60 and over' is defined as benefit units where the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 and over. Therefore figures will contain some claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged over 60 years.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in November 2004 and November 2005.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the annual outturn for council tax benefit was in each year since 1997; and what the forecasts are for each of the next five years. [79588]

Mr. Plaskitt: Forecasts are currently published up to 2007-08. The available information for Great Britain is in the tables; information regarding Northern Ireland is a matter for the Northern Ireland Office.

Council tax benefit expenditure, Great Britain, 1997-98 to 2007-08 (nominal terms)

	Amount (£ million)
1997-98[1]	2,395
1998-99[1]	2,452
1999-2000[1]	2,511
2000-01[1]	2,575
2001-02[1]	2,686
2002-03[1]	2,834
2003-04[1]	3,226
2004-05[1]	3,555
2005-06[2]	3,798
2006-07[3]	3,965
2007-08[3]	4,257

[1] Outturn.
[2] Estimated outturn.
[3] Plans.

Council tax benefit expenditure, Great Britain, 1997-98 to 2007-08 (real terms, 2006-07 prices)

	Amount (£ million)
1997-98[1]	2,943
1998-99[1]	2,938
1999-2000[1]	2,950
2000-01[1]	2,986
2001-02[1]	3,039
2002-03[1]	3,108
2003-04[1]	3,448
2004-05[1]	3,717
2005-06[2]	3,891
2006-07[3]	3,965
2007-08[3]	4,146

[1] Outturn.
[2] Estimated outturn.
[3] Plans.

Notes:
1. Figures are on a resource accounting and budgeting basis.
2. Some figures for past years may have changed since previous publications owing to the incorporation of more up-to-date information.
3. Expenditure for 2005-06 reflects the latest benefit-by-benefit estimate of outturn, and not the amounts voted by Parliament.
4. Total amounts paid to beneficiaries, irrespective of the source of funding. Includes benefit spending reimbursed by DWP, spending on rent rebates financed within local authorities' Housing Revenue Accounts, and benefit spending financed from local authorities' general funds.
5. Real terms have been calculated using gross domestic product deflators updated after the Budget report of 22 March 2006.

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the Chief Accounting Officer of his Department. [76838]

Mrs. McGuire: The Permanent Secretary, Mr. Leigh Lewis (BA, MIPD), is the Principal Accounting Officer of the Department for Work and Pensions. Earlier in his career he was the Finance Director of the then Department for Education and Employment.

The Accounting Officer is a role that the Permanent Secretary combines with his personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the Department and for Department-wide procedures in financial and other matters. The Accounting Officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified and experienced senior managers, including the Director General for Finance for the Department, John Codling, who is a Chartered Public Finance Accountant and holds a BA (Hons) degree in Economics.

Employment (Over-50s)

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of people in work aged 50 years and over in the Kingston and Surbiton constituency. [74779]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Like all other customers, people aged 50 and over can benefit from the range of services provided by Jobcentre Plus, including access to jobs and help and support to find work.

Additional help is provided to older people who do not find work quickly. New deal 50 plus is a voluntary programme that provides people with advice and guidance from personal advisers, and access to in-work financial help through the 50 plus element of the working tax credit. Since April 2000, the programme has been successful in helping more than 150,000 older workers into employment, including 150 people in Kingston and Surbiton. Once in work, new deal 50 plus customers can claim a training grant of up to £1,500 for training of which up to £300 can be used for life-long learning.

People aged 50 and over, including those in Kingston and Surbiton, are also eligible for help from new deal 25 plus. People who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for 18 months, and who have not previously participated on new deal 25 plus, are already required to attend the gateway stage of the new deal 25 plus programme. This is a period of up to four months of intensive job search and specialist help and support to improve job prospects. This is followed by the intensive activity period (IAP) which is currently voluntary for people aged 50 and over. The IAP provides further support and pre-work training to help people return to work.

Since April 2004, we have been piloting mandatory participation in the new deal 25 plus IAP for people aged 50 to 59 who have been claiming JSA for 18 months. The pilot has offered people in this age group more extensive help back to work. Kingston and Surbiton was not part of the pilot, however, interim pilot data have yielded positive results and, as announced in our Welfare Reform Green Paper, we will be commencing a phased national rollout.

Between 1979 and the mid 1990s, the number of people on incapacity benefits trebled. Growth in the caseload has since slowed significantly, and in November 2005, there were 2.71 million people claiming incapacity benefits, a fall of 61,000 over the year. Although 46 per cent. of those claiming incapacity benefits are aged between 50 and state pension age, between 2000 and 2005 the number of people in the 50 plus age group fell by 52,000. This has contributed to the overall reduction in the incapacity benefits caseload.

Like other age groups, people aged 50 or over who are on IB will be able to benefit from the rollout of the successful Pathways to Work service across the whole country which will be completed by 2008, including Kingston and Surbiton. Pathways offers new IB customers early support from skilled personal advisers and direct access to a 'Choices Package' of employment programmes and clear financial incentives to make work pay. Any IB customer will be able to access the support and help available on a voluntary basis.

Our Age Positive Campaign works with employers and others to promote the business benefits of an age diverse work force and best practice in recruitment, training and promotion. In May 2005 we launched the 'Be Ready' national information campaign to raise employer awareness of, and ability to adopt, flexible employment and retirement opportunities to support the recruitment and retention of older workers in advance of age legislation due in October 2006.

Employment Rates

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the role of area-based activities by his Department in increasing local employment rates. [72250]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Area-based employment initiatives continue to be important, particularly in our most deprived communities. The Department's priority is to ensure that all initiatives are more effectively targeted at those with the greatest degree of labour market disadvantage. This means that we constantly have to review our programmes and services to ensure that they provide good value for money and continue to meet the needs of our customers. Area-based initiatives such as Action Teams and the Working Neighbourhoods Pilot have, to date, helped over 170,000 people in some of our most deprived communities move into work.

Many of the practices and ideas developed by Action Teams have been integrated into Jobcentre Plus mainstream programmes and services. Examples include outreach work in local communities and the greater discretionary funding that is available to advisers. We also aim to build on lessons learnt from the recent Working Neighbourhoods Pilot.

Our successful Pathways to Work pilots have been acknowledged internationally as the best way of helping people on incapacity benefits back into work quickly and many of the pilots are located in areas with high levels of incapacity benefit claims. Much of the success of Pathways is directly attributable to the partnership approach at the local level with strong advocacy from local partners, access to a wide range of specialist expertise, and a unified complementary approach. It is this partnership approach that we are

extending further with our Cities Strategy. Private and voluntary sector providers currently deliver and support a number of different programmes within our Pathways to Work pilots. We will shortly be announcing the future roll-out of Pathways.

Our future strategy will build on the success of Action Teams, and other community-based initiatives; including the introduction of a Deprived Areas Fund (DAF) from October 2006, which will provide Jobcentre Plus with the flexibility to decide how funding could add value locally against a continued central objective of increasing the employment rate in the local areas. This fund will enable districts to target resources where they are most needed. Funding will be allocated at a district level, to enable Jobcentre Plus District Managers to exercise greater discretion over how the funding should be utilised in their area. DMs will use their knowledge of the local labour market, coupled with evidence of 'what works' to support the needs of local residents.

Partnership working with local government is especially important to DWP in promoting the economic vitality of localities. Local area agreements (LAAs) have been devised to provide a common and simple framework that leads to central Government, local authorities and partners agreeing local outcomes.

On 16 March 2005 the Chancellor announced the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI). Its purpose is to release the economic and productivity potential of the most deprived local areas through enterprise and investment—thereby boosting local incomes and employment opportunities and building sustainable communities. The proposed fund will distribute up to £50 million per year for 2006-07 rising to £150 million by 2008-09, and will be distributed through local area agreements (LAA).

As proposed in the Green Paper, the creation of 'Cities' pathfinders from 2007 will be charged with increasing employment and reducing social exclusion in our most deprived communities. In these areas, a consortium of local partners will be invited to join up and plan the delivery of their individual efforts and resources, with a strong focus on outcomes combined with greater opportunity for local flexibility and innovation. This approach will provide a real focus for local efforts to help people move back into work, so that the current patchwork of programmes and support, provided by a number of organisations, can be delivered in a more integrated, individually-focused and locally responsive way.

The Deprived Areas Fund, along with our strategy for 'Cities' and local area agreements will play a significant role in increasing local employment rates; ensuring those most disadvantaged in the labour market can receive the help and guidance they deserve.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures the Department is putting in place to speed up payments to those eligible under the Financial Assistance Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [78291]

James Purnell: In response to discussions with the pension scheme trustees responsible for applying to the Financial Assistance Scheme, we have simplified the information we need from schemes and clarified our guidance on the member data we require. We have also held meetings with over 75 per cent. of schemes with members potentially eligible for initial payments to ensure they understand what information is required and when.

Following these improvements to communications with trustees, over the last month the number of schemes applying for initial payments has increased to 146 and the number of members being paid initial payments has increased to 95, with an additional four members being paid annual payments.

On 6 June we announced a review of the administration of the Financial Assistance Scheme, which will look at what we need to do to provide the best administration and management support to ensure all eligible people receive payments as quickly as possible.

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on foreign travel by his Department in each of the last eight years. [76065]

Mrs. McGuire: The departmental spend on foreign travel for the year 2004 was £747,013.53. The spend for 2005 was £954,648.56.

We are unable to provide factual information for previous years due to disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate has been made of the percentage of housing benefit claimants renting from private landlords who had benefit shortfalls in the county borough of Bridgend in each year from 1997-98 to 2005-06. [75360]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available broken down below national level in Wales. The available information for Wales is in the table.

Housing benefit (HB) private tenants[1] whose weekly amount of HB is less than their weekly eligible rent: Wales, May 1997 to May 2004

As at May each year	All HB private tenants	HB private tenants who have weekly amount HB less than their weekly eligible rent	Percentage HB private tenants who have weekly amount HB less than their weekly eligible rent
1997	57,000	12,000	21.7
1998	53,000	13,000	25.4
1999	51,000	12,000	23.7
2000	48,000	10,000	20.3
2001	46,000	10,000	20.8
2002	45,000	9,000	20.9

Housing benefit (HB) private tenants[1] whose weekly amount of HB is less than their weekly eligible rent: Wales, May 1997 to May 2004

As at May each year	All HB private tenants	HB private tenants who have weekly amount HB less than their weekly eligible rent	Percentage HB private tenants who have weekly amount HB less than their weekly eligible rent
2003	44,000	8,000	18.0
2004	44,000	9,000	20.1

[1] Private tenants exclude registered social landlords.

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and percentages to one decimal place.
2. HB figures exclude any extended payment cases.
3. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System. Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 1997 to May 2004.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will consider Hartlepool borough council as one of the planned pilots for the housing benefit sanction proposals announced on 5 June. [76138]

Mr. Plaskitt: We are currently consulting stakeholders on the detail of the proposal, and will be investigating pilot sites later this year. Hartlepool will be considered as a possible pilot site as part of this process.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on housing benefit for tenants in *(a)* council property, *(b)* housing association property, *(c)* registered social landlord property and *(d)* private sector housing in Houghton and Washington, East constituency in each of the last three years. [76335]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available broken down by constituency. Information cannot be broken down by landlord type other than by council or private tenancies. The latter includes housing associations and registered social landlords. The available information for Sunderland city council is in the table.

Housing benefit expenditure in Sunderland city council

£

	Expenditure in council property	Expenditure in all private property	All housing benefit expenditure
2002-03	3,785,000	74,971,000	78,756,000
2003-04	1,097,000	73,813,000	74,910,000
2004-05	896,000	74,561,000	75,457,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest £000.
2. There are issues still to be resolved in the 2004-05 claim and therefore the figures for this year are subject to change.

Source:
Audited subsidy claims submitted by local authority.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of one parent households received housing benefit in 2005-06; [76878]

(2) what percentage of one parent households received council tax benefit in 2005-06. [76886]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table.

Housing benefit and council tax benefit recipients who are lone parents: Great Britain, May 2004

	Lone parents in receipt of HB/CTB	Percentage of lone parents in receipt of HB/CTB[1]
Housing benefit (HB)	866,000	55.8
Council tax benefit (CTB)	883,000	56.9

[1] Figures are given as a percentage of the lone parent population.

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and percentages to one decimal place.
2. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
3. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System. Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2004. General Register Office (GRO) for Scotland/Office for National Statistics (ONS) lone parent population estimates based on the 2001 census.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the change in the number of incapacity benefit customers moving into work in the pathways to work pilot areas. [67860]

Mrs. McGuire: Our successful pathways to work pilots have been acknowledged internationally as the best way of helping people on incapacity benefits back into work quickly. There have been 21,400 job entries in pathways to work areas, including over 3,360 from voluntary customers. The number of recorded job entries for people with a health condition or disability has almost doubled since before pathways started.

The specific information requested is not available.

Information on Jobcentre Plus Job Entry Target (JET) job entries is in the table.

Jobcentre Plus Job Entry Target (JET) job entries in the 12 months prior to, and in the 12 months after, the roll-out of Pathways

	12 months prior to Pathways roll-out	12 months after Pathways rollout	Percentage change
Pathways Phase 1 areas[1]	2,950	5,460	85
Pathways Phase 2 areas[2]	3,680	5,290	44

[1] The first phase of the Pathways to Work Pilots commenced on 27 October 2003 in Bridgend Rhondda Cynon and Taf, Derbyshire and Renfrewshire Inverclyde Argyll and Bute.
[2] The second phase of the Pathways to Work Pilots commenced on 5 April 2004 in Essex, Gateshead and South Tyneside, Lancashire East and Somerset.

Notes
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Jobcentre Plus JET data does not account for all job entries that occur when somebody leaves Incapacity Benefit, the JET jobs are only jobs that occur following a significant intervention from JCP (such as a job submission or the award of a financial incentive).

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals are claiming *(a)* short-term and *(b)* long-term incapacity benefit in (i) Lewisham, Deptford constituency and (ii) Lewisham borough. [79151]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA) claimants in London borough of Lewisham and Lewisham, Deptford parliamentary constituency, November 2005

	London borough of Lewisham	Lewisham, Deptford constituency
All IB/SDA	12,130	4,330
IB short-term (lower)	300	90
IB short- term (higher)	310	90
IB long-term	4,080	1,380
IB credits	6,360	2,360
SDA	1,080	380

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. 'Claimant' figures include all incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance, including incapacity benefit credits only cases.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Industrial Relations

Mr. Beswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the state of industrial relations with staff of his Department and its agencies. [76522]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) seeks an effective and constructive engagement with its three recognised trade unions. We provide allowances of 0.2 per cent. over staffing costs (equating to around £5.5 million of public money) to fund the cost of employee trade union representatives, in order to ensure proper engagement. Recent evidence of constructive consultative relationships include: a three-year pay deal negotiated and agreed with the unions; a "seeking to avoid compulsory redundancies" agreement signed in November 2004 which has the confidence of all parties and has enabled us to make significant staffing reductions without dispute; and a re-launch of our attendance management policy in July 2005 with a joint statement with the unions.

The Public and Commercial Services union (PCS) is currently in dispute with DWP over our efficiency programme. This is a matter of regret to the Department but talks are currently in progress to seek to resolve this dispute.

Job Vacancies (Hartlepool)

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were listed at Jobcentre Plus in Hartlepool constituency in each year since 1997. [77178]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information on Jobcentre Plus vacancy data at parliamentary constituency level is only available from April 2004 and is set out in the following table.

Hartlepool Parliamentary Constituency

Period	Vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus	Average number of 'live' notified vacancies on any given day
2004 (from April)	5,040	860
2005	5,080	1,120

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System

Jobcentre Plus

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many telephone calls to the Jobcentre Plus 0845 603 6347 telephone number were received each month from April 2005 to April 2006; [71195]

(2) whether there has been an unusually heavy demand placed upon the Jobcentre Plus 0845 603 6347 telephone number in recent months; and if he will make a statement; [71196]

(3) what alternative contact points can provide assistance regarding benefits claimed by an individual who cannot get through to the Jobcentre Plus 0845 603 6347 telephone number; [71197]

(4) what recent estimate his Department has made of the proportion of callers to Jobcentre Plus on 0845 603 6347 who encounter the engaged dial tone. [71198]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking about the use of the 0845 603 6347 telephone number. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Since 17 April 2006, we have been piloting the handling of claims and enquiries from customers in central London by our Glasgow Benefit Delivery Centre (BDC). Customers can contact the Glasgow BDC using the 0845 603 6347 telephone number. The number was not in use before 17 April. As part of this pilot we are paying particular attention to customer service issues, and local managers are reviewing the resources currently deployed handling telephone calls. A full evaluation of the pilot is planned for September and therefore at this early stage the information you have requested is not available.

Customers experiencing difficulties getting through on the 0845 603 6347 number can still access our services in person at Central London Jobcentres.

Customers in the Leicester area are not included in this pilot.

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Gregan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of how Jobcentre Plus in Yorkshire and the Humber measured against their performance indicators in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2004-05. [71352]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 18 May 2006]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what assessment he has made of how Jobcentre Plus in Yorkshire and the Humber Region measured against their performance indicators in 2005-06 and 2004-05. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The targets and achievements for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are listed in the table. The Yorkshire and Humber Region achieved all its targets in 2004/2005 and 4 out of 5 in 2005/2006. The Region as a whole did not meet its job entry target in 2005/06 but has maintained the number of Priority Group One customers (lone parents/sick and disabled people) moving into work. However, I should add that the job entry target for Selby and North Yorkshire District for 2005/2006 was exceeded.

	2004-05		2005-06	
	Target	*Achieved*	*Target*	*Achieved*
Job Entries	627,249	682,447 (+8.8 per cent.)	591,918	534,502 (-9.7 per cent.)
Business Delivery Target (percentage)	90	92.8 (+2.8 percentage pts)	90.4	92 (+1.6 percentage pts)
Employer Outcome (percentage)	84.2	85.6 (+1.4 percentage pts)	84.1	87.7 (+3.6 percentage pts)
Customer Service (percentage)	81.6	84.5 (+2.9 percentage pts)	81.2	82.4 (+1.2 percentage pts)
Monetary Value, Fraud and Error (percentage)	6.1	7.5 (+1.4 percentage pts)	6.1	7.5 (+1.4 percentage pts)

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what total headcount reductions in Jobcentre Plus staff are expected as a result of the Efficiencies Savings Programme, broken down by job title; how many personal advisers there are; and how many personal advisers there were when the agency was established. [77243]

Mr. Jim Murphy *(holding answer 13 June 2006):* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what total headcount reductions in Jobcentre Plus staff are expected as a result of the Efficiencies Savings Programme, broken down by Job Title; how many personal advisers there are; and how many personal advisers there were when the agency was established. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The efficiency challenge is measured against the baseline position at 1 March 2004. The table below shows the position at 1 March 2004 and the planned position at 31 March 2008. Figures are Full Time Equivalent (FTE) and comply with the Office of National Statistics definitions.

	Total (FTE)
31 March 2008 (Headcount)	65,637
31 March 2008 (Reductions)	16,430
1 March 2004 (Headcount)	82,067

Information on reductions broken down by job title is not available.

The earliest data we hold on the number of Personal Advisors working in Jobcentre Plus are for April 2003. The table below shows the number of Personal Advisers at April 2003, and at March 2006. This is the latest information available.

	Total personal advisers (FTE)
April 2003	9,842
As a percentage of all staff in April 2003	11.9
March 2006	10,423
As a percentage of all staff in March 2006	14.6

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of people who successfully secured a job directly through using the Job Centre Plus website in each year since its creation. [75931]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking if he will estimate the number of people who have successfully secured a job directly through using the Job Centre Plus website in each year since its creation. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk is our Internet service for jobseekers and is currently the United Kingdom's number one recruitment site. The website provides job hunting advice, information on programmes, such as New Deal, and allows users to search our extensive database of some 400,000 vacancies.

The website provides a self-service job search facility that does not require users to register personal details. Therefore, whilst we know how many visits the website receives, information on the number of people who have found jobs using the website is not available.

In 2004, the Jobcentre Plus website received 27,219,880 visits (this figure excludes figures for August because of a problem with the statistics package). This increased to 41,325,452 the following year (2005). The number of visits in the 5 months between 1 January and 31 May 2006 stands at 30,484,516. Figures are not available for 2001-03.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobseekers Allowance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the main causes for delay in applications for Jobseeker's Allowance were in the last month for which information is available; how many

delays fall into each main category; and if he will make a statement. [67628]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 26 June 2006:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what the main causes for delay in applications for Jobseeker's Allowance were in the last month for which information is available; how many delays fell into each main category; and if he will make a statement. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus is transforming the service it provides by making it available via the telephone, via the internet and through the personal service offered to people in Jobcentre Plus offices. We are also committed to implementing a major efficiency programme to deliver headcount savings.

The precise nature and extent of the issues which can cause delay varies between locations and stage of roll-out, and as some of these issues are inter-related and overlap, it is not possible to provide the specific information requested. However, we have put action in hand to address the delays, including the launch of a National Action Plan on 30 January. Senior operational managers provided a formal assurance at the end of February that they were complying with all elements of the National Action Plan.

We have also undertaken the considerable task of moving a large number of staff into new posts in our contact centres, and delivering the training necessary to operate the new processes.

The chief operating officer is monitoring performance very closely and is addressing performance variations in benefit clearance times in specific locations and the actions required to clear backlogs. It should be acknowledged that concentrating on backlogs of work may initially cause average clearance times to rise. In order to focus management attention on this issue, the actual average clearance times measure of 12 days for Jobseeker's Allowance claims, has been added to the suite of Jobcentre Plus Targets for 2006-07.

I hope this is helpful.

Liability Orders

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many liability orders under Section 33 of the Child Support Act 1991 and Child Support Regulations 1992 have been sought *(a)* in the UK, *(b)* within Hertfordshire and *(c)* within St. Albans in each year since 1995; and how many of these were successful. [78401]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds, dated 26 June 2006:

In reply to your recent parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many liability orders under Section 33 of the Child Support Act 1991 and Child Support Regulations 1992 have been sought (a) in the UK (b) within Hertfordshire and (c) within St. Albans in each year since 1995; and how many of these were successful.

Information about the total number of liability order applications and those successfully granted is only available from the period since March 1998. Due to the format in which this information is gathered it is not possible to provide details at the requested county or town level. Therefore information has only been provided at UK level.

	Liability orders applied for	*Liability orders granted*
1998-99	3968	2033
1999-2000	4307	2532
2000-01	3384	1755
2001-02	3166	1427
2002-03	5540	2383
2003-04	6719	3885
2004-05	7773	7247
2005-06	11926	10273

During 2003 a full review of enforcement activity within the Child Support Agency was undertaken. The recommendations which were implemented started to show a marked improvement in performance during 2004-05 and particularly last year 2005-06.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Newcastle Jobcentre Plus Action Team

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget for the Newcastle Jobcentre Plus Action Team is for 2006-07; what the budget was in each of the last two years; which programmes the team supported in 2005-06 and 2006-07; and what geographical areas each programme covered. [78219]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Action Teams aim to engage communities, mainly through outreach, and find individual solutions for both employers and clients.

The Newcastle Action Team covers the Newcastle city area and has supported a number of local programmes. Some examples of these programmes are: Sure Start; Newcastle City Council Work Finders; Job Educational Training and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); Mental Health Matters; the Prison Service; Disability North; and Connexions.

Details of the allocated budget for the Newcastle Action Team are in the table.

	Allocated budget (£)
2006-07 (April to 30 September 2006)	697,000
2005-06	1,044,000
2004-05	1,044,000

The funding for 2006-07 is less than for previous years as the Action Team programme is due to finish at the end of September 2006. Many of the practices and ideas developed by Action Teams have been integrated into Jobcentre Plus mainstream programmes and services. Examples include outreach work in local communities and the greater discretionary funding that is available to advisers.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Raffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to question 42540 tabled by the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds on 11 January 2006, on telephone helplines. [71699]

Mrs. McGuire: I replied to the hon. Member on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1480-81W.

Mr. Raffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to question *(a)* (i) 64505, (ii) 64521, (iii) 64507, (iv) 64504, (v) 64520, (vi) 64519 and (vii) 64508 on pension credit, *(b)* (i) 64500 and (ii) 64495 on sickness absence, *(c)* (i) 64498 and (ii) 64499 on rehabilitation services and *(d)* 64501 on benefit helplines tabled by the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds on 12 January. [71726]

Mrs. McGuire: Replies have been given to the hon. Member for all of the questions as follows:

64495 on 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 497W
64504 on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1003W
64505 on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1003W
64507 on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1004W
64508 on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1003W
64520 on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1004-05W
64521 on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1003-04W
64498 on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1803W
64499 on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1803W
64519 on 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1488W
64501 on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 914W
64500 on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column1476W

Pension Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioner households are receiving pension credit in each ward in *(a)* Westminster and *(b)* Kensington and Chelsea; and what the average payment is in each ward. [78815]

James Purnell: The information requested is in the following tables.

Pension credit household recipients and average weekly amount of benefit for wards in Westminster, November 2005

Ward name	Household recipients	Average weekly benefit (£)
Aldersgate	—	—
Bishopsgate	—	—
Cripplegate	80	63.95
Farringdon Within	—	—
Farringdon Without	—	—
Portsoken	70	70.50
Queenhithe	—	—
Tower	—	—
Walbrook	—	—
Bayswater	310	76.94
Bryanston and Dorset Square	240	74.98
Churchill	430	60.9
Hyde Park	325	85.33
Knightsbridge and Belgravia	50	70.38
Lancaster Gate	365	75.93
Marylebone High Street	240	61.14
St. James's	350	58.33
Tachbrook	410	55.43
Vincent Square	375	63.64
Warwick	300	67.59
West End	280	70.73
Cities of London and Westminster Constituency Total	3,710	68.07

Pension credit household recipients and average weekly amount of benefit for wards in Kensington and Chelsea, November 2005

Ward name	Household recipients	Average weekly benefit (£)
Abingdon	220	74.70
Brompton	165	66.34
Campden	140	71.92
Courtfield	165	66.02
Cremorne	505	66.42
Earl's Court	375	73.05
Hans Town	235	61.82
Holland[1]	175	84.40
Pembridge	215	67.51
Queen's Gate	120	84.75
Radcliffe	245	66.25
Royal Hospital	280	49.67
Stanley	220	59.71
Kensington and Chelsea Constituency Total	3,150	67.77

[1] Only part of Holland ward falls within Kensington and Chelsea parliamentary constituency.

Notes:
1. The number of claimants is rounded to a multiple of five and average amounts to the nearest penny therefore ward totals do not always sum to area totals.
2. Some figures in Westminster Constituency have been suppressed due to there being less than 10 claimants within those wards. Suppressed figures are marked as "—".
3. Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries.
4. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either on behalf of themselves only or on behalf of a household. This number is equal to the number of households in receipt of pension credit.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data.

Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what circumstances a credit will be awarded towards a qualifying year for *(a)* the basic state pension and state second pension, *(b)* the basic state pension only and *(c)* the state second pension only, if the proposals in the May 2006 White Paper 'Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system' are implemented in full; and which credits will apply on a weekly basis. [76607]

James Purnell: The White Paper 'Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system' (Cm 6841) sets out a package of proposed reforms. It includes a number of measures which would help to make the system more flexible, and make national insurance credits more valuable and more generous.

The proposed reduction of the number of qualifying years needed for a full basic state pension to 30 is a very significant change that makes the system more flexible;

it allows people to undertake a variety of activities during their working lives, and still be able to build a full basic state pension. This would be particularly beneficial to women.

Credits would be made more valuable by removing the first contribution condition, so that credits count towards pension entitlements in exactly the same way as paid contributions for the first time. This clearly signals that social contributions are rewarded and recognised by society in the same way as paid work. The credits would be awarded on a weekly basis only to the extent needed for the year to become a qualifying year.

In addition to making credits more valuable, the credits system would be made more comprehensive and generous, by reforming home responsibilities protection into a weekly credit and introducing new weekly credits for parents and carers—aligned in BSP and S2P and these would count towards satisfying the qualifying years in the same way as paid contributions.

Assuming the White Paper proposals are implemented in full, the new credits to be introduced are shown in the following table:

	BSP	*S2P*
Carer's credit (20 hours' caring)	Yes	Yes
Parent's credit	Yes	Yes
Foster carer's credit	Yes	Yes

All the credits will be awarded on a weekly basis.

There will be no specific circumstances in which state second pension will accrue without there being entitlement to basic state pension.

Circumstances in which credits are currently awarded towards basic state pension are listed in the following table. Whether there is also eligibility for state second pension, if credits are awarded throughout the tax year, is also noted.

	BSP	*S2P*
Starting credits (aged 16 to 18)	Yes	No
Approved training courses	Yes	No
Jury Service	Yes	No
Former prisoners with quashed convictions	Yes	No
Men aged 60 to 64[1]	Yes	No
Jobseeker's Allowance	Yes	No
Incapacity Benefit (short-term)	Yes	No
Incapacity Benefit (long-term)	Yes	[2]Yes
Severe Disablement Allowance	Yes	Yes
Carer's Allowance	Yes	Yes
Statutory Sick Pay	Yes	No
Statutory Adoption Pay	Yes	No
Working Tax Credit	Yes	No
Maternity Allowance	Yes	No
Unemployability supplement	Yes	No
Unemployed, actively seeking work (no JSA)	Yes	No
Incapable of work through illness (no IB)	Yes	[2]Yes

[1] If the White Paper proposals are implemented in full, these will be phased out in line with the increase in women's state pension age.
[2] This is currently subject to satisfying the labour market test.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Private Members' Bills were drafted by his Department in each session since 1997; and which subsequently received Royal Assent. [78856]

Mrs. McGuire: Members will consider a range of possible subjects before introducing their Private Members' Bills.

Government draftsmen do draft some Bills in advance which are available as one of the options for Members to consider before they make their selection.

However, Members may make subsequent amendments or revisions to a Government drafted Bill, or use it as the basis for a Private Member's Bill in the future.

The information requested is therefore not collected.

Remploy Review

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the review of Remploy to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [77480]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made on 6 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 26WS.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether hon. Members are able to make submissions to the review of Remploy being undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers; and if he will make a statement. [79023]

Mrs. McGuire: The purpose of the independent strategic review is to explore future business options for Remploy that are consistent with the Government's strategy for supporting the employment of greater numbers of disabled people.

In delivering the review the PricewaterhouseCoopers team has met with a range of stakeholders including: the management and staff of Remploy, at a variety of sites; trade unions; disabled people and employers using Remploy's Interwork services; other providers of services supporting disabled people into and in work; and a number of disability organisations.

PricewaterhouseCoopers has reviewed carefully all the information it has gathered and is considering all the options to determine the advice it will put forward in the written report. Since the team has now reached the stage where it is writing the report it will not be possible for it to consider further submissions.

As indicated in my written statement of 6 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 26WS, we will make a further statement before the summer recess.

Rubber and Plastics Research Association Technology

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what requirements in relation to pension funds were imposed on Rubber and Plastics Research Association Technology in Shawbury, Shropshire before it went into administration. [79754]

James Purnell: None, over and above the standard legislative framework that applies to all such occupational defined benefit schemes.

Staff Reductions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what reductions in staff numbers have been made in his Department and in each agency and non-departmental public body for which he is responsible since *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004; what staff reductions are planned over the next 12 months in each business area; and if he will make a statement. [35724]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 December 2006]:* Information on the reductions in staff numbers in each business area in the Department for Work and Pensions from the date specified to 31 March 2006 is in the following table.

	Actual staffing at 31 March 2006	*Reduction from 31 March 2003*	*Reduction from 1 March 2004*[1]	*Reduction from 31 March 2005*	*Further planned reduction to 31 March 2007 Plans*
Department for Work and Pensions					
Jobcentre Plus	71,222	8,084	10,845	3,253	2,672
The Pension Service	13,846	4,336	6,045	2,573	46
Child Support Agency	11,034	347	+106	+1,049	384
Disability and Carers Service	6,398	895	864	216	348
Appeals Service	759	134	91	5	n/a
The Rent Service	674	n/a	[2]—	52	24
Other Departmental Units (includes non-departmental public bodies)	10,834	2,118	704	1,202	584
Departmental Total	114,767	15,240	18,443	6,252	4,817
Health and Safety Executive					
Health and Safety Executive	3,943	219	+66	+40	259

[1] Baseline date for efficiency challenge
[2] The baseline position as at 1 March 2004 is adjusted to reflect the move of the Rent Service from 1 April 2004 from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
Notes:
1. Figures are consistent with ONS definitions, are civil service full time equivalent posts (rounded) and are point in time as at the dates specified.
2. The Appeals Service moved to the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 1 April 2006.
3. Disability and Carers Service was granted Agency status from 1 November 2004.
4. CSA staffing levels have increased to support the Operational Improvement Plan announced on 9 February 2006.

Winter Fuel Payment

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals aged 60 to 79 years received the winter fuel payment of *(a)* £100 and *(b)* £200 for winter 2005-06 in (i) Lewisham, Deptford constituency and (ii) Lewisham borough; [79148]

(2) how many individuals aged 80 years and over received the winter fuel payment for winter 2005-06 in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough; and how many out of those received an additional (i) £50 and (ii) £100. [79149]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Number

	Lewisham, Deptford constituency	*Lewisham borough*
£100 payments made	2,270	9,260
£200 payments made	5,200	16,660
Total winter fuel payments made to those aged 60-79	7,480	25,920
Additional £50 payments made	190	1,010
Additional £100 payments made	1,300	5,650

	Lewisham, Deptford constituency	Number Lewisham borough
Total winter fuel payments made to those aged 80 or over	1,490	6,670

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Figures for 2005-06 refer only to the main payment run so they do not include the late payment run figures. We estimate that there are approximately 100,000 people in Great Britain paid in late payment runs (0.8 per cent. of all payments). Since most of the payments made in late payment runs are to people who are not receiving another benefit from DWP and whose claims had not been received by the qualifying week, most are men aged 60 to 64.

Source:
Information Directorate 100 per cent. sample.

WALES

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the average cost to his Department was of replying to a letter written by *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public, broken down into (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80512]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not record expenditure in this format, and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) if he will list those Government Bills sponsored by his Department that are still to be introduced during the 2005-06 Session; [78845]

(2) if he will list the Government Bills sponsored by his Department that he has bid for in the next Session of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [78846]

Mr. Hain: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W, by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House.

Regional Funding

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much *(a)* Objective 1 and *(b)* Convergence Funds funding was included in each of the annual block grant totals set out in Annexe 1 of the Wales Office Annual Report 2005. [80397]

Mr. Hain: Annexe 1 of the Wales Office Annual Report 2005 provides information on the Wales departmental expenditure limit, and therefore takes account of the European Union receipts for structural funds, but these are not disaggregated.

Annexe 4 shows the reconciliation of grant payable to the National Assembly for Wales with Total Managed Expenditure in Wales 2005-06 included £234 million for EU receipts. The equivalent figures in earlier reports are:

2004 Annexe 5 2004-05: £235 million
2003 Annexe 5 2003-04: £186 million
2002 Annexe 5 2002-03: £170 million.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Registration/Fraud

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission (1) how many hours were spent by Electoral Commission staff on the issues of *(a)* postal ballot fraud and *(b)* electoral registration in each of the last five years; [80042]

(2) how many meetings Electoral Commission officers have *(a)* attended and *(b)* initiated on the issues of (i) postal ballot fraud and (ii) electoral registration in each of the last five years. [80050]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission has advised me as follows. The information requested is not available. However, as the issues of postal ballot fraud and electoral registration are both central to its work on promoting involvement and integrity in the electoral process, they arise frequently in work done by Commission staff and have been discussed by them in very many meetings over the last five years.

Chris Ruane: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, how many Electoral Commission reports on *(a)* postal ballot fraud and *(b)* electoral registration have been produced in each of the last five years; and how many words there were in each. [80051]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission has informed me that, in the last five years, it has produced four reports dealing in part with postal ballot fraud, four reports dealing wholly, or in part, with electoral registration and two that deal with both issues.

Of the reports dealing with postal ballot fraud, one was produced in 2002 (33,578 words); two in 2003 (17,826 words and 54,351 words respectively); and one in 2004 (33,592 words). Of the reports dealing with electoral registration, two were produced in 2003 (17,809 words and 30,633 words respectively); one in 2004 (38,438 words); and one in 2005 (19,451 words). The two reports dealing with both these issues were published in 2003 and 2005, and contained 17,785 words and 23,081 words respectively.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Arms Exports

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what proportion of export credits

issued by the Export Credits Guarantee Department in each of the last three years were for military goods. [76857]

Mr. McCartney: The proportion of export credit guarantees issued for defence goods and services by the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) in each of the last five years was:

Guarantees by business sector (defence)

	Percentage
2004-05	38
2003-04	39
2002-03	50
2001-02	31
2000-01	48

ECGD's audited business figures for 2005-06 are not yet available.

British Energy (Decommissioning Fund)

Chris Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry by how much the Government are underwriting British Energy's decommissioning fund. [80043]

Malcolm Wicks: As a result of the restructuring of British Energy, Government will underwrite the company's segregated decommissioning fund. This fund will cover the costs of decommissioning British Energy's nuclear power stations as well as certain other liabilities relating to waste management. The fund is topped up through annual contributions from British Energy. Government will underwrite this fund to the extent that the liabilities outweigh the assets.

On recent valuation, the assets of the segregated fund total some £8.1 billion, the majority of which relates to the value attributed to the fund's 64.6 per cent. convertible stake in British Energy, and which exceeds the recent revised forecast of the liabilities. The fund can also distribute a share of its surplus assets to the Government in the event of quinquennial reviews demonstrating a surplus in the fund.

Business Closures (Suffolk)

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many firms have ceased trading in *(a)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency and *(b)* the Suffolk county council area in each year since 1997. [79367]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business closures. DTI data on the number of VAT de-registrations in *(a)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency and *(b)* Suffolk county council area from 1997 to 2004 are shown in the following table. For comparison, the number of new VAT registrations and the ratio of de-registrations to registrations in each year is also shown.

VAT de-registrations and registrations 1997-2004

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Bury St. Edmunds constituency								
De-registrations	225	200	235	250	240	220	275	280
New registrations	295	280	275	325	260	315	305	345
Ratio	0.76	0.71	0.85	0.77	0.92	0.70	0.90	0.81
Suffolk county council								
De-registrations	1,595	1,615	1,600	1,665	1,700	1,715	1,865	1,970
New registrations	2,055	1,915	1,855	2,040	1,860	2,075	2,130	2,050
Ratio	0.78	0.84	0.86	0.82	0.91	0.83	0.88	0.96

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2004, Small Business Service, available at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/vats.

In both Bury St. Edmunds constituency and Suffolk county council area the stock of VAT registered businesses has increased each year since 1997, as registrations have exceeded de-registrations throughout this period.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register will not necessarily have closed. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million businesses (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

Cathode Ray Tubes

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much has been paid to local authorities for the additional responsibilities to recycle televisions and monitors containing cathode ray tubes since July 2005. [78453]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* An interim payment of £14.7 million has been agreed to cover the treatment costs of separately collected cathode ray tubes (CRTs) and fluorescent tubes for the period 13 August 2005 to 1 June 2006, and Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) equipment from 1 April 2006 until 1 June 2006. The English local authorities' share of the interim payment of £12.269 million has been made available as part of the Local Government Settlement for 2006-07. Additional funding to cover costs from 1 June onwards will be paid via a special grant scheme later in the year.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate his Department has made of the likely costs associated with recycling

televisions and monitors containing cathode ray tubes following the introduction of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [78454]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* The costs associated with recycling televisions and monitors containing cathode ray tubes will vary according to their size and weight and the proximity of treatment centres. Estimates of the costs of collecting, treating and recycling waste electrical and electronic equipment will appear in the partial regulatory impact assessment when public consultation begins later this summer on draft regulations to implement the WEEE directive.

Company Law Reform Bill

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the likely changes in costs to business arising out of implementation of the provisions of the Company Law Reform Bill as amended by the House of Lords. [79004]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* Against direct benefits of between £160 million and £340 million per annum there are a small number of provisions in the Bill that might in principle increase compliance costs. The direct costs associated with the Bill are expected to be in the range £8 million to £47 million. This is an increase of £6 million to £36 million on the estimated direct costs associated with the Company Law Reform Bill on introduction in the Lords (£2 million to £11 million).

The additional costs of £6 million to £36 million are associated with the amendments to the "Exercise of Members' Rights" provisions made in the House of Lords. The direct cost estimates have been provided by stakeholders and are sensitive to assumptions such as the percentage of indirect investors opting to exercise rights. We will seek to revise those amendments during consideration of the Bill in the House of Commons.

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the potential effects on business and employment in the UK of an increase in market penetration in energy efficiency and new measures by UK companies. [80018]

Malcolm Wicks: Improvements in energy efficiency have the potential to reduce business energy bills which should help increase companies' competitiveness, giving scope for increased employment.

Flag Flying

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) on how many days since May 1997 the St. George's flag has been flown from his Department's buildings; [77739]

(2) what his Department's policy is on flying the *(a)* St. George's flag and *(b)* EU flag from departmental buildings. [77740]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport issue the guidance for flying flags on Government buildings. This includes flying the St. George's flag or Union flag on St. George's day 23 April and the European flag on Europe day 9 May on buildings with two or more flag poles provided they are flown alongside the Union flag with the Union flag in the superior position.

The Department for Trade and Industry flies the Union flag and European flag on the specified days and will fly the national flag on St. George's day in 2007.

GovNet Expo 2006

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the cost is to his Department of supporting GovNet Expo 2006. [79220]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The DTI is not sponsoring GovNet Expo 2006. It is being jointly sponsored by a private sector body and the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) which is providing support at a total cost of £21,150. EOC was formerly sponsored by the DTI until its transfer to the Department of Communities and Local Government in May 2006.

Green Energy Sources

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what incentives are in place to encourage private homeowners to use green energy sources to power and heat their homes. [79372]

Malcolm Wicks: Grants for the installation of a number of microgeneration technologies producing heat and electricity are available to householders under the new Low Carbon Buildings programme (LCBP). This programme supersedes the previous Clear Skies and Major Photovoltaics Demonstration programmes. Stream one of the LCBP provides grant support for householders and applications are now being taken. The scheme is managed on behalf of the Department by the Energy Savings Trust.

Full details are available on the LCBP website at www.lowcarbonbuildings.org.uk.

Microgenerators producing electricity can also benefit from the Renewables Obligation (RO) where they will receive one Renewables Obligation Certificate (ROC) for every 1MWh of eligible renewable electricity generated. We will also be consulting later this year on changes to the RO, which will allow microgenerators to gain further benefits. This includes allowing agents to act on behalf of microgenerators; amalgamating generation from several microgenerators; and removing the need for a sale and buy-back agreement.

Green Tariffs

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to establish an accreditation scheme for green tariffs for domestic electricity customers; and if he will make a statement. [79241]

Malcolm Wicks: Ofgem will shortly be publishing a response to its consultation on the "Revision of Guidelines on Green Supply Offerings" and we will consider the introduction of an accreditation scheme for green electricity tariffs in the light of this.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with Ofgem concerning claims made by electricity suppliers about their green tariff schemes. [79243]

Malcolm Wicks: None.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what criteria must be met before an electricity company may market an electricity tariff as a green tariff. [79244]

Malcolm Wicks: Ofgem publishes guidelines for the use of green tariffs and issued a consultation on the revision of these guidelines last year. It advises that it will publish its response shortly.

Harworth Colliery

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had on the future of Harworth Colliery; and if he will make a statement. [78656]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* UK Coal's recent decision to proceed with the mothballing of Harworth Colliery is a sad one, particularly for the work force, a representative of whom I met yesterday. This is, of course, a commercial decision for the company and I remain hopeful that a commercial solution can still be found. I have asked to be kept closely informed of developments.

HP Sauce

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with *(a)* Heinz, *(b)* unions representing workers at Aston Cross HP Sauce factory and *(c)* Birmingham city council regarding the Heinz proposal to move production of HP Sauce from the UK to the Netherlands. [80069]

Margaret Hodge: The Government office for the west midlands attended a meeting on Wednesday 24 May which was chaired by Councillor Ken Hardeman (Birmingham city council—cabinet member for regeneration) and included representatives from Birmingham and Solihull Learning and Skills Council, Advantage West Midlands (RDA) and Heinz.

Industrial Strategy (West Midlands)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans his Department has to review the effect of the Government's industrial strategy on the west midlands. [76999]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* DTI published the Government's manufacturing strategy in 2002 and carried out a review of that strategy with key industry stakeholders across the regions in 2004.

As an outcome of the review, we established the joint industry and Government-led manufacturing forum to drive forward the implementation of the strategy and monitor progress. Regional development agencies are represented on the forum, reflecting their strong involvement in delivering the strategy.

I am meeting the hon. Member and other hon. Members in the near future and will discuss with him the effect of the Government's manufacturing strategy on the west midlands.

Mobile Phones

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what regulations are in place to ensure that staff at points of mobile telephone sales are *(a)* trained and *(b)* encouraged to communicate information about handset specific absorption rates. [79586]

Margaret Hodge: Many third party retailers provide this information in their outlets and on their websites, although there are no specific regulations in place.

In addition, the UK's five Mobile Network Operators, namely Orange, T-Mobile, Hutchison 3G, O2 and Vodafone, have resources within their customer service departments to provide information and advice to users regarding specific absorption rates (SAR) values on handsets.

Muslim Women (Employment)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent steps he has taken to increase the participation of Muslim women in the labour market; and if he will make a statement. [70927]

Meg Munn: The Ethnic Minority Business Forum was established in 2000 by the DTI as an independent, strategic advisory body to represent the views of ethnic minority business communities. It advises Government on the right help and advice ethnic minority businesses need for growth and success.

Additionally the DTI's Public Service Agreement 10, which is a joint target with the Department for Work and Pensions, is to promote ethnic diversity, co-operative employment relations and greater choice and commitment in the workplace while maintaining a flexible labour market.

The DTI's sub-targets include raising self employment rate of ethnic minorities relative to other groups and reducing incidents of racial discrimination at work reported by ethnic minority employees.

In addition, the Government's Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force brings together Government Departments and key stakeholders to work towards increasing the employment rate of ethnic minorities, including Muslim women.

Non-electrical Light Fittings

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 875W, on light fittings (hazardous substances), what guidance he has issued on whether the wholesale and retail of existing stock of non-electrical light fittings are within the scope of the Restriction of

the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2005, S.I. 2005, No. 2748. [79868]

Malcolm Wicks: The RoHS Regulations have no impact on any existing stock that has been placed on the EU market. The Government's non-statutory Guidance Notes make it clear that the regulations only become enforceable from 1 July 2006.

Norfolk Island

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* goods and *(b)* services were (i) exported to and (ii) imported from Norfolk Island over the last three years. [78960]

Mr. McCartney: Recorded values of UK exports of goods to Norfolk Island were:

	£
2003	17,000
2004	12,000
2005	19,000

No imports of goods were recorded in the same period. Information for trade in services is not available.

Nuclear Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the Prime Minister's answer of 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 764-5, on nuclear power, what the source was for his statement *(a)* that 50 to 60 nuclear power plants are under construction and *(b)* that the new generation of nuclear power stations generate around one-tenth of the radioactive waste of the previous generation of reactors. [79036]

Malcolm Wicks: The source for the data regarding nuclear power plants under construction is the World Nuclear Association website at http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/reactors.htm

The website illustrates that there are 25 reactors under construction and 38 reactors planned, giving a total of 63 reactors. The definitions given on the website for "construction" and "planned" are:

> "Construction: first concrete for reactor poured, or major refurbishment under way"; "Planned: Approvals and funding in place, or construction well advanced but suspended indefinitely".

On the matter of radioactive waste, details of the calculations and views of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) can be found at www.corwm.org.uk

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department takes to ensure that nuclear decommissioning costs are *(a)* kept to budget and *(b)* cost-effective. [78522]

Malcolm Wicks: The policy intention behind the creation of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), which assumed responsibility for the decommissioning and clean-up of the UK's civil nuclear legacy on 1 April 2005, is to provide national strategic control and direction for decommissioning of those sites previously operated by United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. and to deliver accelerated clean-up safely, securely, cost-effectively and in ways that safeguard the environment for this and future generations. The DTI has arrangements for the oversight of NDA so as to be sure that it is achieving this task, and like other areas of Government activity the activities of NDA are also subject to review by the National Audit Office.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether any funds provisionally set aside for *(a)* the decommissioning of nuclear power plants and *(b)* the disposal of nuclear waste have been used for any other purposes since 1997. [80005]

Malcolm Wicks: We are not aware of any funds set aside for the decommissioning of nuclear power plants or the disposal of nuclear waste that have been used for any other purposes.

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much money has been set aside by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the nuclear industry towards the cost of decommissioning nuclear power plants since 1997. [80006]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are committed to funding the full costs of the decommissioning and clean-up of the historic civil nuclear liabilities by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). The Consolidated Fund is the mechanism for funding this. Under the 2004 Spending Review the NDA received a budget of £2.2 billion for 2005-06—about half of which was to be raised by the NDA's commercial activities. Following the successful conclusion of the EC State Aid Review on 4 April 2006, financial responsibility for decommissioning BNFL sites has passed to the NDA under the Energy Act 2004. Until this point BNFL held nuclear funding assets of some £17.3 billion on its balance sheet to fund future decommissioning costs. Following the transfer of the nuclear decommissioning liability to the NDA, these assets have been transferred back to the Government.

There are separate arrangements for funding the decommissioning of British Energy nuclear sites. Since privatisation in 1996, British Energy has been making contributions into a segregated decommissioning fund. As a result of the restructuring, which completed in January 2005, British Energy will make enhanced contributions into the fund and Government will underwrite the fund to the extent that its liabilities outweigh its assets. On recent valuation, the assets of the segregated fund total some £8.1 billion, the majority of which relates to the value attributed to the fund's 64.6 per cent. convertible stake in British Energy.

Oil Companies

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he plans to take to ensure that oil companies are required to offer supply contracts to independent petrol retailers; and what assessment he has made of the compliance of oil companies with Government fair trading and competition policies in respect of their dealings with independent petrol retailers. [79820]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government's policy is not to intervene in commercial transactions or price setting, as they believe the consumer is best served by open competition between companies.

An assessment has not been made by the DTI of the compliance of oil companies with Government fair trading and competition policies in respect of their dealings with independent petrol retailers. However, the supply of fuel is subject to UK competition law under the Competition Act 1998. Under the Act, the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has powers to investigate situations where there are reasonable grounds to suspect anti-competitive agreements or abuse of a dominant market position in the fuel market.

Post Office Network Services

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies (i) make available and (ii) have made available in the last five years through the Post Office network; through how many outlets the service is or was made available; and how many relevant transactions were undertaken in each case in the most recent year for which figures are available. [79197]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. A number of other Government Departments have contracts with the Post Office for the provision of services through the Post Office network.

Renewable Energy

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the purchase price is of a kilowatt hour of electricity generated by *(a)* wind power and *(b)* incinerators accepting municipal waste; and how this purchase price is reduced by renewable obligation certificates in each case. [80309]

Malcolm Wicks: In the UK's competitive and liberalised energy market, the purchase price of a kilowatt hour of electricity generated, by *(a)* wind power and *(b)* incinerators accepting municipal waste, is a commercial matter between generators and suppliers.

Renewable obligation certificates allow accredited renewable generators to receive a premium price for every one megawatt hour of eligible electricity generated. An incinerator accepting municipal mixed waste is not eligible for renewable obligation certificates.

Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what penalties will be imposed on organisations selling goods which do not comply with the restriction of hazardous substances directive; [80532]

(2) what *(a)* powers, *(b)* funds and *(c)* responsibilities have been given to the relevant agencies to ensure that all goods entering the UK after 1 July comply with the restriction of hazardous substances directive; [80533]

(3) what assessment his Department carried out prior to the implementation of the restrictions of hazardous substances directive of the impact of using non-lead solders on the reliability of electronic equipment manufactured; [80535]

(4) what steps are being taken to reduce environmental impact of the compulsory use of non-lead solders following the enactment of the restriction of hazardous substances directive; [80564]

(5) what testing procedures exist to measure whether metals used in electrical apparatus will comply with the restriction of hazardous substances directive; [80565]

(6) what steps have been taken to ensure that the materials being used to replace those banned by the restriction of hazardous substances directive are less damaging to the environment; [80582]

(7) what steps HM Revenue and Customs is taking to ensure that all goods entering the UK after 1 July are compliant with standards imposed by the restriction of hazardous substances directive. [80563]

Malcolm Wicks: The EC restriction of hazardous substances directive (2002/95/EC) has been transposed into UK legislation by the Restriction of the Use of Certain Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006 (SI 2006 No. 1463), which come into force on 1 July this year. These regulations, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of the House, contain full details of the powers and responsibilities that the enforcement authority will hold and the details of the penalties that could be imposed on those that do not comply with the requirements. HM Revenue and Customs is not given specific additional powers by these regulations.

Due to the broad scope of the regulations, there are no standard testing procedures but the DTI's non-statutory Government Guidance Notes offer advice on the UK's overall compliance approach.

Copies of a full regulatory impact assessment were placed in the Libraries of the House at the same time as copies of the regulations.

Rural Post Offices

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to extend support for rural post offices when the Social Network Payment ends in March 2008. [79426]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are committed to supporting the rural post office network with annual Social Network Payments of £150 million for the next two years. We are carefully considering options for the network beyond 2008 and are not working to a fixed timetable.

Shops

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of independent retail shops that have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in Hove constituency since 1997. [76685]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) registrations and de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures.

DTI data on the number of VAT retail business registrations and de-registrations in Hove from 1997 to 2004 are shown in the following table.

VAT registrations and de-registrations in retail[1] in Hove, 1997-2004

	Registrations	De-registrations
1997	45	45
1998	35	50
1999	40	50
2000	40	45
2001	35	40
2002	30	40
2003	35	45
2004	35	35

[1] Standard Industrial Classification 52, retail trade (except of motor vehicles), repair of personal and household goods.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 for data protection reasons.
Source:
Small Business Service figures based on data from the ONS Inter Departmental Business Register.

The number of VAT registrations and de-registrations in Hove across all sectors from 1997 to 2004 is shown in the following table. Since 1997 the overall stock of businesses in Hove has risen by 12 per cent.

VAT registrations and de-registrations and start of year stock in Hove (all sectors), 1997-2004

	All businesses		
	Registrations	De-registrations	Start of year stock
1997	460	290	2,800
1998	405	325	2,970
1999	375	380	3,050
2000	370	370	3,050
2001	345	345	3,050
2002	370	300	3,045
2003	390	350	3,115
2004	330	360	3,155

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2004, Small Business Service, available at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/vats

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register may not have closed. In the retail sector 63 per cent of enterprises in the UK (200,000 out of 320,000) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

Small Businesses

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many small businesses that began trading since 1997 have subsequently ceased trading in *(a)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency, *(b)* Suffolk, *(c)* the east of England and *(d)* England. [79366]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) registrations and de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business starts and closures. Latest VAT data on the total number of registrations since 1997 and the number of these registrations that subsequently de-registered, covering up to 2004, are shown in the following table for *(a)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency, *(b)* Suffolk, *(c)* the east of England and *(d)* England.

VAT registrations and subsequent de-registrations, 1997 to 2004[1]

	Number of registrations and de-registrations
Bury St Edmunds constituency	
New registrations 1997 to 2004	2,395
Number de-registering by end of 2004	650
Percentage still registered, end of 2004	73
Suffolk county	
New registrations 1997 to 2004	15,940
Number de-registering by end of 2004	4,860
Percentage still registered, end of 2004	70
East of England GOR	
New registrations 1997 to 2004	140,400
Number de-registering by end of 2004	44,925
Percentage still registered, end of 2004	68
England	
New registrations 1997 to 2004	1,261,665
Number de-registering by end of 2004	429,510
Percentage still registered, end of 2004	66

[1] VAT registration and de-registration data are not available by size of business. However, 98 per cent. of the total stock of VAT registered businesses are small (0-49 employees). Source: Office for National Statistics, UK Business: Activity, Size and Location—2005, available from http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product..asp?.vlnk=933.
Source:
New analysis of VAT Survival Rates data 1994-2003, Small Business Service, available at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/survival; SBS analysis of ONS Inter Departmental Business Register data.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register may not have closed. Only 1.8 million out of the 4.3 million businesses in the UK (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which Minister has responsibility for small firms. [80506]

Margaret Hodge: I have overall responsibility for small firms.

Social Enterprises

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what publicly-funded sources of assistance are available to social enterprises that are approaching bankruptcy. [76725]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

A social enterprise approaching bankruptcy has access to all publicly-funded sources of assistance that any traditional business can expect to draw upon. This includes their local business link, which as well as offering advice to start-up companies, also helps businesses to deal with problems and challenges they may encounter. Guidance is also available on the businesslink.gov website which offers advice on avoiding insolvency, recovering debt through the courts, and alternatives to bankruptcy.

Supermarkets

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Competition Commission inquiry into supermarkets will include the implications of the international business practices of the largest chains. [78903]

Mr. McCartney: Although the Office of Fair Trading have been specific in the issues they feel could be a problem within the market, the Competition Commission (CC) investigation is not limited to considering only those issues identified in the reference document. It is for the CC to make that decision.

In its statement of issues published on 15 June, the CC has indicated that it has received evidence on a range of issues of public concern associated with grocery retailing which it has no power to investigate or resolve. These issues, and public concern about them, may interact with competition issues and provide background and context for the investigation but the CC has stated that its focus must be on the competition issues. The full statement of issues can be found at:

http://www.competition-commission.org.uk/inquiries/ref2006/grocery/pdf/issues_statement.pdf.

Trade Control Licences

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* standard individual trade control licences and *(b)* open individual trade control licences have been issued to UK-based companies for the transfer of small arms from Bosnia to (i) Iraq and (ii) other destination countries since June 2003. [79958]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government publish details of trade control licences issued, in their annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. The Government's annual reports are available from the Libraries of the House and the DTI export control organisation website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/europeantrade/strategic-export-control/index.html.

Working Time Directive

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) whether it is the Government's policy to preserve the UK's opt-out from the working time directive in its entirety; and if he will make a statement; [77668]

(2) what restrictions in *(a)* scope and *(b)* permanence relating to the UK's opt-out from the working time directive are under consideration; and if he will make a statement. [77669]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK Government, in common with the Governments of several other European member states, have made it clear that they would oppose any proposal for a revised directive that phases out the opt-out, or that prevents individuals from choosing to work longer than 48 hours if they wish to do so.

Zimbabwe

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many export licences were granted for military equipment to Zimbabwe in each quarter of the last three years. [80822]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government publish detailed information on their export licensing decisions, by destination, in their annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. The Government's annual reports are available from the Libraries of the House and the DTI Export Control Organisation website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/index.html.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assistance the Export Credits Guarantee Department has offered to UK companies seeking to export to Zimbabwe over the past three years. [77687]

Mr. McCartney: The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) has not provided any support for UK companies exporting to Zimbabwe in the last three years. ECGD withdrew cover for Zimbabwe in 1999.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many websites there are within her responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79060]

Mr. Lammy: My Department is responsible for 18 websites. The total maintenance costs of these sites for the year 2005-06 was £50,020.

This figure does not include those sites developed through the Culture Online programme.

Digital Radio Multiplex

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to lay orders relating to the amount of data which can be carried on a digital radio multiplex and to change the definition of a digital programme service. [80065]

Tessa Jowell: The Television Licensable Content Services Order 2006 and the Radio Multiplex Services (Required Percentage of Digital Capacity) Order 2006 were laid on 21 June 2006.

Digital Television

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take steps to ensure an increase to 100 per cent. of the coverage of digital services following digital switchover; and if she will make a statement. [79114]

Mr. Woodward: Currently digital terrestrial television is available to three quarters of the population, and the vast majority of households can receive digital TV services via digital satellite, terrestrial or cable. 70 per cent. of households in the UK have already chosen to take up digital TV.

After switchover, which takes place between 2008 and 2012, UK digital terrestrial television coverage will match the current analogue coverage of 98.5 per cent.

Disability Access

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether any buildings in her Department fall short of disability access regulations. [79014]

Mr. Lammy: As an employer, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is subject to duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 which requires us to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people. These may include adjustments to physical features of premises.

The principle of "reasonable adjustment" is fundamental to the Act and factors such as the practicability of making an adjustment and the extent to which it overcomes the difficulties faced by the disabled person may be taken into account in determining what is reasonable. As the Disability Discrimination Act requires adjustments that are reasonable in the individual circumstances, it is not prescriptive about the level of access to buildings which must be provided for disabled people, and there are no disability access regulations made under the Act.

However, Part M of the building regulations aims to ensure that people, regardless of disability, age or gender, should be able to gain access to, and within buildings, and use their facilities, both as visitors and as people who live or work in them. The provisions of Part M apply only to new buildings and those non-domestic buildings undergoing alteration, change of use or which are being extended. Crown-owned or occupied buildings are exempt from the building regulations but it is the Government's policy for their buildings to comply with the regulations where there is no reason not to.

DCMS is currently undertaking a major refurbishment of our main Cockspur Street offices. We have given careful consideration to the needs of staff and visitors and are making many improvements to the building aimed at improving access for all. For example, all workstations will be fully adjustable; primary and secondary circulation routes are being widened and all will exceed the standards set by British Standard BS8300. There will be accessible signage, toilets and meeting rooms with induction loops on all floors.

Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria the Government used in deciding not to display the flag of *(a)* Norfolk Island, *(b)* the British Antarctic Territory, *(c)* South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, *(d)* the Turks and Caicos Islands, *(e)* Montserrat, *(f)* Bermuda, *(g)* Anguilla, *(h)* the Cayman Islands and *(i)* the British Virgin Islands at this year's Trooping the Colour. [79963]

Mr. Lammy: Only the flags of the Commonwealth countries are flown at Trooping of the Colour. The countries listed above are Overseas Territories which are not member states of the Commonwealth.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria the Government used in deciding not to display the flag of *(a)* the Isle of Man and *(b)* Guernsey at this year's Trooping the Colour. [79965]

Mr. Lammy: Only the flags of the Commonwealth Countries are flown at Trooping of the Colour. The Bailiwick of Guernsey and the Isle of Man are Crown dependencies and are not member states of the Commonwealth.

Gaming Machines (Stakes and Prizes)

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recommendations have been made by the Gaming Board of Great Britain on machine stakes and prize levels since 1976. [79519]

Mr. Caborn: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I would also refer my hon. Friend to my answer given today to his question number 79594.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when gaming machine stake and prize levels were last increased. [79594]

Mr. Caborn: Stakes and prizes were last increased for the various categories of gaming machines, under the provisions of the Gaming Act 1968, on the following basis:

Jackpot machines

In casinos, stakes and prizes were increased to £2 and to £4,000, respectively, in October 2005.

From October 2005, casinos were also able to offer a new style of machine with a maximum stake of £100 and a maximum prize of £500.

In bingo halls stakes and prizes were increased to 50p and £500, respectively, in October 1998.

In registered clubs stakes and prizes were increased to 30p and £250, respectively, in October 1998.

Amusement with Prizes Machines (AWPs)

The stake on both all cash and coin or token AWPs was increased to 30p in October 1997.

The prize on all cash AWPs was increased to £25 in January 2002.

The prize on coin or token AWPs, where the prize is all cash, was increased to £5 in October 1997.

The prize on coin and token AWPs, where the prize is non-cash, was increased to £8 in October 1995.

Licensing Act

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how her Department is monitoring the extent to which council licensing departments are applying the Licensing Act 2003 consistently and appropriately in respect of charity fund raising functions. [79522]

Mr. Woodward: Under the Scrutiny Council initiative, officials from my Department are working with council officers and through them with local police and other responsible authorities, residents' groups, businesses and other stakeholders, to gather information about how the new regime is working on the ground.

In addition, we are conducting a review of the guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act). A comprehensive formal review of the guidance including a full public consultation will be completed by summer 2006 and a revised version of the guidance will be laid before Parliament by the end of 2006.

However, in the first instance, it is for licensing authorities to interpret the law on the basis of their own legal advice. An appeal mechanism has been built into the 2003 Act to ensure that licensing authority interpretations can be challenged in the courts to ensure that they are reasonable and fair.

Lottery Funding

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many applications for lottery funding were received from organisations and groups in Bexleyheath and Crayford in each of the last five years. [79957]

Mr. Caborn: This Department has never collected comprehensive information on either the number or value of applications for lottery grants received by the distributing bodies. The information requested could be collected and provided only at disproportionate cost.

Public Libraries

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people visited a public library in each year since 1997. [79900]

Mr. Lammy: The number of visits to public libraries in England from 1997-98 to 2004-05 (the latest available figure) are as follows:

	Visits
1997-98	302,766,446
1998-99	292,498,470
1999-00	279,984,620
2000-01	275,660,063
2001-02	270,775,309
2002-03	274,052,872
2003-04	285,364,643
2004-05	288,381,801

Source:
Public Library Statistics, published by the Chartered Institute for Finance and Accountancy

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many public libraries there were in each local authority in each year since 1997; [79901]

(2) for what average number of hours per week public libraries were open in each local authority in each year since 1997. [79903]

Mr. Lammy: The table shows the number of public libraries in England, by opening hours band, for 1997-98 to 2004-05 (the latest available) and, for context, the comparable figures for 1978-79. This data are drawn from the public library statistics report published for those years by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The reports do not contain averaged hours.

The figures for each of the 149 library authorities in England may be found in the CIPFA reports. Copies are held by the House Library.

Static libraries in England (by hours open per week)

	60+	*45-59*	*30-44*	*10-29*	*<10*
1978-79	86	913	1,147	954	539
1997-98	6	449	1,279	1,323	157
1998-99	11	437	1,242	1,347	150
1999-00	11	438	1,222	1,340	132
2000-01	19	469	1,206	1,331	130
2001-02	28	493	1,199	1,311	115
2002-03	42	398	1,168	1,240	91
2003-04	51	683	1,143	1,186	80
2004-05	69	727	1,139	1,106	96

Note:
This covers a reply for parliamentary questions 79901 and 79903.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which public libraries are proposed for closure, broken down by local authority. [79902]

Mr. Lammy: The following list details proposals where individual libraries have been named by the parent authorities. These proposals are still subject to public consultation, possible deferral or to ratification following a trial period of extended opening hours.

Devon County Council

12 closures proposed at:

Appledore,

Colyton Geneva,

Bideford,

Hawitree,

Exeter Ippleppen,

Kingskerswell,

Kingsteignton Kingswear,

Pinhoe,

Primley,

Sidmouth,

Stoke Fleming,
Sheldon
Dorset County Council
13 proposed closures at:
Burton Bradstock,
Charmouth,
Chickerell,
Colehill,
Corfe Castle,
Corfe Mullen,
Crossways
Lytchett Matravers,
Portland Underhill,
Puddletown,
Stalbridge,
Wool,
Wyke Regis
Hertfordshire County Council
4 Proposed closures
2 in the St Albans area.

We are looking into the status of some other reported closure proposals with the authorities concerned. There have been a number of figures for such proposals in the press and media. However, we believe that some of those figures have not taken account of proposals that have been dropped or scaled down.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in how many local authorities the future of public libraries is open to public consultation; and how long each consultation is expected to last. [79904]

Mr. Lammy: Information regarding public consultations on library services within the 149 library authorities in England is not held centrally. However, we are aware that a number of consultations are planned or in progress in areas such as Devon and Dorset where library closures are being considered.

We want to see public library services that are responsive to the needs of local people. Individual library authorities are best placed to judge those needs but they should ensure that their judgements are based on soundings from the communities that they serve.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of public library stock was made up of *(a)* books, *(b)* tapes, *(c)* CDs, *(d)* videos and *(e)* DVDs in each year since 1997. [79906]

Mr. Lammy: Percentage figures are not held centrally, nor are actual items figure held precisely in the form requested. However, the table shows the number of books, sound recordings (encompassing music and talking books), and videos/DVDs from 1997-98 to 2004-05 (the latest year available).

	Books[1]	*Sound recordings*[1]	*Million Video/DVD*[1]
1997-98	73.91	4.67	1.24
1998-99	72.69	4.55	1.38
1999-2000	70.39	4.48	1.48
2000-01	69.47	4.38	1.60
2001-02	67.83	4.27	1.63
2002-03	66.41	4.64	1.87
2003-04	64.76	4.50	2.06
2004-05	62.61	4.15	2.15

[1] Lending stock only.
Source:
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

Stonehenge

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people have visited Stonehenge in each year since 1997. [79979]

Mr. Lammy: The Stonehenge visitor figures for 1996-97 to 2005-06 are given in the table:

	Visitor numbers
1996-97	753,242
1997-98	775,835
1998-99	832,540
1999-2000	836,294
2000-01	799,742
2001-02	718,116
2002-03	787,273
2003-04	761,972
2004-05	829,895
2005-06	834,318

PRIME MINISTER

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what recent discussions on abortion he has had with Cardinal Keith O'Brien; and if he will make a statement. [80277]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Chequers

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 883W, on Chequers, if he will list those persons who gave oral evidence to the Hutton Inquiry, other than hon. Members and Government officials, whom he met at Chequers in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004. [79819]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 883W.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually on alcohol for hospitality purposes in his Office. [77316]

The Prime Minister: For accounting purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) today.

Hutton Report

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer from the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs of 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1268W on the Hutton Report, how many final copies of the Hutton Report were obtained by 10 Downing street; at what price per copy; and to whom they were issued. [79808]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (Harriet Harman) on 14 June, *Official Report*, column 1268W.

Mei Eden Mineral Water

Richard Burden: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the purchase and use of Mei Eden mineral water from the Golan Heights at 10 Downing street. [79033]

The Prime Minister: Mineral water supplied by Eden Springs to 10 Downing street is sourced from within the UK.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Soames: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he had on defence and security issues when he recently met President Chirac. [80192]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with President Chirac during our recent meeting, including UK/French defence cooperation and European Security and Defence Policy. I refer the hon. Member to the press conference I held with President Chirac on 9 June 2006. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister if he will visit the Royal Shrewsbury hospital maternity unit to meet nurses and hear their views. [80335]

The Prime Minister: I have no current plans to do so.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister if he will meet public sector workers in Shrewsbury to discuss Government plans for pension reforms. [80336]

The Prime Minister: I have no current plans to do so.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Prime Minister (1) pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 827W, on parliamentary questions, what the reasons were for the time taken to reply to the original question; [80265]

(2) what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to reduce the length of time taken to answer written parliamentary questions; and if he will make a statement. [80266]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T. C. Davies) on 15 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2032W.

Sovereign Strategy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 120W, on Sovereign Strategy, on how many occasions his official diary shows that he met a representative of Sovereign Strategy during the last 12 months. [80255]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 120W.

TREASURY

Biodiesel

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will lower the rate of taxation on biodiesel. [79409]

John Healey: The recent Budget announced the extension of the 20p per litre duty differential for biofuels until 2008-09, and set out a range of announcements about the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation, which will begin in 2008-09.

The Chancellor considers relevant economic, social and environmental factors when deciding taxation policy, with any announcements being made in the context of his Budget statement.

Children's Sunglasses

Mr. Davey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received on removing VAT on children's sunglasses; and if he will make a statement. [79371]

Dawn Primarolo: Representations are regularly made to Treasury Ministers and officials on a wide range of issues.

Under agreements with our European partners we can keep our existing VAT zero rates, but we may not extend them or introduce new ones. It is therefore not possible to remove VAT from children's sunglasses.

Construction Industry (Registration Cards)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1354W, on construction industry (registration cards), how many temporary construction industry services registration cards *(a)* have been issued and *(b)* are in use; and if he will make a statement. [79816]

John Healey: Of the 2.4 million construction industry registration cards (CIS4) issued since the scheme began in 1999, 350,000 are temporary registration cards. This number includes some renewed temporary cards. 240,000 temporary registration cards have been used.

Unused cards are generally attributable to holders of recently issued cards having not yet been paid within CIS or holders that normally work within the domestic sector having applied for a card in case they become involved in CIS work.

Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Paymaster General will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 23 May 2006, regarding a constituent. [80143]

Dawn Primarolo: I have done so.

Credit Unions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what help his Department has given to the credit union movement in the UK. [79826]

Ed Balls: The Government welcome the role of the credit union movement in helping to promote financial inclusion and contributing to choice and diversity in the financial services sector. The Government aim to encourage credit unions to be sustainable professional bodies so they can more effectively meet their members' needs and assist the financially excluded on a long-term basis.

Some of the Government action to facilitate this since 1997 includes bringing credit unions under the regulatory supervision of the Financial Services Authority in 2001, and using a regulatory reform order in 2003 to allow credit unions greater operational flexibility. More recently and following consultation with the sector and consumer groups, the Government introduced legislation increasing the maximum permitted interest rate on loans, from 1 per cent. to 2 per cent. per month, in order to provide flexibility to lend to more people on low incomes. In addition, credit unions are now able to offer cash ISAs.

These measures are complemented by a £36 million Growth Fund for credit unions and other community-based lenders announced at PBR 2004, and to be administered by the Department for Work and Pensions from mid-2006.

Data Protection

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 177W, on the Data Protection Act, what longest period of time elapsed between HM Revenue and Customs *(a)* receiving the administration fee and providing the information requested and *(b)* receiving a request for information and providing the information requested under the Data Protection Act 1998. [77769]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs does not charge for access to personal information requested under the subject access provisions afforded by the Data Protection Act 1998.

The average length of time HM Revenue and Customs take to reply to subject access requests is 11 days. However, in an exceptional instance, that involved both an appeal and a subject access request under the Data Protection Act, the entire matter took 341 days to process.

Euro-preparation Group

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 201W, on the Euro-preparation group, what the date of the autumn meeting is; and which local authorities have been invited. [78315]

Ed Balls: The next meeting between central Government officials and local authorities is provisionally scheduled for 21 September 2006. This is part of the regular programme of activities with stakeholders on euro preparations. On the local authorities involved in this work, I refer the hon. Member to the answer he received on 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 512W, from the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Jim Fitzpatrick).

Households (Tamworth)

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* single parent households with children under the age of 16 years and *(b)* single-person households there were in Tamworth constituency in each of the last 15 years; and what estimate he has made of the number of cohabiting couples living in Tamworth constituency in each of the last 15 years. [80127]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) single parent households with children under the age of 16 years and (b) single-person households there were in Tamworth constituency in each of the last 15 years; and what the estimate is of the number of cohabiting couples living in Tamworth constituency in each of the last 15 years. (80127)

Estimates of these figures are not produced on an annual basis for local areas. Available figures are from the censuses of 1991 and 2001. These are shown in the table below.

(1) Lone parent households with dependent children aged under 16, (2) one person households and (3) cohabiting couples in households: Tamworth, 1991 and 2001

	Number	Number
1. Lone parent households with dependent children aged under 16	1,176	2,132
2. One person households	6,017	8,319
3. Cohabiting couple households	*2,052	3,726

* In 1991 responses to relationship questions were only processed for approximately 10% of the population. The figure in this table has been grossed up by a factor of 10.16 to account for this.

Sources:

1. 1991 Census Local Base Statistics Table 32 and 2001 Census data.
2. Table F in the Census 1991 New Parliamentary Constituency Monitor West Midlands &.Table KS20 in the Census 2001 Report for Parliamentary Constituencies.
3. 1991 & Table KS03 in the Census 2001 Report for Parliamentary Constituencies.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the average income per person in Tamworth constituency. [80128]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 June 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about average income per person in the Tamworth constituency. (80128)

The ONS published estimates of household income for regions and local areas of the UK on 9 May 2006. Tamworth is within the NUTS 3 (Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics) area of Staffordshire County Council This is the most detailed level of geography for which estimates are produced.

Table A contains estimates of total incomes per head and gross disposable household income (GDHI) per head for Staffordshire County Council.

Table A: Staffordshire county council NUTS3

	Total income[2]	£ per head[3] GDHP
1995	12,675	8,212
1996	13,180	8,695
1997	13,639	9,126
1998	14,356	9,401
1999	14,952	9,880
2000	15,969	10,478
2001	16,878	11,179
2002	17,455	11,574
2003	18,370	12,157
2004	19,325	12,552

[1] Population measure is based upon mid-year estimate for total population.

[2] All household income including employers' social contributions, imputed social contributions, social benefits and other current transfers received.

[3] Gross disposable household income (GDHI) is the amount of money that households have available for spending or saving after deductions and expenditure associated with income, e.g. taxes and social contributions, and provision for future pension income.

Inheritance Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will place in the Library the preliminary regulatory impact assessment into the changes in the inheritance tax treatment of trusts announced in the Budget; and if he will make a statement; [77583]

(2) on what date the decision was taken to produce a full regulatory impact assessment into the changes in the inheritance tax treatment of trusts announced in the Budget; whether the document will be publicly available; and if he will make a statement; [77584]

(3) what estimate he has made of the effect on revenue to the Exchequer arising from the changes in the inheritance tax treatment of trusts announced in the Budget in the years 2008-09 to 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [77585]

Dawn Primarolo: The Red Book contains estimates of the Exchequer consequences of Budget proposals.

The preliminary regulatory impact assessment did no more than identify that, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, a full regulatory impact assessment was not required. In line with normal procedure, the preliminary assessment will not be published.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in inheritance tax in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the last year for which figures are available. [79559]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is published on the HMRC website as follows:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/l_2_v2_dec05.pdf.
http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/l_2_apr_06.pdf.

Ministers (Tax Treatment)

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answers of 11 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 693-94W, on Ministers (tax treatment), what amount is assessed as taxable for each residence provided by or on behalf of the Government for Ministers, including those owned by charitable trusts. [79490]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 394W.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the impact of the repeal of section 295 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 on the tax position of Ministers. [79491]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no plans to repeal section 295 of the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003.

NHS Funding

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to make additional funding available to the Department of Health to assist in financial recovery of the NHS in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [79810]

Mr. Timms: No. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2028W.

Single Farm Payments

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs regarding European Commission fines for not paying all of the single farm payment by 30 June; and if he will make a statement. [79898]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy analysis, development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Stamp Duty

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many properties sold in *(a)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency and *(b)* the Suffolk county council area in each of the last three years attracted stamp duty at (i) zero per cent., (ii) 1 per cent., (iii) 3 per cent. and (iv) 4 per cent. [79395]

Ed Balls: Estimates of the number of property transactions for parliamentary constituencies and counties are only available for 2004-05 and 2005-06, and are given in the following table for Bury St. Edmunds and Suffolk, grouped by stamp duty band.

	Property transactions attracting:				
	0 per cent. rate	*1 per cent. rate*	*3 per cent. rate*	*4 per cent. rate*	*Total*
Bury St. Edmunds					
2004-05	430	2,200	420	50	3,140
2005-06	1,300	2,200	510	90	4,100
Suffolk					
2004-05	3,500	14,000	2,100	500	20,100
2005-06	8,600	10,500	2,400	420	21,900

The number of transactions bearing stamp duty will be lower than the number shown in the non-zero bands due to the use of various reliefs, e.g. disadvantaged area relief, group relief, registered social landlord relief etc. There are also some lease transactions which fall in the 0 per cent. band on account of consideration, but which bear stamp duty on the lease rental.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised in stamp duty from home sales in each local authority area in England and Wales in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2005-06. [79413]

Ed Balls: This information is not available for 1997-98.

Estimates of amounts of stamp duty payable from residential property sales for each local authority in the United Kingdom has been deposited in the House of Commons Library. The local authority relates to the location of the property on which the stamp duty was paid.

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reduce stamp duty on sustainable homes. [79866]

Ed Balls: All taxes are kept under review as part of the Budget process.

Tax Credits

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claimants of working tax credit continued to be paid in cases where the stop notice had not been received between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2006. [78027]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* The information requested is not available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1273W, on tax credits, what data the Treasury has on the number of underpayments of tax credits which have now been paid; and if he will make a statement. [79100]

Dawn Primarolo: As I told the hon. Member in the answer he refers to,

"HMRC repay underpayments or offset them against any outstanding overpayments, as soon as the underpayments are recognised".

So the information is not available.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people living in mid Sussex received overpayments of *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* working tax credit since April 2003. [79815]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1421W.

We do not produce statistics separately for child and working tax credits.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many households in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough are receiving the Child Tax Credit; [79154]

(2) how many households in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough are receiving the Working Tax Credit. [79155]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1421W.

Training Courses

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 5806W, on training courses, if he will list the courses to which the answer refers; how many people have taken part in these courses in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these courses was in each year. [79518]

Dawn Primarolo: Breakthrough has been designed to help the Department achieve its aim of increasing diversity at all levels by harnessing the potential of individuals whatever their background. As a self-development programme it enables both mentors and delegates to make better use of their skills and abilities, and helps them in their careers and to compete more effectively for other opportunities.

Ideally Breakthrough is looking for a mix of participants from various backgrounds on each programme. Experience has shown that there is great benefit in bringing together people from both majority and minority groups on programmes such as this.

Breakthrough

Bids	*£*	*Approx numbers*
2001-02	120,000	60
2002-03	30,000	20
2003-04	83,500	40
2004-05	11,376	20
	10,765	20
2005-06	Not run	—
Total	255,641	160

Other programmes include:

		£
2001-02	Personal development for men and women	27,000
2002-03	Personal development for men and women	10,000
2004-05	Culture 2000	29,845
2006-07	DFID leadership development for women (SCS)	60,000

Old Products (Former IR)[1]

	Date ceased
Personal Development for Women	Ceased September 2002
Springboard	Ceased approximately November 2003
Unlocking Potential (Ethnic Minorities)	Ceased approximately 2001

[1] It has not been possible to extract this data in the time given.

Former Customs-PAEM[1] Training Events 2002 to 2006

PAEM Programme	*Event*
2002 to 2004	5 day residential event followed by 3 day residential follow-up event
2005-06	2 x 1 day events, open learning package and a 1x 3 day residential event

[1] Positive action for Ethnic Minority.

	Number of events	*Number of students*	*Cost per programme*	*Cost per student*	*Total cost (£)*
2001-02	2	23	12000	800	18,400
2002-03	2	40	12000	800	32,000
2003-04	[1]0	0	—	—	0
2004-05	2	30	8000	533	15,990
2005-06	1	15	8000	533	7,995
Totals	7	108	—	—	74,385

[1] Product in review.

Under-age Pregnancies

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many girls under the age of 16 years *(a)* became pregnant and *(b)* gave birth in Tamworth constituency in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. [80126]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 26 June 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many girls under the age of 16 years *(a)* became pregnant and *(b)* gave birth in the Tamworth constituency in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. (80126)

Numbers of conceptions under age 16 and the number of maternities in Tamworth County District for the years 1995-2004 are shown in the table below.

Information on conceptions is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. Figures cannot be provided by Parliamentary Constituency because of the risk of disclosing individual's information due to small differences with local authority boundaries.

ONS does not publish figures by single year of age below the age of 16 by either local or health authority and also does not release figures for individual years because of the risk of disclosing individual's information.

Maternity figures cannot be provided for Tamworth Parliamentary Constituency for the same reason as that indicated above for conceptions.

Annual numbers of maternities to girls aged under 16 and figures by individual year of age are too small to be released because of the risk of disclosing individual's information. For this reason only the total number of maternities in the 10 year period (1995-2004) is given in the table below.

Conceptions and maternities under age 16, Tamworth CD, 1995-2004[1]

	Number
Conceptions	168
Maternities	24

[1] Conceptions for 2004 are provisional.

VAT

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason he chose not to apply to the European Commission for the reduced rate of VAT on repair and renovation work for domestic buildings by 31 March. [79814]

Dawn Primarolo: The VAT reduced rate for the renovation and repair of private dwellings is one of a number introduced into EU legislation on an experimental basis whose objective is to create employment opportunities by stimulating demand through lower prices. The Government have always

chosen not to participate, as we believe that our employment objectives are better targeted through measures such as the welfare to work strategy and new deal, which have contributed to the 2.4 million rise in employment since 1997. We continue to take this view.

Vehicle Excise Duty

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average annual administrative costs of collecting Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) have been in the last three years; what proportion of the revenue raised this represents; and how much VED was collected in total in 2005-06. [79262]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

The information is as follows:

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Net receipts (£ million)	4,687	4,737	5,012
Administrative costs (£ million)	110	120	124
Percentage revenue raised	2.3	2.5	2.5

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many people took adult education courses *(a)* funded and *(b)* partly funded by his Department in (i) Lambeth and (ii) Vauxhall in the last three years; [78592]

(2) how many adult education courses his Department *(a)* funded and *(b)* partly funded in (i) Lambeth and (ii) Vauxhall in the last three years. [78593]

Bill Rammell: We do not hold information on the number of individual adult education courses that are funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) but we know the total number of learners aged over 19 on LSC funded courses in 2002/03 was 3.49 million, 3.43 million in 2003/04 and 3.46 million in 2004/05. These are national figures and include all LSC funded learners.

Air Miles

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many air miles have been accrued by senior civil servants in his Department in each of the last three years; and how they were used. [70479]

Mr. Dhanda: This information could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Apprenticeships

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in year 10 and above in London are on the apprenticeships scheme. [79839]

Phil Hope: There are 211 Key Stage 4 pupils in total in London on the Young Apprenticeship Programme, 45 in Year 10 and 166 in Year 11.

Child Abuse

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects the report commissioned by the Department into alleged child abuse related to witchcraft to be published. [77571]

Mr. Dhanda: The report of the research commissioned by the Department for Education and Skills, to scope the problem of child abuse in England linked to belief in "possession" or "witchcraft", is being considered by Ministers across Government. We hope to be in a position to publish the report by the end of June, or soon thereafter.

Child Protection

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage local authorities to seek representation of military establishments on local safeguarding children boards; and if he will make a statement. [77601]

Mr. Dhanda: Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) were set up in all English local authority areas by 1 April 2006. Government guidance on LSCBs forms chapter three of the revised "Working Together to Safeguard Children" which was published in April 2006. The LSCB guidance was also published separately in December 2005 to help local authorities and their partners set up LSCBs.

The guidance makes it clear that in addition to the statutory members of LSCBs, local authorities should secure the involvement of other relevant local organisations including,

"in areas where they have significant local activity, the armed forces".

Children, Young People and Families Grant

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) which organisations were unsuccessful in their application for funding under the Children, Young People and Families Grant programme; what each organisation's proposal was; how much funding each organisation sought; and why each application was rejected; [79568]

(2) how much funding has been allocated for each of the organisations accepted under the Children, Young People and Families Grant programme over the next three years. [79569]

Beverley Hughes: Over 1,400 applications were received for this grant, and many organisations submitted more than one application. Just over £17 million is being allocated to 67 applications from 65 organisations in 2006-07. Lists of successful organisations with their allocations and unsuccessful organisations are being placed in the Library of the House. The list of successful organisations can also be found on www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/voluntaryandcommunity/cypfgrant.

The remainder of the information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills why the work of community family

trusts previously funded under the MARS Grant programme did not continue under the Children, Young People and Families Grant programme. [79570]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 22 June 2006]*: Organisations supported under the Marriage and Relationship Support Grant programme (MARS) continue to receive funding until their grant expires. Organisations funded through MARS were eligible to apply for funding to the Children, Young People and Families Grant programme. One Community Family Trust was among the 65 organisations funded through this Grant programme in 2006/07.

Connexions

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people have received support from Connexions in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough in the past year. [79152]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department collects data on the number of interventions provided but not on the number of young people receiving support. In the year 2005-06 18,849 young people were counted in the Connexions cohort of young people in the borough of Lewisham. They received a total of 22,488 interventions. The Department does not hold this information at constituency level.

Departmental guidance is that to count as an intervention there needs to be some element of assistance involving a substantial or meaningful exchange with the young person. As a rule of thumb this should be of enough significance to be noted in their client record. It would normally exclude straightforward referrals to specific opportunities e.g. job submissions, the provision of factual information and simple follow up to find out if the young person still wanted assistance.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by his Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77277]

Mr. Dhanda: My Department does not intend to keep a separate record of the amount spent on alcohol for hospitality purposes.

The Department's internal guidance for general use is that public funds should not be used to purchase alcohol.

It is accepted that there are some events, whose primary purpose is for non-civil servants, where not providing alcohol could be seen as unusual or cause embarrassment. It is done with due regard to value for money, any provision being modest and proportionate, and requires a senior manager's approval.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what incentives his Department offers to encourage staff to share vehicles when travelling to work. [72996]

Mr. Dhanda: Car-sharing is one of a number of measures my Department encourages to enable staff to travel more sustainably. In general, we encourage staff, wherever possible, to use public transport or cycle to work especially those commuting to our London offices due to very limited car parking and traffic congestion.

Our three sites outside London do facilitate car sharing by the provision of electronic site notice boards to enable staff to contact others who may wish to car share. The incentive is the greater likelihood of securing a free parking space.

For staff commuting, especially to our London sites, we provide season ticket and cycle purchase loans for those who want them.

Education and Skills Committee

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what action has been taken by his Department to implement Education and Skills Select Committee recommendations since the 2001-02 session; and if he will make a statement. [77839]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department is unable to provide the information requested without incurring disproportionate cost. However, the Government in their responses to Committee recommendations make clear whether or not they are accepted.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by his Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature of the charges brought against them were. [73955]

Mr. Dhanda: I can confirm that that no illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by the Department.

Internet Plagiarism

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance his Department has issued to higher education institutions on how to respond to internet plagiarism. [79179]

Bill Rammell: We recognise that plagiarism is a serious matter. As higher education institutions are autonomous bodies they are responsible for determining what advice should be provided to their students on plagiarism, in all of its forms. The Quality Assurance Agency's Code of Practice and the Joint Information Systems Committee provide advice and guidance to institutions on dealing with this issue.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if his Department will consider the introduction of a proscribed list of customised essay websites in order to reduce internet plagiarism. [79180]

Bill Rammell: The Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) which provides advice and guidance to institutions on dealing with plagiarism, includes on

its Plagiarism Advisory Service website a list of well-known European and US essay bank websites, to make academics and teachers aware of these sites. In its workshops with academic staff JISC also suggest that students are made aaware that staff know of these sites and are also shown the poor quality of essays that are being offered.

In addition, last November the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority appointed Professor Jean Underwood of Nottingham Trent University to advise it on further measures which might be taken in schools and colleges and by awarding bodies to reduce the risk of plagiarism from internet sources.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures his Department is taking to tackle the availability of customised essay websites. [79181]

Bill Rammell: Higher education institutions, as autonomous bodies, are responsible for determining what advice should be provided to their students on plagiarism, and also what policies should be in place to detect plagiarism and determine disciplinary action. The Quality Assurance Agency's Code of Practice and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) provide advice and guidance to institutions on dealing with this issue. JISC includes on its Plagiarism Advisory Service website a list of well-known European and US essay bank websites, to make academics and teachers aware of these sites. In addition, last November the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority appointed Professor Jean Underwood of Nottingham Trent University to advise it on further measures which might be taken in schools and colleges and by awarding bodies to reduce the risk of plagiarism from internet sources.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on recent trends in the *(a)* provision and *(b)* funding of health and safety training funded by the Learning and Skills Council. [79889]

Bill Rammell: The funding strategy that we announced last October included the decision for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to cease funding provision from 2006-07 that is rightfully the responsibility of employers, such as health and safety training. This was part of our commitment to rebalance responsibilities among learners, employers and the state as well as ensuring that we direct resources to enable those without the basic skills for employability to receive the support they need.

Following wide consultation on these changes the LSC has considered representations from key stakeholders and has agreed to allow some local discretion in 2006/07 to provide limited support for this provision depending on the assessment of need. Where this provision is part of a coherent curriculum offer supported by a clearly stated rationale then the provision will remain eligible for LSC funding.

The LSC is committed to carrying out an impact assessment of these changes working with key stakeholders and partner organisations. The LSC will continue to monitor the position but feedback from individual colleges indicates that many will continue to offer health and safety courses to employers, mainly on a full cost basis.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which Government Bills sponsored by his Department he has bid for in the next Session of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [77838]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Leader of the House on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

Lip-reading

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many adult education courses in lip-reading were available at educational institutions in England in *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [76534]

Bill Rammell: Lip-reading courses are provided by a range of organisations including further education colleges, local authorities, social services and voluntary sector organisations. We do not have detailed information at a national level on the number of courses available. However, we have been clear that this provision is a priority and we are working with Hearing Concern to identify any areas where there is an unmet need for lip-reading provision and how this can be addressed.

Ministerial Responsibilities

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which Minister in his Department has ministerial responsibility for sustainability and biodiversity. [77625]

Mr. Dhanda: I have responsibility for issues of sustainability and biodiversity within the Department for Education and Skills.

Ministerial Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on foreign travel by his Department in each of the last eight years. [76851]

Mr. Dhanda: Details of official foreign travel expenditure incurred by the Department over the last seven years are set out as follows:

	£
2005/06	250,521.17
2004/05	179,765.46
2003/04	218,338.27
2002/03	243,096.69
2001/02	510,242.47
2000/01	831,667.61
1999/2000	791,181.69

Since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. This information is available in the Library. Information for the financial year 2004-05 was published on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 158WS. Information for the financial year 2005-06 is in the process of being collated and will be published shortly.

All foreign travel undertaken by DfES Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code".

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on how many occasions *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department have stayed overnight in (i) five star, (ii) four star and (iii) three star hotels s in each of the last three years. [69035]

Mr. Dhanda: There is no central record on the star rating of accommodation used by civil servants as the choice of hotel is influenced by the cost of an overnight stay in the hotel.

Parliamentary Ombudsman

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list those occasions when the recommendations of a report from the parliamentary ombudsman have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* partly rejected by his Department since 1997. [76259]

Mr. Dhanda: I am not aware of any occasion since 1997 in the Department, its predecessor or associated executive agencies or NDPBs when the recommendations of the parliamentary ombudsman were not fully accepted and implemented.

Portland PR

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what meetings officials in his Department have had with representatives of the public relations company Portland PR; what contracts Portland PR has with his Department and agencies for which he has responsibility; and what the nature of the contract is in each case. [70051]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not maintain a central list of such meetings. Civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and business delivery. All such meetings are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Code and Guidance for civil servants on contacts with lobbyists and people outside Government.

The Department has no record of contracting with Portland PR.

Positive Parenting

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much his Department plans to spend on the promotion of positive parenting over the next three years; [78888]

(2) what measures his Department has introduced for the promotion of positive parenting in each of the last three years; and at what cost in each year. [78889]

Mr. Dhanda: My Department, via the Parenting Fund, supports voluntary and community sector projects that enable an increase in parenting provision, and access to that provision for groups that are currently less well served. These projects provide a range of information, advice and guidance—including the promotion of positive parenting.

Since its announcement in 2002 to date, the Parenting Fund has provided £22 million to support 154 projects. An additional £20 million will provide support from 2006-08 for a further 137 projects in 23 geographic areas.

Staff Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many staff surveys have been conducted in his Department in each of the last three years. [70477]

Mr. Dhanda: In the last three years, my Department has completed two full on-line staff surveys and three mini telephone surveys, which surveyed a cross representative sample of staff across the Department.

Unemployed People

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to encourage long-term unemployed people in Hartlepool constituency to return to education and training. [80538]

Phil Hope: Responsibility for encouraging long-term unemployed people to return to education and training is shared between the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Secretary of State for Education and Skills.

Both Departments, along with their respective delivery agencies Jobcentre Plus (JCP) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), are working closely together to ensure that long-term unemployed people have the skills they need to secure sustainable and productive jobs. There has already been significant progress in joint working between the LSC and JCP and the Hartlepool area is now covered by joint delivery planning in order to meet local employment and skills needs. As part of this joint delivery plan, the LSC Tees Valley is currently piloting access trials to enable JCP customers in receipt of allowances to access LSC-funded provision. This enables customers to continue to receive their allowances while improving their skills with recognised qualifications and improve their employability.

The Government's Skills Strategy sends out a strong signal about the priority we attach to helping adults

with few or no qualifications to attain a platform of wider employability skills. All those on jobseeker's allowance or income-related benefits and their dependants receive free tuition in further education, in addition to the support available through their local JCP office. Unemployed people also have access to in-depth advice about their education and training options through the Learndirect one-stop telephone and on-line advice service.

The Government do, however, recognise that more needs to be done to tackle long-term unemployment and published a Green Paper in January 2006, "A New Deal for Welfare: Empowering People to Work", including measures to help low skilled adults secure employment through the New Deal for Skills. These include piloting skills coaching in a number of JCP districts and our latest evidence shows that skills coaching is helping long-term unemployed people improve their employability skills.

In addition, the Chancellor announced in his Budget Report that Lord Leitch's review of skills would be extended to include better alignment of measures to tackle worklessness to support labour market flexibility, better employment outcomes and greater progression to productive and sustainable jobs for those with skill needs. We expect Sandy Leitch's report this autumn and my Department looks forward to working with the Department for Work and Pensions to take forward Lord Leitch's proposals.

University Students

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many university students in England were resident in Scotland in the last three academic years for which figures are available. [79608]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the following table:

Scottish domiciled[1] enrolments at English HE institutions

Level of study	*Mode of study*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*
Postgraduate	Full-time	1,665	1,670	1,620
	Part-time	3,510	3,525	3,620
	Total	5,175	5,195	5,240
Undergraduate	Full-time	6,010	5,885	5,705
	Part-time	15,075	15,900	16,125
	Total	21,085	21,790	21,830
Grand total	—	26,260	26,985	27,070

[1] Domicile refers to the country of the student's permanent or home address prior to entry to the programme of study.

Notes:
1. Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population basis.
2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record data.

Young Carers

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what procedures are in place *(a)* to identify and *(b)* to support young carers; [79440]

(2) what publicly funded services exist to support families with young carers; [79441]

(3) how many children have been identified as young carers. [79442]

Mr. Dhanda: Anyone concerned that a child may be a "child in need", whether as a young carer or for any other reason, should refer the case to local children's services for an initial assessment. Children and their families are also able to make such contact direct.

Section 1 of the Carers (Recognition and Services) Act 1995 provides that at the time a local authority assess a person's needs for community care services or assess the needs of a disabled child, an individual who provides or intends to provide a substantial amount of care on a regular basis for that person has the right to request an assessment of his ability to provide and continue to provide care. The authority must take that assessment into account when making any decision about services for the cared for person or to meet the needs of the child, as the case may be.

The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 ("the 2004 Act") makes three principal changes to the law with the objective of providing further support for carers and helping to ensure that they are not placed at a disadvantage because of the care they provide. First, the Act requires local authorities to inform carers, in certain circumstances, that they may be entitled to an assessment. Second, when undertaking a carer's assessment, the local authority must consider whether the carer works, undertakes any form of education, training or leisure activity, or wishes to do any of those things. The effect of this is that the local authority will have to ask the carer about those activities during an assessment, and then take this into account when making the decision about whether the needs of the cared for person call for the provision of any services by them. Third, the Act provides for co-operation between local authorities and other bodies in relation to the planning and provision of services that are relevant to carers.

Guidance makes clear that children who are carers should routinely be assessed under the Children Act 1989. The Children Act 1989 already gives local authorities a duty under paragraph 1(2) of schedule 2 to publicise their services to families with children in need and to take steps to ensure that those who might benefit from the services receive the information.

The 2001 census recorded a total of 149,942 young carers in England and Wales, of whom 24,266 were providing 20 or more hours of care per week.

Youth Councils

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many youth councils are in operation; and where each is located. [77915]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the number of youth councils in operation or their location is not held centrally.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of her Department. [80095]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office finance director is Jerry Page, who has been a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants since 1991. He has worked in Government for over 30 years, 22 of them in finance. He spent much of this time in Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, working in a variety of finance roles which included implementation of financial systems (purchasing; costing; asset management; accounts receivable; budgeting), operation of financial systems (purchasing; accounts payable; accounts receivable), implementation of internal charging. His two previous roles before joining the Department were as head of investment appraisal and public/private partnerships for HMRC and, immediately prior to joining, head of financial operations in the Valuation Office Agency.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by her Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77268]

Hilary Armstrong: The Department does not keep a separate record of expenditure incurred on alcohol for hospitality purposes and at present does not plan to introduce a process which records this expenditure separately on the accounting system.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on official hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Government Accounting".

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many websites there are within her responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79072]

Edward Miliband: There are 19 websites within the Department's responsibilities. The total cost of these sites for 2004-05 was £570,570.45.

These figures exclude websites relating to the areas of policy brought within the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's responsibility at the recent Machinery of Government changes, as the future of these sites are subject to review.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what date the Deputy Prime Minister first moved into the Admiralty Office at 26 Whitehall following the abolition of the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions. [78295]

Hilary Armstrong: As a result of the machinery of Government changes which followed the 2001 General Election the Deputy Prime Minister was based in Dover House until September 2002, when the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister moved into 26 Whitehall.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Private Members' Bills were drafted by her Department, or the Cabinet Office, in each Session since 1997; and which of those received Royal Assent. [77499]

Hilary Armstrong: Members will consider a range of possible subjects before introducing their Private Members' Bills.

Government draftsmen do draft some Bills in advance which are available as one of the options for Members to consider before they make their selection.

However, Members may make subsequent amendments or revisions to a Government drafted Bill, or use it as the basis for a Private Members' Bill in the future.

The information requested is therefore not collected.

Youth and Community Service

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will place in the Library a copy of the advertisement for the Chair of the Youth and Community Service. [79402]

Edward Miliband: A copy of the advertisement for the Chair of the Russell Commission implementation body has been placed in the Library.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Court Fines

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many vehicles were clamped as a result of the owner not paying a fine in each year since 1997; and how many fines were subsequently paid as a result of the clamp being applied in each year. [78834]

Ms Harman: The specific sanction of clamping cars for non-payment of fines was introduced in the Courts Act 2003, the phased implementation of which was completed on 31 March 2006. Since January 2006, 820 clamping orders have been issued although data are not held centrally on the number of cars that are consequently clamped or on fines paid as a direct result of clamping. Data are not available nationally prior to January 2006.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female offenders paid their fine on the day of the hearing in each year since 1999, broken down by age group. [78835]

Ms Harman: This information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

Isle of Wight Prisons (Court Cases)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the total cost was of fees remitted in the Newport Isle of Wight county court in the cases initiated recently against the Home Office by inmates of Isle of Wight prisons; and what comparable figures are available of the total cost of fees remitted in each county court in the last year for which information is available. [78568]

Ms Harman: Approximately 50 cases have been issued by inmates at Albany prison in which fees valued at around £6,000 have been remitted. The full information requested has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Prisoners (Electoral Register)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what guidance her Department has issued to local authority electoral registration departments on prisoners on the electoral register and their status in relation to elections. [80383]

Bridget Prentice: The Department for Constitutional Affairs has issued no guidance on this subject.

The Representation of the People Act 2000 clarified the right to register and vote of prisoners detained on remand. Circular RPA 432 issued in April 2000 by the Home Office (at that time responsible for electoral policy) brought these provisions to the attention of local electoral registration officers. The Home Office also contributed to guidance issued in January 2001 by the Association of Electoral Administrators, which made clear that while remand prisoners were entitled to register and vote, convicted prisoners were not.

The Government are committed to a full public consultation on the enfranchisement of convicted prisoners, in response to the judgment of the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Hirst v. UK. The consultation process will include consideration of practical issues around the registration of convicted prisoners, which will inform any subsequent guidance that is produced on the issue.

Salisbury Combined Court House

Robert Key: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when construction work will commence on the Salisbury combined court house; and when the new building will be in service. [79407]

Ms Harman: It is planned that construction work on the Salisbury combined court house will commence in March 2007 and the new building will be in service during the autumn of 2008.

HOME DEPARTMENT

32 (The Royal) Squadron

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the occasions on which he has used 32 (The Royal) Squadron since 2001; what the approximate take-off and landing times were of each flight; whether the carbon emissions were offset in respect of each flight; which other transport options were considered for each flight; why other transport options were not used; for what official duties each flight was used; and if he will make a statement. [64169]

Mr. Byrne: The rules on the use of special flights are set out in "Travel by Ministers". The annual lists of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500 set out when special flights are used, and the purpose of each trip. Copies are available in the Library. Special flights are only used as a last resort once all alternative transport options have been considered.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers have been in detention for *(a)* more than four weeks, *(b)* more than 13 weeks, *(c)* more than 26 weeks and *(d)* more than 52 weeks. [77759]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* Quarterly snapshots are published showing the number of people detained under Immigration Act powers on the last Saturday of each quarter and these can be broken down by length of detention. The following table shows the length of detention of persons who had claimed asylum at some stage and were detained as at 25 March 2006. Information on the number of persons detained is published in the Quarterly Asylum Bulletin, on the Home Office research development and statistics directorate website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum seekers recorded as being in detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers as at 25 March 2006, by length of detention[1,2]

Length of detention[3]	*Asylum seekers*[4]
4 weeks or less	935
More than 4 weeks to 13 weeks	465
More than 13 weeks to 26 weeks	175
More than 26 weeks to 52 weeks	120
1 year or more	30
Total	1,745

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 may not sum due to rounding and exclude persons detained in police cells and those detained under both criminal and immigration powers.
[2] Includes persons recorded by IND as detained in Prison Service establishments.
[3] Relates to current period of detention only.
[4] Persons detained under Immigration Act powers who are recorded as having sought asylum at some stage.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications have been made since 31 December 2005 by citizens of countries to which the Government will not return failed asylum seekers for safety reasons. [79513]

Mr. Byrne: By definition, there are no countries to which the Government will not return failed asylum seekers for safety reasons. Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and taking full account of conditions in the country concerned as they impact on the individual. These

found to be in need of international protection are provided with it. Failed asylum seekers of all nationalities who have been found by the Home Office and the appeals process not to be in need of international protection and have no legal basis of stay in the UK are expected to return to their country of origin and may have their removal enforced. The one exception to this is Zimbabwe, to where we have undertaken not to enforce returns pending the outcome of an Asylum and Immigration Tribunal hearing in early July.

Crime Statistics

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the recorded level of violent crime was in Wellingborough in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2005-06. [79704]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 June 2006]*: Wellingborough is a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area. Partnerships were set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and data are only available from 1999-2000. Data for 2005-06 are due to be published on 20 July.

Crime Trends

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research he has commissioned on crime trends in the UK following the accession of EU countries in May 2004; and if he will make a statement. [79418]

Mr. McNulty: No research has been commissioned on crime trends in the UK following the accession of EU countries in May 2004. However, the Home Office does routinely monitor and publish trends in crime, as measured by the British Crime Survey (BCS) and police recorded crime, on an annual and quarterly basis. The latest quarterly publication is available on the web at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb0606.pdf

This publication shows that since peaking in 1995 total BCS crime has fallen each year. The next annual publication of crime trends is due to be published in July 2006.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Criminal Records Bureau checks have been carried out, broken down by the number of weeks taken to process the check. [79014]

Joan Ryan: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has issued 8,936,032 Disclosures up to and including the financial year 2005-06. The number of Disclosures issued in each financial year is as follows:

	Number
2002-03	1,441,704
2003-04	2,287,109
2004-05	2,434,290
2005-06	2,772,929

Information on the number of weeks taken to process the checks during these periods is not available in the format requested.

The CRB operates to a set of published service standards (PSS), which for the financial year 2005-06 was to process 93 per cent. of Standard Disclosure applications within two weeks and 90 per cent. of Enhanced Disclosure applications within four weeks. The CRB's performance for that financial year against the PSS for Standard Disclosure was 99.6 per cent. During this same period, the performance against the PSS for Enhanced Disclosure was 84.6 per cent. The CRB recently published its Five-Year Strategy and Business Plan 2006-07 and the PSS for the financial year 2006-07 for Standard Disclosures is 90 per cent. within 10 days and for Enhanced Disclosures 90 per cent. within 28 days.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75115]

Mr. Byrne: The number of staff that did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total of staff in each case, is shown in the table.

	2002-03		*2003-04*		*2004-05*	
	Number[1]	*Percentage*[2]	*Number*[1]	*Percentage*[2]	*Number*[1]	*Percentage*[2]
Home Office[3]	127	1.01	148	1.00	119	0.69
Identity and Passport Service	19	0.82	12	0.57	12	0.54
HM Prison Service	801	2.00	842	2.10	882	2.30

[1] Of staff receiving 'unacceptable mark'.
[2] Of staff receiving 'unacceptable mark'/centrally recorded annual report marks awarded in period.
[3] Including Immigration and Nationality Directorate.

EU Citizens (Criminal Records)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been given to immigration officers at UK entry ports on the entry to the UK of individuals from EU accession countries who have a criminal record in their own country; and if he will make a statement. [79420]

Mr. Byrne: Guidance for immigration staff is set out in the immigration directorate instructions. This makes it clear that where an immigration officer is aware that a national of one of the EU accession states has a criminal record and, that as a result of that record, a genuine present and sufficiently serious threat affecting one of the fundamental interests of society is perceived, then an immigration decision to exclude may be made.

Knives

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives have been handed in during the amnesty in Tamworth constituency. [80133]

Mr. McNulty: Figures for the number of items handed in during the first week of the knife amnesty have been collected at force level. A total of 17,715 items were surrendered in England and Wales. Staffordshire police reported that they received 383 items.

Legislation

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which Government Bills sponsored by his Department he has bid for in the next Session of Parliament; and if he will make a statement; [77772]

(2) which Government Bills sponsored by his Department remain to be introduced during the 2005-06 Session. [77771]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

Mohammed Abdul Kahar

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to discover the identity of the Whitehall source quoted by the *News of The World* as stating that Abul Koyair fired the weapon which wounded Mohammed Abdul Kahar in the incident on 2 June; and if he will make a statement. [76239]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* It has been the practice of successive Governments not to comment on alleged leaks of information.

National Firearms Licensing Management System

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the progress of the data cleansing exercise required of police databases before the full implementation of the National Firearms Licensing Management System. [79035]

Mr. Coaker: Live testing of the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS) began in two forces on 5 June and if successful it will be rolled out to all forces by March 2007. The data cleansing exercise is needed before an interface with PNC can be successfully made. This will be carried out on a force by force basis after each has been migrated to NFLMS.

Passport Service

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures the Passport Service follows when a passport is reported as not having reached its destination; and if he will make a statement. [79013]

Joan Ryan: Where a passport is reported as not received by Secure Mail Services (SMS), who provide the Identity and Passport Service's (IPS) secure delivery service, information held is checked to establish the date, time and location of delivery. Couriers record details of the property they deliver to and these are compared to the description given by the applicant.

SMS investigate all such losses and provide a response to the Identity and Passport Service within one week.

Where IPS is satisfied that the applicant has not received the passport the document is recorded on the IPS Lost and Stolen database to ensure it cannot be used. A replacement passport is then provided to the customer.

In the rare event of the theft of passports while in the delivery process, they are immediately cancelled, placed on the Lost Stolen and Recovered database and reissued.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of passports dispatched by courier did not arrive at their destination in the last period for which figures are available. [79021]

Joan Ryan: From the commencement of Secure Delivery in February 2004 to January 2006, Secure Mail Services have delivered around 13 million passports and supporting documents. The estimated number of losses during this two year period is 1,626, equating to less than 0.013 per cent. of items despatched.

During the last year of the Royal Mail contract in 2003, 3,593 passports were reported as undelivered, equating to around 0.06 per cent. of passports issued. The introduction of Secure Delivery has therefore seen an 80 per cent. reduction in the annual number of losses from within the delivery process.

Police

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers *(a)* were recruited and *(b)* left the

service in Greater London in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06. [77643]

Mr. McNulty: Police personnel data are collected on a financial year basis and the latest information available is for 2004-05.

In 2004-05 the City of London police force recruited 14 full-time equivalent (FTE) police community support officers (PCSOs), and no PCSOs were recorded as leaving the force during this period.

During the same period the Metropolitan Police recruited 971 PCSOs (FTE), and 249 PCSOs (FTE) left the force.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will postpone the merger of Cumbria and Lancashire police authorities to allow time for further consultation. [79803]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1057-58, we hope to lay the Order to provide for the merger of Cumbria and Lancashire police forces before the summer recess. This is a voluntary merger supported by both chief constables and both police authorities and we see no need for additional consultation.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will reconsider the merger of Essex police force in the event that the Essex-wide consultation being run by Essex county council and Essex police authority demonstrates public opposition to the merger. [79983]

Mr. McNulty: Under the terms of the Police Act 1996, before making an order for a merger of police forces (other than where the merger is a voluntary one), the Secretary of State must give notice of his intentions to every affected council and allow for a period of objections.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary will of course consider any objections he receives to any proposed merger very carefully.

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* representatives from his Department have had with (i) Essex county council, (ii) Essex police authority and (iii) the chief constable of Essex police regarding the proposed merger of Essex police force. [79984]

Mr. McNulty: Home Office officials have held meetings with the Essex chief constable and the police authority jointly on 29 March and 24 May, with the deputy chief constable on 19 May, and with the police authority on 28 April. I held a meeting with the leader of Essex county council on 31 May.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures will be included in the planned reorganisation of police forces to improve responses to local neighbourhood concerns in *(a)* England and Wales, *(b)* Crosby and Formby and *(c)* Merseyside. [78527]

Mr. McNulty: By April 2007, neighbourhood policing will have been introduced to every community in England and Wales, and by April 2008 every area will have its own dedicated neighbourhood policing team. Neighbourhood policing puts local people's own concerns and priorities at the heart of local policing. Neighbourhood policing teams will be highly visible, will engage with communities to understand their priorities, and will tackle these issues in partnership with local partners. Neighbourhood policing will be protected and supported by the proposed reorganisation of police forces by getting more resources to the front line and keeping them there. The creation of strategic forces to deal with major investigations or public order incidents will help safeguard local policing by reducing the need to abstract officers from neighbourhood policing teams.

I understand that neighbourhood policing is well established in many parts of Merseyside police force area (which helped to pilot the neighbourhood policing approach) including Crosby and Formby.

Police Operation (Forest Gate)

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Cabinet Office briefing room mechanism (COBRA) considered the merits of the anti-terrorist police operation in Forest Gate on 2 June 2006 in advance of the operation taking place. [79584]

Mr. McNulty: The decision on whether to mount any anti-terrorist operation is an operational matter for the police. A meeting of officials was held in the Cabinet Office briefing room, at which the Metropolitan police informed relevant departments of their intention to conduct this operation and its likely scale given the public safety issues involved. Both the merits of the operation and how it was to be conducted were matters decided solely by the Metropolitan police.

Police Vehicles

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* injuries and *(b)* fatalities have been recorded in London in each of the past five years which were sustained as a result of a collision involving a police vehicle; and in how many of those incidents the police vehicle was travelling above the speed limit, broken down by borough. [75343]

Mr. McNulty: The available information for the numbers of casualties and degree of injury from road traffic collisions resulting from immediate/emergency response and police pursuits on public roads involving the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police is provided in the table. Figures are not held centrally at individual borough level.

Figures are not held centrally on those incidents where police vehicles were travelling above the speed limit.

Degree of injury from road traffic collisions involving police forces in the London area

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
City of London					
Degree of injury:					
Fatal	0	0	0	0	0
Serious	0	1	0	1	0
Other	2	6	0	1	1
Total	2	7	0	2	1

Degree of injury from road traffic collisions involving police forces in the London area

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Metropolitan Police					
Degree of injury:					
Fatal	6	2	5	4	4
Serious	40	51	14	21	23
Other	628	607	[1]—	600	724
Total	674	660	[1]—	625	751

[1] The Metropolitan Police are unable to provide data for 2002-03.

Psilocin/Psilocybin

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many kilograms of *(a)* psilocin and *(b)* psilocybin were seized in each of the last 10 years. [78999]

Mr. Coaker: The requested data cannot be separately identified from 'other class A' drug seizure figures.

Security Industry

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 359W, on the security industry, when the Department expects to clear the backlog of licences. [67691]

Mr. Coaker: The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has a target of processing 80 per cent. of all applications within six weeks, measured from the date that a properly completed application enters the processing system. Due to receiving a large number of late applications, the SIA currently has a backlog waiting to enter the system. This is currently adding between two and four weeks to the processing time, so it is now taking up to 10 weeks to process most applications. As of 13 June there were 7,933 applications for the manned guarding sector in this backlog. The SIA has put significant additional resources into clearing this backlog, and expect it will have been cleared by early August.

Sexual Attacks

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sexual attacks there have been in England and Wales by people falsely posing as taxi drivers in each of the last five years. [79760]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available from the recorded crime statistics because the data series does not collect details on offenders.

Terrorism Act

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000 were from (i) Coventry and (ii) the West Midlands region. [79471]

Mr. McNulty: Statistics on the number of people arrested, charged and convicted under the Terrorism Act (2000) are published on the Home Office website: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/terrorism-act.

These statistics are not however collated according to force or area.

Trinidad and Tobago

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the role and activity of the UK Police Task Force in Trinidad and Tobago. [78491]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

There is no UK Police Task Force in Trinidad and Tobago. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago have recruited 39 police officers, most of whom are retired, from the UK to work as part of Trinidad and Tobago's Special Anti-Crime Unit. Questions on their role would be for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to answer. The UK has provided substantial other assistance to the security and defence forces in Trinidad and Tobago and continues to support the Government's efforts to tackle serious crime.

Wheel Clamping

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set a limit on the amount that can be charged by wheel clamping companies for *(a)* the removal of a wheel clamp, *(b)* the recovery of a vehicle that has been removed and *(c)* vehicle storage costs. [67296]

Mr. Coaker: Under the Private Security Industry Act 2001, the Security Industry Authority has responsibility for licensing vehicle immobilisers, to help ensure that vehicle immobilisation on private land is conducted in a responsible manner. The Government have no plans to set limits on these fees.

Young Offenders

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will increase funding to youth worker programmes dealing with the causes of crime committed by young people. [78526]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prevention programmes for those young people at risk of getting involved in crime and antisocial behaviour are funded through the Youth Justice Board and delivered by local Youth Offending Teams (YOTs). The Government have recently announced an additional £45 million funding for targeted youth crime and ASB prevention activities for those young people at most risk. This increase in funding means that all YOTs now have dedicated money to spend on prevention. Programmes are delivered by a range of multi-agency staff, including youth workers, enabling a wide variety of experience and expertise to be brought together. The new funding has been allocated to local YOTs and areas are beginning to deliver new prevention services from June 2006.

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the formula is by which the

£45 million given to the Youth Justice Board as part of its youth prevention budget is allocated to youth offending teams. [78403]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* The overall allocation from the Youth Justice Board (YJB) to Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) for prevention programmes totals £59 million, which includes existing Youth Inclusion Programme (YIP) funding of £14 million, as well as the £45 million of additional funding. The additional funding was allocated differently in England and Wales, as the Welsh Government became involved in devising the formula for the latter.

For the 138 YOTs in England, the allocation was based on the same funding formula as that used for the core support grant to YOTs. This formula weights each area's allocation according to the following elements: 10 to 17 population (40 per cent.); size of area (10 per cent.); and six deprivation indices, including income and employment (50 per cent.).

For the 18 YOTs in Wales, the allocation was based on a new funding formula devised by the All Wales Youth Offending Strategy Group. The formula weights each YOT's allocation according to the following elements: 10 to 17 population (50 per cent.); sparsity (low population density, leading to difficulties accessing services and greater cost of providing them) (13.33 per cent.); five deprivation indices on income, employment, health, education and housing (26.66 per cent.); and caseload (10 per cent.)

In some areas, YOTs were already receiving money for specific prevention programmes (YIPs) from an existing funding stream.

When the new funding formula was applied, the effect in these areas would have been to reduce the overall funding allocated to prevention. To avoid this and to allow them to begin to develop additional prevention services, funding for the affected YOTs was adjusted so that they all received an amount of at least £20,000 more than they were previously receiving.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Barker Review

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for the implementation of the recommendations of the Barker Review of Housing Supply. [74197]

Yvette Cooper: The Government's plan for implementing Kate Barker's recommendations was set out in its response to the Barker Review on 5 December. I have placed a copy of the response in the Library of the House. In the response, the Government signalled their ambition to provide more homes for future generations through a step change in housing policy.

The response comprised a range of measures addressing the full range of Kate Barker's recommendations, including among others: an ambition to increase the level of housing supply to 200,000 per year over the next decade; a commitment to make Social Housing supply a priority in CSR07; a £40 million start up fund for infrastructure projects for new growth points and consultations on a Planning-gain Supplement and Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3), responses to which are currently being considered.

Benefits Claimants

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were in receipt of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement [75916]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

The available information is in the following tables.

Income support (IS) and IS minimum income guarantee (MIG) caseloads: Great Britain each November 1997 to 2005

November	All IS	MIG	Non-MIG
1997	3,956,100	1,673,700	2,282,400
1998	3,842,000	1,614,500	2,227,500
1999	3,843,900	1,591,300	2,252,600
2000	3,928,900	1,669,800	2,259,200
2001	3,985,500	1,727,000	2,258,500
2002	3,994,800	1,750,500	2,244,300
2003	2,232,800	13,000	2,219,800
2004	2,177,900	10,800	2,167,100
2005	2,136,700	9,600	2,127,100

Pension credit caseloads: Great Britain each November 2003 to 2005

November	Number
2003	2,084,700
2004	2,629,580
2005	2,708,050

Income based jobseeker's allowance (JSA(IB)) caseloads: Great Britain each November 1997 to 2005

November	Number
1997	1,041,300
1998	951,200
1999	856,300
2000	743,400
2001	663,500
2002	635,300
2003	599,300
2004	565,700
2005	647,900

Housing benefit (HB) and council tax benefit (CTB) caseloads: Great Britain each November 1997 to 2005

November	HB	CTB
1997	4,546,650	5,393,820
1998	4,382,390	5,221,710
1999	4,147,870	4,959,480
2000	3,900,620	4,674,580
2001	3,818,400	4,608,390
2002	3,796,260	4,577,690
2003	3,806,590	4,666,910

Housing benefit (HB) and council tax benefit (CTB) caseloads: Great Britain each November 1997 to 2005

November	HB	CTB
2004	3,943,900	4,897,500
2005	3,975,230	4,993,000

Notes:
1. PC/HB/CTB figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. IS/JSA(IB) figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. HB/CTB figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. HB figures exclude any extended payment cases.
5. CTB figures exclude any second adult rebate cases.
6. JSA(IB) figures and IS figures for November 1997 and 1998 are derived by applying 5 per cent. proportions to 100 per cent. WPLS data are therefore subject to sampling variation.
7. Some JSA(IB) claimants may also have entitlement to benefit via the contributory route.
8. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
9. Pension credit replaced MIG on 6 October 2003.
10. Overlaps between benefits have not been removed.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS); Information Directorate 5 per cent. samples; and Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in November 1997 to November 2005.

Biodiversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to her comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74408]

Yvette Cooper: Under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, all public bodies have a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in the exercising of their functions. There is no statutory obligation on Departments to monitor the extent to which public bodies comply with this duty. However, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is working with a wide range of partners to develop guidance for public bodies to support the implementation of this duty and will involve all relevant Departments on the development of guidance.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2663W, on biodiversity (planning applications), what progress has been made on the incorporation of a question relating to biodiversity interests into the standard planning application form; and if she will make a statement. [74177]

Yvette Cooper: We have agreed with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, English Nature and Association of Local Government Ecologists the wording of a question on biodiversity that will be included in the standard application form for full and outline planning permission.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Minister in her Department is responsible for monitoring her Department's compliance with its duty under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity in carrying out its functions; and if she will make a statement. [73949]

Yvette Cooper: Under section 74 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, Ministers and Government Departments have a duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving biological diversity. This has been replaced by a similar provision under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act which comes into effect on the 1 October 2006. There is no statutory duty to monitor compliance with this duty. However, the Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessor the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister have taken a number of steps to benefit biodiversity including:

Introducing Planning Policy Statement 9 on Biodiversity and Geological Conservation and an associated guide to good practice prepared jointly with English Nature and Defra;

Working to introduce Sustainable Community Strategies as an evolution of Community Strategies, thereby supporting Local Strategic Partnerships in placing greater emphasis on sustainability issues such as biodiversity (see the recent consultation on our website at http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1162320);

Setting out, in our Sustainable Development Action Plan, our intention to issue a draft biodiversity action plan for the major non-office estate by December 2006.

Building Regulations

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures are in place to assess compliance with building regulations. [79382]

Angela E. Smith: Local authorities building control departments or approved inspectors, a private sector alternative, are responsible for checking compliance with the building regulations. They do this by considering written proposals, sometimes in the form of plans, and often by inspecting building works during construction. When the work has finished and they are satisfied that it complies they can issue a completion certificate, or when an approved inspector has been engaged, a final certificate.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of levels of compliance with part L of the building regulations among building control officers; and if she will make a statement. [79383]

Angela E. Smith: As part of the comprehensive review leading to the recent amendment of part L of the building regulations, my officials engaged with building control bodies and industry about levels of compliance and on ways that this could be improved. This work influenced the amendment and procedures that came into effect in April 2006 and the ongoing dissemination of training for builders and building control officers.

Central Manchester Development Corporation

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department holds the records of the Central Manchester Development Corporation. [75852]

Yvette Cooper: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold the records of the Central Manchester Development Corporation centrally. However some of the records are held by the Government office for the north-west.

Coalfield Regeneration Trust

John Mann: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the 50 constituencies which have received the highest level of funding from the Coalfield Regeneration Trust since its inception. [64451]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available in the form requested. The Coalfields Regeneration Trust, which operates throughout the English coalfields, is an independent grant giving body that seeks to spearhead the social and economic regeneration of the coalfields. Grants awarded by the trust range from small grants to local groups to larger awards that benefit coalfields more widely, sometimes at regional or national level. Grants are not constituency specific, with even small grants often benefiting areas outside of the constituency within which the group securing the grant is based. It is not therefore practicable to produce a list of constituencies which have received the highest level of funding. It should be noted that any list would change once a subsequent round of grants was released by the CRT, and therefore could significantly alter should a grant of considerable value be given to an organisation based in a constituency within a coalfield area.

Compulsory Land Purchases

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on compulsory land purchases in each London borough in each year since 1996; and if she will make a statement. [75697]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on compulsory land purchases in Coventry in the last financial year. [76448]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 13 June 2006]:* The information requested is not collected by the Department.

Correspondence

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by how many days her Department exceeded its target for answering letters when replying to the letter written by the hon. Member for Windsor about Mr. D. Ashworth. [78488]

Yvette Cooper: The Department target was exceed by 47 days. The original letter was not received in the Department and only after a duplicate was received on 10 March was this seen by officials. I apologise for the unacceptable delay. The Department is putting additional resources into improving performance in this regard.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to the letter of 8 May 2006 from the hon. Member for Billericay requesting that she meet local residents from Crays Hill, Hovefields and Pitsea to discuss traveller issues. [80319]

Meg Munn: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 22 June 2006.

Criminal Records Bureau

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of staff of registered social landlords working with vulnerable people were checked by the Criminal Records Bureau in 2005-06. [72848]

Yvette Cooper: The data to answer this question are not available. The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not record information about whether an organisation applying for a CRB check is a registered social landlord (RSL). The Housing Corporation expects RSLs to comply with the law, including where relevant the requirement to conduct CRB checks under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Decent Homes Standard

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities currently in surplus have met the Decent Homes Standard. [77896]

Yvette Cooper: The following local authorities have a Housing Revenue Account subsidy surplus, and report that they have met the decent homes standard for their council housing stock:

Hinckley and Bosworth District Council
Oadby and Wigston District Council
Redditch District Council
Ribble Valley District Council, and
Lancaster District Council.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of her Department. [80093]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government is in the process of recruiting a professionally qualified finance director. Pending the appointment, the post is being temporarily covered by a career civil servant.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by her Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77280]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not keep a separate record of the amount spent annually on alcohol for hospitality purposes. Expenditure in the Department is conducted in accordance with the principles of Government accounting. The Department's policy on hospitality is set out in its staff handbook, which advises that, on each occasion, careful consideration should be given to the need, form and extent of hospitality and whether if it can be justified.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77296]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government was formed on 6 May 2006. The table following shows the number of staff under and over the age of 55 years as at 31 December 2005 in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

Age	*Number of staff*
Number of staff under 55	2,011
Number of staff over 55	333
Not recorded	107
Total	2,451

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into her Department in each of the last three years. [77297]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government was formed on 6 May 2006. The following table shows the number of staff over the age of 55 years recruited through open competition to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

	Number of new recruits over 55
2003-04	2
2004-05	1
2005-06	0

Devolution

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on progress with plans for regional devolution. [73837]

Yvette Cooper: The Government are committed to devolving and decentralising functions to the English regions and to developing and strengthening the democratic oversight of those functions. They believe a regional approach is necessary to analyse and address the causes of economic disparity; to ensure planning and investment decisions are properly integrated; and to co-ordinate sub-national issues which extend beyond the boundaries of even the largest local authority. To this end, they created the Greater London Authority and have recently consulted on an extension of the powers of the London Mayor and Assembly.

Respecting the outcome of the November 2004 north east referendum, the Government have continued to support the work of the voluntary regional assemblies which comprise a majority of elected local councillors together with stakeholder representatives drawn from the social, economic and environmental partners. They have given these assemblies responsibility for scrutinising the regional development agencies established to promote economic growth; and as regional planning bodies overseeing the regional spatial strategies. Later this year, as recommended in the 2004 Barker Review of Housing Supply and again following consultation, they will give regional assemblies a new role undertaking the regional housing board function.

In parallel, the Government have strengthened the authority and visibility of the Government offices as a facilitator of partnership working in the regions.

Budget 2006 reaffirmed the Government's commitment to enabling cities and regions to improve their economic performance, delivering efficiency and devolving decision making.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on *(a)* the devolution of power to the regions and *(b)* the creation of directly-elected regional bodies. [74235]

Yvette Cooper: The Government are committed to devolving and decentralising functions to the English regions and to developing and strengthening the democratic oversight of those functions. They believe a regional approach is necessary to analyse and address the causes of economic disparity; to ensure planning and investment decisions are properly integrated; and to co-ordinate sub-national issues which extend beyond the boundaries of even the largest local authority. To this end, they created the Greater London authority and have recently consulted on an extension of the powers of the London Mayor and Assembly.

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Budget 2006 reaffirmed the Government's commitment to enabling cities and regions to improve their economic performance, delivering efficiency and devolving decision making.

Respecting the outcome of the November 2004 north east referendum on the creation of an elected regional assembly, the Government have no current plans for the creation of directly-elected regional bodies.

Empty Properties

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which the *(a)* best and *(b)* worst performing councils in England are with regard to tackling empty private sector properties in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what Luton borough council's performance was in that period. [76712]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities are required by law to report on a set of national performance indicators and standards set by Government. Best Value Performance Indicator 64 measures the number of private sector dwellings that are returned to occupation or demolished each year as a direct result of action by the local authority. Information, comprising local authorities' returns for Best Value Performance Indicator 64 for 2004-05 has been placed in the Library of the House. In the period 2004-05, the number of empty properties brought back into use or demolished by Luton council was 11. However, the variance in the overall size of the private sector housing stock, and the proportion of these houses which can be defined as empty, will differ between each local authority area and therefore, the indicator is not a straightforward reflection of individual councils' performance.

EU Directive 2002/91/EC

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 751W, on EU Directive 2002/91/EC, what the timetable is for the implementation of Articles 7 to 10; and what the deadline is for implementation under the directive. [78249]

Yvette Cooper: I would draw the hon. Member's attention to the statement made to this House on 14 June about implementation of the EU energy performance of buildings directive. The directive allows an additional period of three years to apply fully the requirements for energy certificates and plant inspections meaning the deadline for implementation of Articles 7 to 10 is 4 January 2009.

Firefighters

Mr. Godsiff: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many uniformed firefighters insured under the Group Life Assurance Scheme were *(a)* subject to a health examination at retirement and *(b)* subsequently excluded from the scheme on the basis of failing health in the last five years for which full data are available. [77568]

Angela E. Smith: The Department does not operate any group life assurance schemes for firefighters and information is not available centrally about schemes administered by fire and rescue authorities.

Fires (Education Premises)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many faulty *(a)* fire extinguishers and *(b)* smoke alarms were identified in schools in the last 12 months. [79591]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of fires in *(a)* schools, *(b)* higher education institutions and *(c)* further education colleges in the last 10 years were set deliberately. [79592]

Angela E. Smith: The available information is for fires in schools and further education establishments attended by fire and rescue services and reported to the Department on the FDR1 return.

England: Deliberately set fires in educational establishments attended by fire and rescue services, 1995-2004

	Percentage of school fires set deliberately	*Percentage of further education establishment fires set deliberately*
1995	70	35
1996	64	48
1997	66	30
1998	60	31
1999	62	26
2000	63	35
2001	59	33
2002	53	22
2003	61	29
2004	55	26

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG. Excludes any fires in November 2002 and January to February 2003 strike periods.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many emergency fire service call-outs were made to schools in each of the last 10 years. [79601]

Angela E. Smith: The available information is for fires in schools attended by fire and rescue services and reported to the Department on the FDR1 return.

England: Primary fires in schools attended by fire and rescue services, 1995-2004

	Number
1995	1,401
1996	1,532
1997	1,314
1998	1,157
1999	1,331
2000	1,194
2001	1,453
2002	1,249
2003	1,232
2004	1,229

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG. Excludes any fires in November 2002 and January to February 2003 strike periods.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of emergency fire service call-outs made to schools in each year of the last 10 years were on the basis of a fraudulent call. [79602]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fires there were in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) region and (ii) local education authority. [79603]

Angela E. Smith: The available information is for fires in schools attended by fire and rescue services and reported to the Department on the FDR1 return. These are broken down by region and fire and rescue service area.

School fires attended by fire and rescue services, England, 1995-2004

FRS area	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
England	1,401	1,332	1,314	1,157	1,331	1,194	1,453	1,249	1,232	1,229
Bedfordshire	12	4	9	17	19	20	14	33	14	11
Cambridgeshire	5	12	17	7	24	4	6	12	24	17
Essex	18	26	12	21	14	21	25	19	27	17
Hertfordshire	33	41	9	32	34	28	13	21	17	24
Norfolk	9	10	4	6	7	16	14	9	10	6
Suffolk	8	5	6	4	1	5	23	5	0	13
East of England	85	98	57	87	99	94	95	99	92	90
Derbyshire	25	37	23	30	20	11	23	17	22	16
Leicestershire	43	29	19	19	17	17	26	21	19	18
Lincolnshire	2	9	13	0	10	11	12	6	8	13
Northamptonshire	9	24	12	16	22	6	16	5	10	21
Nottinghamshire	28	36	31	56	15	34	15	33	23	35
East Midlands	107	135	98	121	84	79	92	82	82	101
London	135	201	103	116	190	133	153	174	115	129
Cleveland	24	28	55	25	16	37	27	45	15	6
Durham	28	8	24	32	19	20	14	18	12	12
Northumberland	9	7	5	4	4	4	5	0	13	4
Tyne and Wear	74	70	43	40	37	46	58	48	37	42
North East	135	113	127	101	76	107	104	111	77	64
Cheshire	45	18	25	22	18	29	20	32	25	16
Cumbria	14	18	10	2	18	6	13	13	14	14
Lancashire	55	56	60	53	29	59	63	42	45	59
Greater Manchester	158	184	178	124	156	98	160	134	132	128
Merseyside	73	78	148	68	72	71	56	57	54	63
North West	345	354	421	269	293	263	312	278	270	280
Berkshire	15	25	31	18	20	10	46	30	14	14
Buckinghamshire	8	31	17	13	17	18	10	10	5	19
East Sussex	15	6	8	8	21	23	20	11	20	36
Hampshire	40	28	6	19	34	35	55	19	48	41
Isle of Wight	1	4	4	4	4	0	0	5	0	4
Kent	32	63	49	22	28	15	27	35	23	34
Oxfordshire	9	5	11	6	20	6	18	29	27	17
Surrey	10	20	16	9	17	14	24	11	29	7
West Sussex	10	29	2	18	39	20	20	26	10	32
South East	140	211	144	117	200	141	218	176	176	204
Avon	28	28	25	37	24	23	18	28	37	19
Cornwall	3	10	1	1	5	0	5	5	6	14
Devon	22	11	33	10	33	22	32	19	21	7
Dorset	8	9	15	2	17	23	17	2	4	7
Gloucestershire	5	20	23	0	5	13	5	13	9	1
Somerset	13	6	6	12	9	4	21	18	11	25
Wiltshire	11	0	6	6	14	7	10	1	6	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South West	90	84	109	68	107	92	108	88	94	73
Hereford and Worcester	14	15	9	13	5	27	15	13	5	9
Shropshire	10	6	19	10	5	12	13	0	17	29
Staffordshire	26	25	9	33	42	29	40	30	25	14

School fires attended by fire and rescue services, England, 1995-2004

FRS area	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Warwickshire	15	4	10	6	6	12	15	14	31	19
West Midlands	106	141	82	78	96	94	86	79	74	53
West Midlands	171	191	129	140	154	165	169	136	152	124
Humberside	52	45	16	37	36	9	36	40	43	40
North Yorkshire	11	15	13	5	9	40	5	21	15	23
South Yorkshire	55	21	37	40	26	25	64	48	35	32
West Yorkshire	78	64	62	57	58	46	100	96	80	67
Yorkshire and the Humber	196	145	128	139	129	120	205	205	173	162

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG. Excludes any fires in November 2002 and January-February 2003 strike period

Flag Flying

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on flying the *(a)* St. George's flag and *(b)* EU flag from departmental buildings. [77746]

Angela E. Smith: It is the Department for Communities and Local Government's policy to follow the guidance issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport for flying flags on Government buildings. This includes recommending flying the St. George's Flag on St. George's Day 23 April and saying the European Flag should be flown on Europe Day 9 May on buildings with two or more flag poles, provided they are flown alongside the Union Flag with the Union Flag in the superior position.

Government Relocation

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of relocating a Government Department or agency to *(a)* the Thames Gateway growth area and *(b)* Kent Thameside; and if she will make a statement. [77902]

Yvette Cooper: Individual Departments are responsible for deciding on sites for relocation. However, they must take account of both their individual business needs and local economic factors, as set out in the central guidance, "Choosing Locations for Government Business".

Great Landscape Value Designation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have land designated with area of great landscape value. [78329]

Yvette Cooper: Areas of landscape outside nationally designated areas, that are particularly highly valued locally, may be the subject of local landscape designations. The Department for Communities and Local Government does not monitor which authorities have made these local designations.

Green Belt

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to protect *(a)* green belt and *(b)* open green spaces in (i) the county of Greater Manchester, (ii) Tameside metropolitan borough and (iii) Stockport metropolitan borough. [73136]

Yvette Cooper: Planning policies to protect green belt and open space are set out at the national, regional and local levels and I will deal with each of these in turn.

National policies to protect the green belt are set out in PPG2. Polices to protect other areas of open space are set out in PPG 17. Planning authorities are required to have regard to these policies when preparing their development plans and these policies may be material to individual planning decisions.

In addition, the Residential Development on Greenfield Land Direction requires local authorities to notify the Secretary of State of applications for the provision of 150 houses or flats on greenfield land or any applications for the provision of houses or flats on five hectares or more on greenfield land. The notification requirements provide the Secretary of State with an opportunity to check general compliance with the guidance set out in national planning policies, and to consider whether an application should be called in for her own determination.

Regional policies to protect green belt and other areas of open space are set out in Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North West of England, formerly known as RPG13. Particular emphasis is given to maintaining urban form and enhancing urban living. The continued and extensive use of green belt policy is an essential tool. The RSS says that the case for exceptional substantial change to green belt will need to be established by a strategic study and that, in turn, will inform a future review of RSS. It says that there will be no need for such a study in Greater Manchester before 2011. The RSS is currently in the process of being reviewed. The North West regional assembly published the revised Draft RSS for consultation on 20 March 2006. The responses to the consultation will be examined by a panel set up by the Secretary of State. The panel will then carry out an examination in public to debate selected topics, based on issues raised in the consultation responses, before making their recommendations to the Secretary of State. It is likely that any proposed changes to regional

green belt policies will be examined carefully by the panel and subsequently by the Secretary of State.

Local policies to protect green belt and other areas of open space are set out in local authority development plan policies. The Government office for the north west scrutinises these plans on behalf of the Secretary of State to ensure that the authorities have had regard correctly to national and regional planning policies.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications for new housing on land designated as green belt have been approved in the county of Greater Manchester in each year since 2000. [73141]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of planning applications to build on brownfield sites involved building on gardens in *(a)* Greater Manchester, *(b)* Tameside metropolitan borough and *(c)* Stockport metropolitan borough in the last period for which figures are available. [73159]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally.

Gypsies/Travellers

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what grants were made in 2005 as part of the Gypsy Site Refurbishment Grant scheme. [75738]

Meg Munn: Grant awards to local authorities for the establishment of new Gypsy and Traveller sites, and for the refurbishment of existing sites, are made under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 1979. In the 2005-06 round of the Gypsy Sites Grant the following payments were made:

Authority	*Site*	*Grant paid*
Brighton and Hove City Council	Horsdean	139,000
Bristol City Council	South Liberty Lane	1,513,626
Darlington Borough Council	Honeypot Lane	468,000
Derbyshire County Council	Lullington Crossroads	243,750
	Woodyard Lane	412,500
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough	Gliden Lane	57,277
Dorset County Council	Cold Harbour	330,000
Essex County Council	Cranham Hall	28,565
	Ladygrove	121,128
	Ridgewell	45,375
	Ridgewell	22,440
	Elizabeth Way	15,180
Fenland District Council	Sandbank	1,858
	Fenland Way	9,900
Kettering Borough Council	Slate Albany	750,000
Horsham District Council	Small Dole	41,026
Hyndburn Borough Council	Abbott	33,400
Leeds Borough Council	Cottingley Springs	36,999
London Borough of Camden	Carol Street	17,582
London Borough of Waltham Forest	Folly Lane	450,000
Maidstone Borough Council	Stilebridge	143,356
Milton Keynes Council	Wilen	10,818
Norfolk County Council	Gapton Hall	37,487
	Roundwell Park	295,342
Northampton Borough Council	Eston Lane	366,899
Northampton County Council	Gypsy Lane	145,410
Nottingham County Council	Deneshill	37,228
Nuneaton and Bedworth City Council	Stoney Road	61,400
Oxfordshire County Council	Stanchats	87,120
	Wheatley	91,293
	Oakley Wood	30,139
Rochdale District Council	Roch Vale	90,546
Shropshire County Council	Manor House	90,000
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Whaddon	12,385
Surrey County Council	Postardown	101,250
Tandridge District Council	Green Lane	193,814
Wakefield City Council	Heath	157,691
Walsall Metropolitan Council	Willenhall	56,005
Warwickshire County Council	Alvecote	175,725
Wiltshire County Council	Odstock	225,582
	Dairyhouse Bridge	37,717
Worcestershire County Council	Hipton Hill	787,500
Total grant paid		7,992,262

Bids for funding in the current round of the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant are currently being considered.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what funding has been provided to Bedfordshire county council to accommodate Travellers in 2006-07; and if she will make a statement; [79047]

(2) what representations she has received on the funding of Travellers sites in Bedfordshire; and if she will make a statement; [79048]

(3) what criteria are used to allocate funding for accommodation for Travellers; and if she will make a statement. [79049]

Meg Munn: We have received five proposals for funding by Bedfordshire county council under round 1 of the Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant (GTSG) 2006-08. GTSG is a capital grant available through the regional housing budgets for local authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs), covering both the development of new sites and the refurbishment of existing sites. Bedfordshire CC is bidding for refurbishment schemes, which are funded at 75 per cent. of the total bid.

Bids are evaluated against the following criteria:

Does the scheme meet a clearly assessed need?

Does the scheme offer value for money?

Is the site sustainable?

Schemes must also demonstrate that they will be able to deliver to time and budget, and that stakeholders have been consulted. Another key criterion which will be used to determine whether a bid receives funding will be the extent to which schemes contribute to addressing emerging regional priorities in respect of Gypsy and Traveller provision, which is assessed by the Regional Housing Boards (RHBs).

An appropriate package of schemes within each region has been put together by the RHBs. These are under ministerial consideration and the successful schemes will be announced shortly.

Harlow Council v. Hall

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the implication of the Court of Appeal's decision in Harlow council *v.* Hall. [72821]

Yvette Cooper: The decision in Harlow BC *v.* Hall was that drawing up a possession order postponed on conditions, using the wording of Form N28 introduced in 2002, had the unintended effect of invariably terminating a secure tenancy regardless of the tenant's compliance with the conditions. As an interim measure, an amended version of the form is being used. Officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government are currently working with the DCA to come up with a permanent solution.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information was included in the Home Information Pack's Home Condition Report in the trial run in Bristol. [72277]

Yvette Cooper: The Home Condition Report used in the Bristol trial run included all the questions currently proposed in the Home Condition Report's content in the regulations but also contained a report giving a rating of the energy performance of the property using the Government approved Standard Assessment Procedure together with information about possible improvements.

Home Inspectors

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether standard conditions are expected to be issued by all home inspectors saying precisely what is and what is not included in a Home Information Pack. [75420]

Yvette Cooper: Home inspectors will be responsible for the content of the Home Condition Report. The Home Condition Report is a statutory element of the pack and home inspectors will be expected to complete the document in full.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* vendors and *(b)* purchasers will be able to take legal action against inspectors responsible for the production of inaccurate home condition reports. [75030]

Yvette Cooper: Yes. The regulations to be laid shortly will specify that sellers, buyers and mortgage lenders will have a legal right to rely on the home condition report. Certification schemes will be required to ensure that their home inspector members hold appropriate indemnity insurance.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who will supervise the training and certification of home inspectors; what provision there is for ongoing training of home inspectors; and under what circumstances the approval of an inspector may be withdrawn. [75593]

Yvette Cooper: All home inspectors will be required to obtain a qualification before they can become members of a certifications scheme. That qualification must meet the National Occupational Standards for Home Inspection and be approved by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority.

Once qualified, home inspectors can apply to become a member of a Government approved certifications scheme. Certification schemes will be required to uphold standards set by Government to ensure home inspectors are fit and proper, qualified and insured persons. Government will regularly audit the activities of certification schemes and have the power to withdraw approval if a certification scheme falls short of their statutory responsibilities.

Homeless and Housing Support Directorate

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total expenditure was of the Homeless and Housing Support Directorate's conference at Hampton Court Palace in May 2006; and how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* others attended the conference. [78263]

Yvette Cooper: The total cost of the Homelessness and Housing Support Directorate's event at Hampton Court was £5,731.48. Sixty-eight civil servants and one independent consultant attended.

House Prices

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate *(a)* the number of houses in £50,000 bands up to £1 million, *(b)* the number of houses worth in excess of £1 million and *(c)* the average price of a house in each such band in England and Wales in the latest year for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [73827]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average house price was in Coventry South in each of the last five years. [79031]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* It is not possible to provide separate figures for Coventry South. The following information has been sourced from the Land Registry.

March	Overall average price (£)
2002	77,866
2003	99,839
2004	116,493
2005	130,827
2006	127,598

House Sales

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the median number of houses *(a)* sold and *(b)* marketed in England and Wales per annum over the last five years; what her assessment is of the reasons why house selling transactions fell through; and how many more transactions she expects to succeed every year as a result of the introduction of home information packs. [75413]

Yvette Cooper: The median number of annual property transactions of homes in England and Wales between 2001 and 2005 was 1,228,000, based on figures from the Land Registry. Information on the number of properties marketed annually is not collected, but this is estimated to be 1.6 million.

The Department's 1998 research study, "Key research on easier home buying and selling", reported that 28 per cent. of transactions fail between offer acceptance and completion. The research study, a copy of which has been deposited in the Library, also described the reasons why transactions fail. For example, the report indicated that 43 per cent. of transaction failures were attributable to an unfavourable survey report and the remainder were due to a seller deciding to sell elsewhere, unacceptable delays, chain breakdown and the property being taken off the market. The key findings of the research study indicated that many of the problems associated with the current system are down to information emerging later in the process and that buyers, sellers and professionals all agreed that sellers should offer more information up front.

Baseline research is currently under way to update the 1998 findings.

Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to encourage the development of shared ownership housing schemes in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* other growth areas; and if she will make a statement. [73354]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have allocated a substantial increase in funding for the East of England for 2006-08, much of which will be invested in new affordable housing. In Peterborough, the regional housing board for the East of England (RHB) has allocated just over £19 million which is expected to deliver 572 new affordable units, via the Housing Corporation's National Affordable Housing Programme. In the other growth areas of the region, the RHB has allocated £152.7 million which is expected to deliver 6,081 new affordable units.

The Housing Corporation is delivering the Government's affordable housing agenda in partnership with local authorities, registered social landlords and developers in developing schemes across the range of tenure which meets the needs of local people including the pathway to low cost home ownership.

The Government's shared equity task force is currently examining other ways to increase shared ownership schemes.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was allocated per head of population by the Housing Corporation to *(a)* the North East and *(b)* London and the South East in each of the last three years. [75394]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows the funding per head based on allocations through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme for 2006-08 in relation to 2004 mid year population estimates for the North East region and London/South East regions combined from the Office for National Statistics.

	Region	
	North East	London and South East
2004 mid year population estimates (ONS)	2,543,800	13,539,800
Affordable Housing Programme allocated funding 2006-08 (£ million)	82	2,444
Funding per head (£)	32.22	197.28

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what criteria the Housing Corporation used to determine bids for funds under the National Affordable Housing Programme; and if she will make a statement. [75395]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Corporation invited bids for funding from the National Affordable Housing Programme 2006-08. These were assessed for compliance with the competition requirements as follows:

"(i) Additionality—grant must be necessary for the affordable housing to be delivered;

(ii) Rent levels in accordance with Corporation or statutory rent regimes to ensure affordability;

(iii) Schemes must be financially independent;

(iv) Schemes must meet or exceed the minimum standards covering design and quality (expressed through the Corporation's Scheme Development Standards, Housing Quality Indicator system, and a Very Good EcoHomes rating);

(v) Scheme must start on site by 31 March 2008;

(vi) Schemes must complete before 31 March 2011;

(vii) Schemes must conform to the relevant regional housing board priorities;

(viii) Schemes must meet management and maintenance standards (for housing associations schemes must comply with all of the Corporation's regulatory requirements in relation to the management and maintenance of affordable homes);

(ix) Bidders must have the capacity to enter into a programme agreement."

Bids which met these competition requirements were then subject to competitive assessment using four criteria:

Value-for-money;

Quality;

Fit with regional and local housing strategies;

Deliverability within the programme time scale.

The compliance requirements and criteria were set out in the Housing Corporation's pre-prospectus and prospectus published at the time of launch of the bidding round in July 2005.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will introduce a bill to harmonise tenancy rights along the lines recommended by the Law Commission. [73920]

Yvette Cooper: We are still considering the final report and draft Bill on Renting Homes published by the Law Commission on 5 May and have not yet decided on the best way forward.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to provide a right of appeal to owners of properties subject to final empty dwelling management orders. [76051]

Yvette Cooper: An owner already has the right of appeal where their property is the subject of a final empty dwelling management order (EDMO).

Where the owner objects either to the making of the final EDMO or some of the terms on which it is made (including the terms of the management scheme), and the council has not accepted their representations, they will be able to appeal to a Residential Property Tribunal.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses with gardens and two or more bedrooms have been built in Vauxhall since 1 January 2004. [76548]

Yvette Cooper: Information on new build dwellings is collected by the Department for Communities and Local Government and is available by local authority not constituency. No information on new build dwellings with gardens is held centrally.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice her Department has issued to councils on best practice for use of the money given to them by her Department for discretionary housing payments. [76761]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

General guidance was issued to all local authorities when the Discretionary Housing Payments scheme was introduced in July 2001, setting out the conditions for entitlement to an award. However, the decision on whether to make a Discretionary Housing Payment is entirely at the discretion of the local authority concerned so we cannot prescribe whether or not an authority must make a payment in any particular circumstances.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department provided for housing in Tees Valley in 2005-06; and whether an element of the funding was 'top-sliced' for regional housing purposes. [77106]

Yvette Cooper: In total during 2005-06, the Department provided funding totalling £39 million for housing in the Tees Valley region.

All of this funding was directly related to housing activities and it was not 'top-sliced' for regional housing purposes.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a central inventory is kept of non-housing accommodation held by local authorities. [77972]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not available centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Some of the information may, however, be available from the National Land Use Database of Previously-Developed Land (NLUD-PDL). This is a list of sites supplied by local authorities covering vacant and derelict land and also land currently in use with known potential for development. It does not cover other land currently in use but does record whether a site is owned by the local authority.

Information on the sites is available from the NLUD website:

www.nlud.org.uk

The database does not claim complete coverage, particularly of small sites.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to respond to the recommendations of the Affordable Rural Local Housing Commission. [77796]

Yvette Cooper: The Government will use a range of channels and mechanisms to respond in a constructive way to the agenda set by the Commission, including in the forthcoming Spending Review.

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes have been built by Wirral borough council in Wirral, West since 1997. [78382]

Yvette Cooper: Wirral borough council has built no new dwellings in Wirral since 1990. Total development (by the private sector and Registered Social Landlords) in Wirral, West constituency since 1997 has totalled 1,032 gross new build dwellings (20.7 per cent. of the borough total of 4,992 gross new dwellings).

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average house price was in *(a)* Wirral, West and *(b)* Wirral borough area on 30 April in each of the last five years. [78383]

Yvette Cooper: The Department for Communities and Local Government publishes quarterly information on average house prices for local authority areas on our website at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1156155

For the Wirral, the average house prices for the past five years in the second quarter of the year, excluding sub-market sales, are given as follows:

£

Quarter 2:	Wirral	Merseyside
2001	73,533	69,582
2002	85,023	77,573
2003	98,677	91,407

Quarter 2:	Wirral	£ Merseyside
2004	125,327	116,309
2005	140,163	128,293

Source: Land Registry

The Department hold no datasets for Wirral, West.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a local authority has made use of its powers under section 183 of the Housing Act 2004. [75304]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. It is for each local authority to use this provision as it considers appropriate to meet its housing needs.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the resources available to district councils in housing expansion growth areas to process large-scale planning applications. [75185]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities in the growth areas have received £75,770,362 in total Planning Delivery Grant since 2003 to help them deal with major applications and other planning requirements. They also receive funding of £7 million annually to support local delivery vehicles in the major growth locations, some of which directly help with handling big schemes.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new affordable housing units were completed in *(a)* Dudley, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England in each year since 2000. [74196]

Yvette Cooper: According to information provided by local authorities the number of new affordable housing units completed is as follows. These numbers include homes for rent, shared ownership, and other affordable private sector homes. They include homes funded by the Government and those funded by the private sector under section 106 agreements negotiated by local councils.

	Dudley	West Midlands	England
2000-01	134	5,216	44,971
2001-02	85	2,858	29,806
2002-03	137	2,789	28,826
2003-04	50	2,864	32,605
2004-05	100	3,410	33,154
2005-06[1]	157	4,717	46,529

[1] Figures for 2005-06 are forecasts as at April 2005 because local councils have not yet supplied actual data for 2005-06.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to encourage the provision of affordable housing for key public sector workers in Swindon. [79187]

Yvette Cooper: The Key Worker Living programme does not currently operate in the South West region. In the South West region £302.7 million has been allocated by the Housing Corporation for housing schemes to start in 2006-08. They will provide 8,465 new affordable homes, of which 625 will be in Swindon.

Of the 625 homes being provided in Swindon, 455 will be for social rent, eligibility for which will be decided by the local authority through their nomination procedures. The remaining 170 will be for low cost home ownership or intermediate rent.

Key public sector workers will be eligible for these units alongside social tenants, those on the housing register and first-time buyers prioritised for assistance by regional housing boards.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the future of arm's length management organisations in council housing. [68595]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced the final bidding round of the Arm's Length Management Organisation (ALMO) programme and launched the publication of the outcome of the ALMO review, which sets out how Government see the long term future of ALMOs, and a discussion paper setting the decent homes programme in its broader context in a written statement to the House on Wednesday 7 June.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the number of dwellings available for low-cost home ownership. [74193]

Yvette Cooper: The Government aim to help an additional 100,000 households into home ownership from 2005-10. We are implementing a number of measures to boost housing supply and deliver more affordable housing. This includes increased investment of £970 million being provided through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme in 2006-08 for low cost home ownership schemes to help 35,000 new homeowners get their first step on the home ownership ladder and bringing forward more public sector land to increase the supply of new homes.

The Shared Equity Task Force, led by myself and the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, has been established to examine further ways to increase the number of people able to benefit from shared equity products. The task force will report by the end of 2006 to inform decisions on the comprehensive spending review in the summer of 2007.

In addition, the Government intend to publish a revised "Planning Policy Statement for Housing" (PPS3) later this year to improve the delivery of both market and affordable housing through the planning system.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new homes have been built by Coventry borough council in Coventry, South since 1997. [79029]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* Coventry city council has not built any new homes since 1997. New provision of affordable housing is now delivered through the Government's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) which primarily funds housing associations who can lever in additional independent borrowing.

Social Housing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress

has been made towards the decent home standards for social housing in Coventry South; and if she will make a statement. [79830]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 22 June 2006]*: The information is as follows:

Social housing and Decent Homes in Coventry City

It is not possible to provide separate information about social housing in Coventry South.

There is no social housing in the ownership of the city council because of the transfer in September 2000 of all the council housing (around 20,000 dwellings) to the Whitefriars Housing Group under the large-scale voluntary transfer (LSVT) arrangements.

The Housing Corporation, which has a regulatory role for RSLs, monitors progress towards the Decent Homes target for this sector of social housing.

The Housing Corporation began collecting local authority area-based data about levels of decency in RSL social housing stock in 2005.

This data showed that at March 2005 there were 23,665 social homes in the city of Coventry owned and managed by RSLs, and that just over 6,000 (26 per cent.) of these did not meet the Decent Homes standard at that time.

The Housing Corporation is satisfied that the 32 RSLs with social housing stock in the Coventry area are on target to meet the Decent Homes target in 2010.

Whitefriars Housing Group

The Whitefriars Housing Group is by far the largest social landlord in Coventry, with 17,075 dwellings in March 2005, making up 72 per cent. of the total social housing in the city.

The council's decision in 2000 (supported by a tenant ballot) to transfer the council housing stock was driven by the need to access new sources of funding. A stock condition survey had shown that the investment requirement at that time to bring the housing up to modern standards was £250 million and the council was unable to identify the necessary resources.

At the time of the stock transfer the Decent Homes standard had not been developed, but in March 2004 approximately 42 per cent. of the Whitefriars homes were identified as non-decent. By March 2005 this level had been reduced to 27 per cent., when only 4,593 homes failed to meet the standard.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans there are to build more social housing in the West Midlands. [74193]

Yvette Cooper: The Government award Regional Housing Pot funding to each region in England and ask Regional Housing Boards to recommend how the funding should be allocated in accordance with the Regional Housing Strategy. In the West Midlands, 2006-08 Regional Housing Pot funding has been allocated to fund provision of an additional 2,683 homes for social rent.

In addition, it is expected that further homes for social rent will be provided under section 106 agreements negotiated between local councils and developers in accordance with Government policy.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what acreage of private residential gardens in North Somerset has been lost to infill development in each year since 2000. [73976]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Private Members' Bills were drafted by her Department, or predecessor Department, in each Session since 1997; and which of those subsequently received Royal Assent. [77496]

Angela E. Smith: Members will consider a range of possible subjects before introducing their Private Members' Bills.

Government draftsmen draft some Bills in advance which are available as one of the options for Members to consider before they make their selection.

However, Members may make subsequent amendments or revisions to a Government drafted Bill, or use it as the basis for a Private Members' Bill in the future.

The information requested is therefore not collected.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which Bills sponsored by her Department are still to be introduced during the current Session; and when, and into which House, each will be introduced; [77497]

(2) what plans she has for legislation in the next Session of Parliament; and if she will make a statement. [77498]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House on Friday 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

Living Naze Community Project

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much public money has been made available to the Living Naze regeneration project. [76353]

Yvette Cooper: The Essex Development and Regeneration Agency (ExDRA) Sub-Regional Economic Partnership allocated £50,000 from its delegated (from EEDA) Rural Renaissance fund in January 2005 to partly fund a company to produce a feasibility study about Walton Hall Barns.

Local Authority Properties

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance is issued to local authorities on the desirable *(a)* size, *(b)* nature and *(c)* value per head of population of the non-housing properties and facilities owned by local authorities. [77918]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not issued any specific guidance on the desirable *(a)* size, *(b)* nature and *(c)* value per head of population of the non-housing properties and facilities owned by local authorities. We expect local authorities to decide this according to their local needs.

Local Government Officers (Castle Point)

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will meet the hon. Member for Castle Point to discuss *(a)* the performance of local government officers in Castle Point, *(b)* their code of conduct and *(c)* their delivery of services to the population of Castle Point. [79555]

Angela E. Smith: I am happy to meet the hon. Member for Castle Point.

London Population

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on providing accommodation in London to take account of its projected population increase. [73276]

Yvette Cooper: The Mayor of London's London Plan, published in February 2004, and borough development plans, set out targets for housing provision in London, and take account of the need for housing. The London Plan housing targets are currently under review.

Mayor of London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the Government's response to the consultation on the powers of the Mayor of London. [73607]

Mr. Woolas: The Government aim to publish their response shortly.

Northern Way

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibility she has for the Northern Way initiative. [74044]

Yvette Cooper: The Northern Way is an ambitious pan-regional growth strategy being driven by the three northern regional development agencies and their partners. It aims to close the £30 billion output gap between the north and the England average and its work will therefore play an important part in delivering the Government's regional economic performance PSA target.

The Department for Communities and Local Government co-ordinates the Government's involvement with the Northern Way. Alongside Treasury and DTI, the Department works closely with the Northern Way to help them develop their plans and facilitates their engagement with the other Government Departments. The Department also match funded the regional development agencies' contribution to create a £100 million growth fund for pilot projects exploring innovative ways of increasing economic growth in the north.

Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the Standards Board for England has issued to local authorities on the predetermination of decisions. [70586]

Yvette Cooper: The Department for Communities and Local Government has issued no guidance of the sort mentioned. In addition, the avoidance of predetermination is not an issue explicitly mentioned in the model code of conduct for local authority members, and so would not be an issue for the Standards Board. As far as determining planning applications is concerned, the Standards Board does provide specific guidance relating to members' personal and prejudicial interests. The Local Government Association published guidance in January this year, "Probity in Planning: The role of Councillors and Officers". This gives propriety guidance to members of planning committees to help avoid accusations of predetermining applications.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of applications to build on brownfield sites were applications to build on gardens in the last period for which figures are available. [72549]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition of a growth area is. [78236]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* The four growth areas announced by the Government in the Sustainable Communities Plan 2003 are being taking forward further to Regional Planning Guidance for the wider south east (2001), and are based on proposals by regional and local partners. They were identified because of their potential to take on further growth more sustainably, with less environmental impact, and to exploit major transport and economic investment.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the recommended average length of consultation times for proposals for *(a)* sex shops, *(b)* casinos and *(c)* the sale of council owned land; and if she will make a statement. [78542]

Yvette Cooper: The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 provides that, when a planning application is made, the local planning authority has to publicise it and then allow 21 days for people to comment.

If premises are already in shop use, there would be no need for planning permission to switch to some other branch of retail activity.

Sale of land does not amount to 'development', so is not subject to planning controls.

However, if a local authority is proposing to dispose of open space (including land laid out as a public garden or used for public recreation) the Local Government Act 1972 requires the authority to advertise its intentions in a local newspaper for two consecutive weeks, and to consider any objections.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether the Government have appointed consultants to undertake research into councillor involvement in planning decisions; [79922]

(2) what consultation will be held with councillors on proposed changes to the way planning decisions are made; [78923]

(3) whether the Government are reviewing the role of local councillors in planning decisions; and if she will make a statement; [78924]

(4) if she will ensure councillors retain involvement in the planning process. [78925]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have appointed Arup to undertake research to provide information on councillor involvement in planning decisions. We have no proposals for change either to the way planning decisions are made or to councillors' involvement in the planning process.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for planning guidance to be given to local authorities by her Department. [78316]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 810W.

Progress on replacement of PPGs is as follows:

PPS number	*Subject*	*Consultation draft*	*Publication of revised PPS/PPG*
1	Delivering sustainable development	23 February 2004	1 February 2005
3	Planning for housing	5 December 2005	Summer 2006
4	Economic development	Timing to be decided	
6	Planning for town centres	15 December 2003	21 March 2005
7	Sustainable development in rural areas	15 September 2003	3 August 2004
9	Nature conservation/biodiversity	8 September 2004	16 August 2005
10	Planning for sustainable waste management	6 December 2004	21 July 2005
11	Regional planning	13 October 2003	7 September 2004
12	Development plans	13 October 2003	7 September 2004
22	Renewable energy	5 November 2003	9 August 2004
23	Pollution control	February + July 2002	3 November 2004
24	Planning and noise	Timing to be decided	
25	Development and flood risk	5 December 2005	Later in 2006
	Climate change	Later in 2006	2007

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sites in England have planning permission for educational use but are not currently occupied by a school. [74148]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The information requested is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sites in each London borough have planning permission for educational use but are not occupied by a school; and if she will make a statement. [77490]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The Department does not hold the information requested, and it could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Local authorities are responsible for considering planning applications and the great majority are not referred to my Department.

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she issues to local authorities on the assessment of risks from flooding when considering planning permissions for new basement properties in London near to the River Thames. [76695]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The Government's guidance to planning authorities on development and flood risk is set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note (PPG) 25. This advises that planning applications in flood risk areas are always accompanied by a flood risk assessment, and that the Environment Agency is consulted. Flood risk areas are those mapped by the Agency as being at risk from river and tidal flooding, but sites outside such areas can also be at risk due to local topography, for example at the foot of hills where storm-water runoff may overwhelm sewers. Flood risk assessments should address the source of flooding, its potential extent, depth and speed of inundation and its likely impact on the development during its lifetime, taking climate change into account. They should demonstrate how the risk will be managed and identify any residual risk (the risk remaining after flood defences have been taken into account). Proposals for the development of new properties with basements would have to demonstrate (to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency and the Local Planning Authority) that the residual risk to the development and its occupants was acceptable. In addition, the introduction of basement accommodation into a flood risk area should also not materially increase the flood risk to other properties or occupants. The new Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 25 that we intend to issue this autumn will strengthen this advice.

Rushenden Link Road

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to announce the timetable for *(a)* the funding and *(b)* the building of the Rushenden Link Road. [78077]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* The information is as follows.

(a) Following the announcement that £12 million had been allocated to the Rushenden Link Road (bringing the total investment to £19 million) discussions are continuing, with the South East England development agency (SEEDA), to complete the Department's internal appraisal requirements and agree the final funding package.

(b) Responsibility for the build programme rests with SEEDA with the works being undertaken by Kent county council (KCC).

Forecast start date for construction on site is June 2007. This is dependent on the adoption of the masterplan and receipt of planning permission.

My officials in the Thames Gateway Delivery Unit will update my hon. Friend when the formal funding agreement has been issued.

Secured by Design

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to achieve the aims of the Secured by Design initiative through the planning process. [73869]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have issued detailed planning guidance on planning and crime prevention in England. "Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development" (PPS1), published in 2005, places strong emphasis on the role of planning in helping to create safe and sustainable communities. Planning authorities are asked to have robust policies which address crime prevention issues in their development plans. Crime prevention is also capable of being a material planning consideration in the consideration of planning applications.

In applying the policy in PPS1 we have asked planning authorities to have regard to the guidance we have published in "Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention" (Office of the Deputy Prime Minster/Home Office, 2004). This offers detailed guidance on the lay-out of all buildings and spaces to reduce the risk of crime, including, where appropriate, the incorporation of target hardening measures such as CCTV in new development.

"Safer Places" advises that in designing and considering development proposals, the physical protection of development by using target hardening principles such as Secured by Design should be considered. The guidance also highlights a number of examples of best practice involving Secured by Design principles and urges all involved in the planning and design of buildings and environments to work closely with police architectural liaison officers or crime prevention design advisors.

Alongside this guidance we are also examining how best to incorporate measures to improve the security of new homes. Compliance with Secured by Design standards is one of the options being considered.

Sustainable Buildings

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to encourage Swindon borough council to apply the higher level standards of the new Code for Sustainable Buildings to new homes. [77148]

Yvette Cooper: Consultation on the proposed Code for Sustainable Homes ended on 6 March 2006. In the light of the consultation responses, the Government announced proposals to strengthen the code on 9 March 2006. This announcement also said that these improvements would be developed over the coming months.

The Government are also carrying out a detailed analysis of the consultation returns and final decisions on further ways to encourage the take up of the code are still being considered.

Thames Gateway

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funds have been allocated for greenspace projects in the Thames Gateway in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [78816]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* Our proposals for environmental and greenspace improvements were set out in the Greening the Gateway implementation plan published in February 2005. The total funding toward greenspace and environmental projects from the Thames Gateway Programme fund between 2003-04 to 2007-08 is just under £25 million, of which about £19.7 million has already been spent. Expenditure in 2006-07 and 2007-08 is expected to be £4.6 million and £612,000 respectively.

Trees in Towns

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department will publish the report Trees in Towns II; and why its publication has been delayed from Autumn 2005. [78544]

Yvette Cooper: The final report for Trees in Towns II was received by my Department at the beginning of June 2006. Preparation of the material for publication in a range of media is in hand and publication is expected later in 2006.

Underused Land

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition is of underused land. [78261]

Yvette Cooper: The Local Government (Publication of Information About Unused and Underused Land) (England) Regulations 1992 referred to underused land but only that owned by specified local authorities. The regulations were revoked in 1996.

The register of surplus public sector land, set up in 2003, records land that becomes surplus to the operational requirements of the owning body and is therefore available for disposal. It covers land owned by central Government bodies. See http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/rspl.htm.

Under-Value Property Disposals

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which "best consideration" decisions for disposing of property at an undervalue have been *(a)* refused and *(b)* permitted by the Secretary of State further to the Local Government Act 1972 in each year since 1977. [78277]

Yvette Cooper: Data on local authority land disposals at less than best consideration made under the Local Government Act 1972 are not available

centrally for the whole of this period. The revised General Disposal Consent issued in 2003 requires disposals with an undervalue of more than £2 million to receive the specific consent of the Secretary of State. There have been no cases under the current General Disposal Consent where consent has been refused. Consents given by the Secretary of State since the introduction of these arrangements are set out in the following table:

	Local authority	
2003	Birmingham City Council	Freehold disposal of land at Haden Circus, Birmingham, to provide a site for a sixth form college.
2003	Kirklees Metropolitan Council	Freehold disposal of land at Shepherds Grove, Deighton, Huddersfield, for residential development.
2004	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	Freehold disposal of undeveloped land at Foxdown, Hampshire, for residential development.
2004	Manchester City Council	Leasehold disposal of land at One Central Park, Newton Heath, Manchester, for a science park, education and research facilities.
2005	London Borough of Greenwich	Leasehold disposal of a school site in Abbey Wood for a City Academy school.
2006	Buckinghamshire County Council, Aylesbury	Release of Green Belt Act 1938 Covenant at Berryfields.

Village Pubs

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will take steps to strengthen controls preventing village pubs from being bought and closed down by property speculators; [74134]

(2) if she will make a statement on Government policy on planning as it affects village pubs. [74135]

Yvette Cooper: Government policies in relation to planning for village pubs are set out in planning policy statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (PPS6) and planning policy statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (PPS7).

PPS 6 asks local planning authorities where appropriate to adopt policies that enhance the vitality and viability of rural service centres, such as villages. In considering proposals for new development, local authorities should take into account the likely impact of the new development on services that are important to the local community.

Local planning authorities are also asked to consider the scale of new leisure development, including pubs, and its likely impact on the character and function of a village, for example in terms of antisocial behaviour, crime and the amenities of residents.

PPS7 supports the PPS6 policy approach to enhancing the viability of village services, including village pubs. It advises local planning authorities to support the retention of valuable local facilities and to set out in their local development documents the criteria they will apply in considering planning applications that would result in the loss of important village services.

The planning system cannot control the closure of a business or the sale of land or premises. Planning permissions relate to the use of land, and ownership is not a relevant consideration. The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, as amended, allows a change of use from A4 (drinking establishments) to A3 (restaurant and cafes), A2 (financial and professional services), and A1 (shops). A change to any other use would require planning permission.

If a pub is converted to a use other than those described, without planning permission, local planning authorities have a wide range of discretionary enforcement powers to enable them to deal with unauthorised development. It is for the local planning authority to decide in each case which is the most appropriate course of action.

The Government have no plans to control the buying and selling, or closure of village pubs. The use to which land and premises are put is a matter for individual land owners, so long as the necessary consents are in place.

West Midlands Regional Assembly

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has for provision of further powers to the West Midlands regional assembly. [73835]

Yvette Cooper: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 210W.

Weymouth Relief Road

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to call in the application to build the Weymouth relief road. [79076]

Yvette Cooper: Dorset county council is currently considering a planning application for the Weymouth relief road. Once they have completed their consideration the Secretary of State will decide whether the application should be called in for her own determination or remain with Dorset county council for decision.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

17. **Mr. Clapham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the contribution of British troops activities to economic and social development in Afghanistan. [79726]

Des Browne: British forces are working closely with other Government Departments to deliver an integrated package of military, economic, diplomatic and developmental assistance. The role of UK forces is primarily to assist the Afghans in creating a secure environment within which the country's reconstruction and development can take place.

20. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units have been earmarked as replacements for the units currently serving with 16 Air Assault Brigade in Afghanistan; and when the replacement is due to take place. [79729]

Des Browne: No final decisions have been made on which units will replace 16 Air Assault Brigade in Afghanistan. As with all deployments, an announcement will be made in the House in due course.

Army Recruitment

18. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent trend he has identified in levels of recruitment to the Army. [79727]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Ludlow (Mr. Dunne), at column 14.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many applications from Northern Ireland to join the Army were rejected on national security grounds in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05. [78770]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer he was given on 12 September 2005, *Official Report*, columns 2276-77W. From 21 July 2005 until 31 December 2005 four more applications from Northern Ireland to join the Army were rejected on national security grounds.

Veterans Challenge Fund

19. **Ann Coffey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the performance of the Veterans Challenge Fund. [79728]

Mr. Watson: The Veterans Challenge Fund has allowed substantial improvements to be made to the work of Government and other organisations addressing the needs of veterans. Over 50 projects have been supported, covering issues from homelessness and suicide among veterans to recognition of their achievements. A full list of the projects that have received challenge fund backing can be found on the Veterans Agency website. We have work in hand to improve understanding of the purpose and availability of the fund.

Cadet Forces

21. **Andrew Miller:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the contribution cadet forces make to the wider community. [79730]

23. **Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken to support the cadet forces. [79733]

Mr. Watson: I refer my hon. Friends to the answer I gave earlier today to my hon. Friend the Member for Bridgend (Mrs. Moon), at column 17.

Military Aircraft

22. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of military aircraft are available for frontline service. [79732]

Mr. Ingram: I have taken aircraft "available for frontline service" to mean those aircraft that are "fit for purpose"; that is assessed to be available for tasking within a 24 hour period. On that basis, over the first two months of this financial year, about 480 aircraft across Strike Command, Joint Helicopter Command and the Royal Navy were fit for purpose, equating to around half of total fleet numbers.

Aircraft are not available for tasking if they are undergoing scheduled maintenance, modification programmes or any unforeseen rectification work, and an aircraft assessed as not fit for purpose may be returned to the front line at very short notice to meet the operational need.

Some training aircraft and helicopters are not included in these figures. I will place details of these figures in the Library of the House.

Falklands War

24. **Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce details of events to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Falklands War in 2007. [79734]

Mr. Watson: My right hon. Friend the former Defence Secretary announced in a written ministerial statement on 27 April plans for the commemoration next year of the 25th Anniversary of the Falklands Conflict. We are planning major events in the UK and the Falkland Islands and are working closely with veterans organisations and others to ensure their success.

Veterans

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of the veterans' badge scheme. [79724]

Mr. Watson: Over 250,000 badges have so far been issued to veterans who left the armed forces before the end of 1954 at a rate of up to 5,000 per week. I am sure many hon. Members on both sides will agree with me that the badge has had a remarkably positive impact. I have been invited to several badge presentations organised by hon. Members and have never failed to be heartened by the pleasure these badges are clearly giving to our veterans. From tomorrow applications will be accepted from those who served up to 31 December 1959 and will be extended further on a phased basis to all qualifying veterans as soon as practicable. In addition, the Deputy Prime Minister launched the UK Merchant Seafarers Veteran's Badge on 24 June and applications will be accepted from tomorrow for those eligible up to the end of 1959.

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what events have been organised in Scotland to celebrate Veterans Day. [76282]

Mr. Watson: The main event in Scotland to celebrate Veterans Day will be held in Dundee on 1 July and will include a Veterans Badge presentation, a parade of veterans and veterans entertainment in the Town Hall. Veterans Day events are also being planned elsewhere, including Lairg, Dunfermline and Crieff and on the former Royal Yacht Britannia in Edinburgh.

A303(T) Stonehenge

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when since January 2006 Ministers, officials and other employees or consultants working for his Department have *(a)* met and *(b)* had discussions with representatives of the National Trust on the northern corridor proposals for a route for the A303(T) north of Stonehenge; and if he will make a statement. [79406]

Mr. Watson: Neither Ministers nor officials have met with representatives of the National Trust (NT) to discuss Stonehenge road issues since 16 January 2006, when NT and Defence estate officials last met. The chief executive of Defence estates met with the director general of the National Trust on 8 February to discuss general issues.

Air Training Corps Squadrons

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of Air Training Corps Squadrons. [78963]

Mr. Ingram: There are no significant changes planned with regard to the Air Training Corps or its Squadrons. The Air Training Corps continues to promote a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force; to provide training useful to Service or civilian employment; and to encourage good citizenship and leadership, as well as a sense of adventure among young men and women. The Air Training Corps will continue to be supported by the Royal Air Force, and is an integral part of the Government's Over-Arching Youth Strategy.

Armed Forces (Foreign Personnel)

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-Commonwealth foreign servicemen are serving in the armed forces, broken down by *(a)* country of origin and *(b)* service. [79107]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* The number of non-Commonwealth foreign UK regular service personnel serving in the armed forces at 1 April 2006, broken down by nationality, are shown in the following table:

Country	*All services*	*Naval service*	*Army*[1]	*Royal Air Force*[2]
Total non-Commonwealth Foreign Service Personnel	[3]390	70	[3]255	[3]70
France	[3, 4]—	0	[3, 4]—	[3]0
Germany[5]	[3, 4]—	[4]—	[3, 4]—	[3]0
Egypt	[3, 4]—	0	[3]0	[3, 4]—
Eire	[3]330	50	[3]215	[3]60
Nepal	[3]30	0	[3]30	[3]0
Switzerland	[3, 4]—	0	[3, 4]—	[3]0
Ukraine	[3, 4]—	[4]—	[3]0	[3]0
United Arab Emirates	[3]10	10	[3]0	[3]0
USA	[3]5	[4]—	[3, 4]—	[3, 4]—
Other non-Commonwealth Personnel[6]	[3]5	0	[3]5	[3]0
Not Known	[3]540	505	[3]25	[3]10

[1] Army figures are provisional pending investigation.
[2] Due to the introduction of a new personnel administration system for RAF, all RAF data are provisional and subject to review. RAF data are for personnel serving at 6 March 2006. They include personnel who at that date had attested but had not begun basic training.
[3] Provisional.
[4] Fewer than five.
[5] Includes personnel with nationality recorded as West German.
[6] Includes personnel with nationality recorded as foreign/foreign.

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest five to prevent disclosure of sensitive information.
2. Data are for UK regular forces (trained and untrained), including nursing services and excluding full-time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Commonwealth servicemen there are in the British armed forces, broken down by *(a)* country of posting and *(b)* service. [79108]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* Figures showing the posted location of United Kingdom regular forces from Commonwealth countries can be found in the following table.

Commonwealth UK regular service personnel broken down by posted location at 1 April 2006

Posted country	*All services*	*Naval service*	*Army*	*RAF*
Belgium	[1, 2]—	0	[1, 2]—	[1, 2]—
Belize	[1, 2]—	0	[1, 2]—	[1]0

Commonwealth UK regular service personnel broken down by posted location at 1 April 2006

Posted country	*All services*	*Naval service*	*Army*	*RAF*
British Indian Ocean Territory	[1, 2]—	[2]—	[1]0	[1]0
Brunei	[1, 2]—	0	[1, 2]—	[1]0
Canada	[1]5	0	[1]5	[1]0
Cyprus	[1]90	0	[1]85	[1, 2]—
Falkland Islands	[1]25	0	[1]25	[1]0
Germany	[1]1,460	0	[1]1,460	[1]0
Gibraltar	[1, 2]—	0	[1, 2]—	[1]0
Iraq	[1, 2]—	[2]—	[1]0	[1]0
Kuwait	[1, 2]—	0	[1]0	[1, 2]—

Commonwealth UK regular service personnel broken down by posted location at 1 April 2006

Posted country	All services	Naval service	Army	RAF
Netherlands	1, 2—	0	[1]0	1, 2—
Oman	1, 2—	0	[1]0	1, 2—
Saudi Arabia	1, 2—	0	[1]0	1, 2—
Sierra Leone	1, 2—	0	1, 2—	[1]0
United Kingdom	[1]5,405	390	[1]4,815	[1]200
United States of America	1, 2—	0	1, 2—	1, 2—
Other	1, 2—	0	1, 2—	[1]0
Total	[1]7,005	395	[1]6,405	[1]210

[1] Provisional.
[2] Less than five.

Notes:
1. Data are for UK regular forces (trained and untrained), including nursing services and excluding full-time reserve service personnel, Ghurkhas, the home service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.
2. Location is based on the posted location of the unit/posting which an individual is recorded against. Personnel deployed on operations to an area away from their posted unit location are shown against their posted unit location.
3. Data are rounded to the nearest five to prevent disclosure of sensitive information.
4. Army figures are provisional pending investigation.
5. Due to the introduction of a new personnel administration system for RAF, all RAF data are provisional and subject to review. RAF data are for personnel serving at 6 March 2006. They include personnel who at that date had attested but had not begun basic training.
6. These figures do not include 540 (provisional) UK regular service personnel who have an unknown nationality marker.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies are being carried out on future warhead options by officials at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston. [78962]

Des Browne: There is no programme to develop a new UK nuclear warhead. As was stated in the 1998 Strategic Defence Review, we retain a minimum capability to design and manufacture a new warhead, should one be required. Work by officials is now underway to prepare for decisions on the future of the UK's nuclear deterrent and also to keep options open in advance of these decisions. It remains the case that no decisions have yet been taken.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are for the construction of an additional tritium facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston. [76767]

Des Browne: There are currently no plans to construct an additional tritium facility at AWE. Essential refurbishment and replacement of existing facilities is planned as part of the site investment programme announced by my predecessor on 19 July 2005.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are for the construction of a new facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston to make highly enriched uranium warhead components. [76768]

Des Browne: A number of options are under consideration for ensuring we retain the requisite capability. No decisions have yet been taken. The capability to manufacture highly enriched uranium is required in order to maintain the existing Trident warhead throughout its intended in-service life and to provide material for naval propulsion.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the A91 building at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston. [76773]

Des Browne: Plans for building A91 have not yet been formulated.

Casualty Statistics

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the ratio is between fatalities and injuries among UK armed services personnel on active service in Iraq. [73735]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1525-26W, to the hon. Member for Woodspring (Dr. Fox).

Challenger Tanks

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of Challenger's performance in desert conditions in Iraq; and whether he has plans to *(a)* increase the number deployed and *(b)* improve performance of the Challenger in hot climates. [79545]

Mr. Ingram: A programme of modifications to optimise the Challenger 2 Main Battle tank (CR2 MET) for use in desert conditions was begun in October 2002, including a dust mitigation package. The CR2 has performed extremely well throughout operations in Iraq and continues to do so. There are no plans to increase the numbers currently deployed. Performance, under all climatic conditions, is kept under constant review.

Cluster Munitions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has discussed with the Belgian Government its decision to ban cluster munitions. [79687]

Mr. Ingram: No formal discussions have taken place between the Secretary of State for Defence and the Belgian Government on the subject of its decision to ban cluster munitions.

Complaints Management

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the review of his Department's harassment complaints procedure was initiated; what its terms of reference were; what the target date is for completion; and what arrangements he is making for publication. [79917]

Mr. Watson: The review of harassment complaints procedures was initiated on 10 May 2006. Its purpose is to review current procedures and guidance and to recommend changes as necessary. The review is due to be completed in December 2006 and the outcome will be published in a Defence Instruction Notice and other internal media.

Departmental Bills

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for legislation in the next Session of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [78854]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Leader of the House on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1432W.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79063]

Mr. Ingram: There are 12 external websites that are within the responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Defence, and the annual cost of running them is £1,781,123.

Disability Pensions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the efficiency of the operation of the administration of disability pensions awarded to former members of the British Army recruited from the Indian subcontinent during the Second World War. [74110]

Mr. Watson: There is no evidence of systemic problems with the administration of the scheme. In one recent case resolution was delayed due to the difficulties of arranging a medical board in India, compounded by an administrative oversight.

Engagements

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the *(a)* name and *(b)* rank of police officers his predecessor, the right hon. Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), met in his official capacity between 1 July and 31 August 2003. [65233]

Des Browne: My right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) met no police officers in his official capacity as the then Secretary of State for Defence between 1 July and 31 August 2003, apart from the regular contact he had with those responsible for his personal protection.

Future Rapid Effect System Programme

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the progress of the Future Rapid Effect System programme; and whether the programme is on schedule. [79544]

Mr. Ingram: FRES is in its initial Assessment Phase. The broad aims of this phase are to further define the FRES capability and develop a series of affordable options for meeting the requirement; to develop optimum procurement and support strategies for future phases and to manage technology and supplier risk to acceptable levels.

All the technical risk reduction work (the Technology Demonstrator Programmes) has been launched and is on schedule.

Iraq (Military Medals)

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many medals have been awarded to soldiers for serving in Iraq. [78769]

Mr. Watson: As at 19 June 2006, the following medals have been issued to service personnel who have served or are serving in Iraq.

Award	*Number awarded/issued*
Iraq Medal	[1]104,995
Victoria Cross	1
George Cross	1
Distinguished Service Order	12
Conspicuous Gallantry Cross	9
Distinguished Service Cross	1
Military Cross	47
Distinguished Flying Cross	13
Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross	2
Air Force Cross	2
Queens Gallantry Cross	16
George Medal	1

[1] This figure is based on the statistics for the total applications assessed, minus 2 per cent. which is the estimated percentage for those applications rejected as not meeting the eligibility criteria.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1989W, on the Iraq medal, whether any British civilian police officers have been awarded the Iraq service medal. [79667]

Mr. Watson: The MOD Iraq Medal has not been awarded to any British civilian police officers.

NATO Missile Defence Study

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the NATO Missile Defence Feasibility Study will be published; and what role he will play in decisions based on the study. [78951]

Des Browne: The NATO Missile Defence Feasibility Study is classified and the disclosure of its content would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of UK armed forces or that of our allies. NATO has no plans to publish the study, but any decisions based on it will be the subject of NATO discussions in the normal way, in which the UK will be fully engaged.

Non-Proliferation Treaty

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps the Government have taken to implement its disarmament obligations under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. [71522]

Des Browne *[pursuant to the reply, 22 May 2006, Official Report, c. 1329-30W]:* The WE117 nuclear

bomb referred to in the answer should have been shown as the WE177 nuclear bomb.

Panther Command and Liaison Vehicle

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with which units the seven Panther command and liaison test vehicles are in service; and if he will make a statement. [79404]

Mr. Ingram: The Panther Command and Liaison Vehicle is not yet in-service. The seven test vehicles are currently participating in trials at the Armoured Test and Development Unit in Bovington.

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the in-service date is for the Panther Command and Liaison Vehicle; and in what order units will receive these vehicles. [79405]

Mr. Ingram: The current approved ISD for the Panther vehicle is November 2007. In line with current plans, units will receive their vehicles in the following order:

Training establishments;

Lead brigade;

Follow-on brigades;

Remainder of field force users and RAF.

Porton Down

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many animals were used in scientific tests at Porton Down in each of the last three years, broken down by species. [80152]

Mr. Ingram: Dstl Porton Down submits annual returns to the Home Office detailing the number of procedures undertaken which involve the use of animals as defined in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

The annual returns to the Home Office for the years 2003 to 2005, by species, are detailed in the following table.

	2003	2004	2005
G. Pig	653	506	661
Ferret	0	42	60
Hamster	70	0	0
Mouse	12,645	14,737	20,016
Pig	131	80	127
Rabbit	22	12	3
Rat	355	320	195
Sheep	0	0	2
Cattle	0	1	0
Non-human Primate	23	30	54
Total	13,899	15,728	21,118

I also refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 41W, to the hon. Member for Portsmouth South, (Mr. Hancock).

Terrorist Threats

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what work has been carried out to *(a)* locate and *(b)* monitor foreign subjects who are a potential terrorist threat to (i) the UK and (ii) British people living abroad. [78200]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

Law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies have development programmes for fighting terrorism which includes work to locate and monitor foreign nationals who represent a potential terrorist threat. The specific police budget for counter terrorism will have grown fourfold between the financial years 2002-03 and 2007-08 (in the period after the attacks of 11 September 2001). Across Government there has been a doubling of resources for counter terrorism and resilience in the same period to over £2 billion. This has included substantial additional resources to the security and intelligence agencies, including an additional £85 million since the July bombings last year to bring forward planned enhancements of their ability to collect, analyse and act upon intelligence to seek out and disrupt terrorist activity.

The specific actions taken to locate and monitor foreign nationals who are a potential terrorist threat to Britain and British citizens abroad are operational matters for law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies.

Priory Group

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many service personnel have been treated by the Priory Group in each year since the contract with the Group began; and how many have subsequently *(a)* returned to duty and *(b)* been discharged; [76847]

(2) for what reasons the Priory Group was selected as the sole provider of in-patient psychiatric healthcare service; and which other companies applied to be considered; [76848]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the treatment provided by the Priory Group for service personnel; and what criteria he used to make that assessment. [76849]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* We assess that the Priory Group provides an excellent in-patient psychiatric service based on an individual's clinical needs. Service liaison officers routinely visit the Group's hospital units where we have in-patients to ensure that our arrangements are working effectively in terms of patient care and treatment, including attending ward rounds that involve service patients; the service liaison officer also acts as a "service advocate" for the patient. They also meet regularly with Priory representatives to discuss treatment and best practice. We assess the contractual elements of our agreement with the Priory Group at quarterly meetings held between the MOD and the Priory Group. Both the service liaison officer and contract meetings examine the Priory's performance against the particular performance indicators of the contract. Furthermore, the MOD's Directorate of Healthcare monitors, on a daily basis, case management and financial components of the contract.

The MOD's requirement for the provision of in-patient mental healthcare was advertised in the "Official Journal of the European Communities" and the "MOD Contracts Bulletin". Four companies—The Priory Group Ltd.,

Cygnet Healthcare Ltd., Affinity Healthcare, and Selrack Consulting—expressed an interest in the requirement. They were then invited to an Industry Day, in order to give them a better understanding of the requirement and to enable them to discuss with MOD in more detail what they would be able to provide. Following the exchange of information at the Industry Day, the MOD decided that Selrack Consulting would be unable to provide the services required and therefore invited the three remaining companies to tender. The Priory Group Ltd. and Cygnet Healthcare Ltd. submitted bids. The bid from The Priory Group Ltd. best met our requirements to provide high-quality mental health in-patient care nationwide, without delay, and within easy reach of unit, base or home.

The contract with the Priory Group commenced on 1 December 2003. Reception of service patients by the Priory Group's inpatient facilities was phased in between 1 December 2003 and April 2004. This phase-in period allowed MOD and the Priory Group to develop interoperable working procedures and the MOD the opportunity to gradually enhance its community-based mental health teams.

Since the beginning of the contract, The Priory Group has admitted 730 service personnel for in-patient treatment. This can be broken down by year as follows:

	Number of patients
2003-04[1]	58
2004-05	321
2005-06	351
Total	730

[1] From 1 December 2003.

While an individual's medical record will show their medical history, at present, we do not hold centrally a collated set of records specifically limited to former patients who have returned to duty or have been discharged following treatment at the Priory. However, we have started a study into the medium to long-term prognosis of former patients who were discharged from Priory care between the 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005. This will help to enhance our understanding of the long-term effectiveness of the treatment they received.

RAF Machrihanish

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of RAF Machrihanish. [79496]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* Ministry of Defence officials are discussing with other public sector agencies, including the Scottish Executive, alternative future uses of the site and how best to manage any disposal, to protect the longer term interests of the local community and other stakeholders.

Once these discussions have concluded I will make an announcement on how the Department plans to proceed.

Sergeant BB

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what date the case conference relating to the case of Sergeant BB took place; how many persons attended; what *(a)* disciplines, *(b)* fields of expertise, *(c)* military agencies and *(d)* external bodies were represented; and what measures were taken to hear evidence from (i) victims and (ii) their families; [79871]

(2) what recommendations were agreed following the case conference relating to the case of Sergeant BB; [79872]

(3) what legal expertise was available to the case conference relating to the case of Sergeant BB. [79873]

Mr. Ingram: A case conference relating to Sergeant BB was convened by the Director of Personal Services (Army) on 11 May 2006. 12 individuals attended the conference representing Policy, Welfare, Military Discipline, Training, Military Postings, Legal and Police disciplines, from the Director of Personal Services (Army), Army Training and Recruiting Agency, Headquarters Adjutant General, Provost Marshal (Army), Headquarters Land Command and the Directorate of Army Legal Services. No external agencies were present and no evidence was taken.

A number of recommendations were agreed following the case conference, which relate to an individual's suitability for employment with under 18s: the selection process; career management; standards of reporting; and awareness of the complaints process. The Army is currently considering how best to take these recommendations forward.

Trainees Accommodation

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his timetable is for *(a)* planning, *(b)* commissioning, *(c)* construction and *(d)* opening 4,000 new accommodation units for phase two trainees by 2012. [79847]

Mr. Watson: The arrangements for new accommodation units to be supplied to phase 2 trainees are currently being evaluated as part of the Defence Training Review (DTR) Rationalisation programme. Very different bid proposals have been received for both DTR packages and until evaluation has concluded, and a preferred bidder for each package identified, the specifics of the solutions in terms of planning and execution of accommodation units cannot be confirmed. I anticipate announcing preferred bidders and their solutions later this year.

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where and how often the UK carries out tests to ensure the accuracy of Trident nuclear missiles. [79086]

Des Browne: The UK carries out unarmed Trident missile firings at the United States of America's Eastern Test Range after each submarine's build and Long Overhaul Period. The information collected includes accuracy data.

The following table shows the details of previous unarmed firings:

Date	Vessel	Purpose	Number of unarmed missiles
26 May 1994	HMS Vanguard	Prior to initial deployment	1
19 June 1994	HMS Vanguard	Prior to initial deployment	1
24 July 1995	HMS Victorious	Prior to initial deployment	1
22 August 1995	HMS Victorious	Prior to initial deployment	1
10 October 1997	HMS Vigilant	Prior to initial deployment	2
21 September 2000	HMS Vengeance	Prior to initial deployment	1
10 October 2005	HMS Vanguard	Post refit (Long Overhaul Period (Refuel))	1

The frequency of test firings is dependent on the Long Overhaul Period programme.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what components of the Trident missile system are *(a)* on loan or *(b)* have been purchased from the United States of America. [79087]

Des Browne: The UK has no Trident missile system components on loan from the US. The UK purchased the rights to 58 Trident missiles and removable missile components under the Polaris Sales Agreement (as amended for Trident). The warheads were procured separately by the UK.

United States Bases (Jurisdiction)

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which police force is responsible for investigating a serious crime committed against a British citizen where such a crime occurs on a base where US personnel outnumber UK personnel. [76292]

Mr. Watson: In accordance with the Visiting Forces Act 1952, and depending on the circumstances of the case, either the local Home Department Police or the Ministry of Defence Police, can investigate a crime committed against a British citizen on a base utilised by the United States Visiting Forces.

Uranium Production Facilities

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston have held with representatives of the Y-12 plant in the United States of America on the construction of uranium production facilities; [79092]

(2) what discussions he has had with US officials on the development of a uranium production facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston. [76769]

Des Browne: Discussions on a range of nuclear issues take place on a regular basis between my officials and their US counterparts under the auspices of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement.

Warhead Option Studies

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people are employed *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston on warhead option studies; what the purpose is of these studies; and what their cost is. [79088]

Des Browne: There is no programme to develop a new UK nuclear warhead. As was stated in the 1998 Strategic Defence Review, we retain a minimum capability to design and manufacture a new warhead, should one be required. Work by officials is under way to prepare for decisions on the future of the UK's nuclear deterrent and also to keep options open in advance of these decisions.

A number of people are involved in this work but it is not possible precisely to distinguish between staff employed in support of this work and those involved in sustaining the existing Trident warhead, and neither is it possible separately to identify costs.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the number of Taliban fighters operating in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [79924]

Dr. Howells: It is not easy to distinguish between the Taliban and other groups hostile to the current political process in Afghanistan. We estimate that at any one time the Taliban may be able to call upon up to a thousand fighters in the south of Afghanistan, a primary operating area. Some groups can temporarily augment their numbers by leveraging tribal, personal and criminal networks.

According to an Afghan spokesmen for the 'Strengthening Peace Programme', the Afghan-led programme aimed at reconciling insurgent fighters, which is led by the Senate Speaker and former President, Sibghatullah Mojadeddi, around 1,200 former insurgents have entered the programme as of early June 2006.

China

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* the change in the volume of China's trade with Africa since 2005 and *(b)* its effect on (i) standards of living and (ii) democracy in those states in Africa. [79428]

Mr. McCartney: The volume of trade between China and Africa has quadrupled since 2001, standing at almost US$40 billion in 2005, with the balance marginally in favour of Africa. Growth in trade looks set to continue, and is helping to fuel economic growth in Africa of

more than 5 per cent., which should help to reduce poverty and improve standards of living. China has a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. We continue to encourage China to engage with Africa in a way that promotes human rights, conflict prevention, sustainable development and democratic and accountable governance, in line with the principles set out in the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

I raised these issues with the Chinese ambassador on 21 June.

Algeria

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the recent bilateral meeting between the Government and the Government of Algeria; and what agreements on extradition and penal issues were made at the meeting. [79987]

Dr. Howells: I visited Algeria on 7-8 June to co-chair the inaugural meeting of the UK/Algeria Joint Commission which aims to further the growing bilateral ties between the two countries. We discussed a range of issues including bilateral trade, support for Algeria's reforms, co-operation in areas such as counter-terrorism and illegal migration, and regional issues. We also discussed UK representation in Algeria, including the British Council. I was pleased to be able to announce that President Bouteflika will visit the UK on 11-12 July.

During the visit the UK initialled four treaties with Algeria on Extradition, Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, Judicial Co-operation in Civil and Commercial Matters, and the Re-admission and Circulation of Persons.

Burma

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what discussions have been held with the Government of Peru regarding a United Nations Security Council resolution on Burma; [79252]

(2) what discussions have been held with the Governments of *(a)* Congo, *(b)* Tanzania and *(c)* Ghana regarding a United Nations Security Council resolution on Burma. [79257]

Mr. McCartney: There are on-going informal discussions regarding a resolution with UN Security Council members including Peru, Congo, Tanzania and Ghana, at official level.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether the Government have the legal authority to ban imports from Burma; [79254]

(2) whether World Trade Organisation rules prevent the United Kingdom from unilaterally imposing trade and investment sanctions on Burma. [79255]

Mr. McCartney: Controls on imports into the European Community, including the UK, fall within the scope of the Community's Common Commercial Policy which is an area of exclusive Community competence. Member states can unilaterally adopt measures but these are limited to strictly defined and exceptional circumstances. Furthermore, any such measures would have to be notified and justified under these exceptions to the European Commission.

Any unilateral measures taken by the UK against Burma would also have to satisfy relevant World Trade Organisation rules on imports of goods and services. For example, a ban on imports of goods from Burma would be in breach of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) rules and therefore would, if challenged by Burma, have to be justified under either the general or security exceptions set down in the GATT Agreement.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action the Government have taken to ascertain whether genocide or attempted genocide is being committed in Burma. [79256]

Mr. McCartney: In co-operation with other Governments, the UN, other humanitarian organisations and non-governmental organisations, we scrutinise evidence of human rights abuses we receive from a wide range of sources. There are credible reports of large-scale human rights abuses in Burma.

Our assessment is that there is currently insufficient evidence to establish that the intent to commit genocide exists. We shall continue to confer with the UN and international partners to ascertain whether genocide or attempted genocide is being committed in Burma.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she *(a)* last met and *(b)* next expects to meet with representatives of the democratically elected government of Burma. [79546]

Mr. McCartney: Burma has no democratically elected government. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no meetings with members of the Burmese Parliament elected in 1990. However, Ministers, our ambassador in Rangoon and senior officials have met members elect of the Burmese Parliament.

Officials are in regular contact with representatives of the Burmese democratic opposition.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Chinese Government on its policy towards Burma. [80157]

Mr. McCartney: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Portsmouth South (Mr. Hancock) on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2145W.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many websites there are within her responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79074]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has responsibility for some 211 websites, which cost £670,000 to maintain in the financial year 2005-06. These websites include the main FCO website, Ukvisas website, more than 180 embassy and High Commission websites and the i-UK.com portal website. A full list of

the websites will be placed in the Library of the House and a copy of the list will be sent to the hon. Member.

Flags

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Union Flag will be flown from 8 a.m until sunset above Government buildings in all Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies on Her Majesty The Queen's official birthday on 17 June 2006. [78939]

Mr. Hoon: The Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies are constitutionally not part of the United Kingdom and they all have their own flags. All of the Territories and Crown Dependencies marked Her Majesty the Queen's Official Birthday by flying their own flag and/or the Union Flag above government buildings, except for Pitcairn Islands. Turks and Caicos Islands chose to celebrate the occasion on 10 June in line with their standard practice.

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on foreign travel by her Department in each of the last eight years. [76059]

Mr. Hoon: The following amounts were spent on foreign travel by Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and officials in each of the last eight financial years:

	£ million
1998-99	29.8
1999-2000	32.0
2000-01	35.3
2001-02	42.0
2002-03	39.0
2003-04	39.0
2004-05	41.5
2005-06	45.8

Since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. This information is available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2004-05 was published on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 158WS. Information for the financial year 2005-06 is in the process of being collated and will be published shortly.

All foreign travel undertaken by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code". Since 2004 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has followed a policy of offsetting carbon dioxide and other emissions generated by air travel of Ministers and officials based in the UK.

Human Rights

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely impact of the establishment of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the UN's effectiveness in upholding human rights. [79434]

Dr. Howells: The new UN Human Rights Council has the potential to improve on the work of its predecessor, the Commission on Human Rights, in addressing pressing human rights issues around the world today. The UN General Assembly resolution establishing the Council provides for some significant improvements, including: more frequent meetings each year, at least three meetings per year for at least 10 weeks in total, which should allow the Council to address human rights issues more systematically; a new system of universal periodic review, under which the human rights record of each UN member will be reviewed; a higher election threshold for election to the Council; a wider-ranging mandate; and a more central place within the UN system, better reflecting the importance of human rights. At the same time, we expect that it should preserve some of the strengths of the Commission, including proper provision for the participation of non-governmental organisations. But, much will depend on member states' commitment to making a success of the new Council, and it is the responsibility of all UN members to ensure that it can work more effectively than its predecessor.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the election process for members of the United Nations Human Rights Council. [79435]

Dr. Howells: The General Assembly resolution of 15 March establishing the new UN Human Rights Council raised the threshold for membership in comparison with the Council's predecessor body, the Commission on Human Rights. Candidates are now required to win a simple majority, at least 96 votes, in the General Assembly to be elected. Candidates for the first elections, in May 2006, were encouraged to make voluntary pledges and commitments on the protection and promotion of human rights, to be taken into consideration when membership was voted on. All candidates did so, although some commitments were much more substantive than others. Members are expected to uphold the highest human rights standards, to co-operate fully with the Council and to be among the first to submit themselves to the new Universal Periodic Review. Although some countries with weaker human rights records were still elected, we expect all members to take seriously the responsibilities of membership and will be looking to hold them to this.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what was discussed at the inaugural session of the United Nations Human Rights Council. [79436]

Dr. Howells: The first session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) opened in Geneva on 19 June and will continue its discussions until 30 June. The session began with an inaugural ceremony, at which the UN Secretary-General, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the President of the UN General Assembly gave speeches on the establishment of the HRC and their expectations for its work. The Nobel Peace Laureate of 2004, Wangari Maathai, also spoke.

The first week of this first meeting of the HRC (19-22 June) was devoted to a "high level segment" allowing Ministers from UN member states to make statements

on their expectations for the Council. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade represented the UK on Tuesday 20 June. In his speech, he called for all to work together towards an effective HRC. Non-governmental organisations and national human rights institutions will have the opportunity to address the Council at this inaugural session. We expect the agenda for the further work of the session to be presented for agreement towards the end of this first week.

Japan/South Korea

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications of the recent territorial talks between Japan and South Korea; and if she will make a statement. [79926]

Mr. McCartney: The latest round of territorial talks, concluded in Tokyo on 13 June, did not bring Japan and South Korea (RoK) any closer to resolving their dispute. Japan and RoK still remain apart over demarcating their exclusive economic zones around a pair of RoK-controlled islets, known as Takeshima in Japan and Tokdo in South Korea.

The islets have long been a source of dispute between the two nations which both claim sovereignty over them. Even though no concrete progress was made during the talks, it is welcome that they took place, after a six-year suspension. The two sides agreed in principle to hold their next round of talks in September in Seoul.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much her Department spent in each of the last five years on building links between the UK and *(a)* Korea and *(b)* Japan in the (i) science, (ii) engineering and (iii) innovation sectors. [79321]

Mr. McCartney: Since 2000, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has been improving its links on Science, Innovation and Engineering in Japan and South Korea through a dedicated network of Science and Innovation Officers. This has been as part of the Government' overall science strategy. The FCO has spent the amounts listed on promoting Science, Innovation and Engineering in Japan and South Korea. Since the FCO does not promote Science, Innovation and Engineering separately the figures relate to spending on all three of these areas.

The figures are displayed by country, year and the type of spending. The staff costs given relate to the full economic costs of employing the science officers working in each country in a given year. The number of science officers employed in each country is given in brackets next to the staff costs.

Japan

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2001-02	
Administration and entertainment costs	20,300
Staff costs (full economic cost of 12 science and innovation officers)	1,620,364
Total	1,640,664
2002-03	
Administration and entertainment costs	17,700
Staff costs (full economic cost of 12 science and innovation officers)	1,673,584
FCO programme budget spending	29,000
Total	1,720,284
2003-04	
Administration and entertainment costs	20,000
Staff costs (full economic cost of 12 science and innovation officers)	1,717,432
Global opportunities fund projects	62,000
FCO programme budget spending	20,000
Public diplomacy challenge fund	223,000
Total	2,042,432
2004-05	
Administration and entertainment costs	23,000
Staff costs (full economic cost of 13 science and innovation officers)	1,755,044
Global opportunities fund projects	254,000
FCO programme budget spending	3,000
Total	2,035,044
2005-06	
Administration and entertainment costs	23,700
Staff costs (full economic cost of 13 science and innovation officers)	1,996,272
Global opportunities fund projects	327,000
FCO programme budget spending	23,000
Total	2,369,972

South Korea

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2001-02	
Administration and entertainment costs	[redacted]
Staff costs (full economic cost of 5 science and innovation officers)	283,410
Chevening scholarships for science and technology	255,000
Total (excluding administration costs)	538,410
2002-03	
Administration and entertainment costs	5,700
Staff costs (full economic cost of 5 science and innovation officers)	292,718
Chevening scholarships for science and technology	185,000
Total	483,418
2003-04	
Administration and entertainment costs	6,000
Staff costs (full economic cost of 5 science and innovation officers)	300,387
Chevening scholarships for science and technology	180,000
Total	486,387
2004-05	
Administration and entertainment costs	6,700
Staff costs (full economic cost of 5 science and innovation officers)	306,966
Chevening scholarships for science and technology	106,000
Total	419,666

South Korea

Financial year	*Cost (£)*
2005-06	
Administration and entertainment costs	3,000
Staff costs (full economic cost of 5 science and innovation officers)	313,381
Chevening scholarships for science and technology	74,000
Global opportunities fund projects	50,000
Total	440,381

[1] Figures not available.

Kosovo

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made by the European Union in achieving agreement on the future status of Kosovo; and if she will make a statement. [79929]

Mr. Hoon: The EU continues to support the UN led status process and looks forward to a settlement that will bring lasting peace and security to Kosovo and the wider region. The European Council held on 15/16 June declared

'its support to the ongoing talks about the future status led by UN Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and stressed the crucial importance of moving forward on the implementation of standards in Kosovo. In close consultation with key international actors, the EU stands ready to enhance its role in Kosovo following a status determination, in particular in the areas of police, rule of law and the economy'.

The full text of the presidency conclusions from the 15/16 June European Council can be found at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/9Q111.pdf

Norfolk Island

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the constitutional status of Norfolk Island in the response to the Australian Government's proposals to change the arrangements for governance of the Island. [78959]

Mr. McCartney: Norfolk Island was placed under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1914. Its system of government remains a matter for the Government of Australia to determine.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government plans to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Norfolk Island being given to the inhabitants of Pitcairn Island by Queen Victoria. [78961]

Mr. McCartney: The Government have no plans to commemorate this anniversary.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether there is a mechanism by which Norfolk Island could petition the Government to secede as a self-governing Australian Territory and become a self-governing British Overseas Territory. [79604]

Mr. McCartney: Norfolk Island has been an external territory under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia since 1914. Its system of government remains a matter for the Government of Australia to determine.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she plans to visit Norfolk Island. [79605]

Mr. McCartney: There are no plans for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary to visit Norfolk Island.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on Australia's proposed changes to the governance of Norfolk Island. [79609]

Mr. McCartney: Norfolk Island was placed under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1914. Its system of government remains a matter for the Government of Australia to determine.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has had discussions with the Australian Government on the sovereignty of Norfolk Island since 2000. [79610]

Mr. McCartney: No discussions have taken place between the Government and the Government of Australia on the sovereignty of Norfolk Island since 2000.

North Korea

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of reports that North Korea can launch a Taepodong-2 missile with potential nuclear capability; and what recent discussions she has had with the *(a)* UN, *(b)* US and *(c)* EU on this issue. [79964]

Mr. McCartney: We are very concerned about reports of a possible test-launch of a Taepodong-2 missile/Satellite Launch Vehicle and are monitoring the situation closely. We have made clear our view to the Democratic People's Republic Korea, as have the EU, US, Japan and others, that this would be seen as a provocative act, which would add considerable tension to an already complex regional situation. We have urged them not to test, but to stick to their commitments under the 1999 moratorium and the 2002 Pyongyang Declaration and return to the Six Party Talks. We continue to work closely with allies, including US, NATO and EU partners to ensure a co-ordinated UN response if the test goes ahead.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to implement the last part of Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; when she expects the Article to be implemented; and if she will make a statement. [79083]

Dr. Howells: The UK has undertaken many important steps in fulfilling its disarmament obligations under Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Since the end of the Cold War we have reduced the total explosive power of our nuclear forces by over 70 per cent. and we are the only nuclear weapon state to have reduced its deterrent capacity to a single nuclear weapons system, Trident.

We continue to press for multilateral negotiations towards both nuclear, and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, as required by Article VI of the NPT. On nuclear disarmament our current priority is to push for negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty, without pre-conditions, at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, which we view as the next appropriate step towards achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament. On conventional arms control, we are also active. The UK is leading the campaign to launch work within a UN framework towards an Arms Trade Treaty to regulate the global trade in all conventional weapons. And next week in New York at the First Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), the UK will be leading the campaign to build maximum support for common international guidelines for transfers of SALW.

Organ Harvesting (China)

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 628W, on organ harvesting (China), what assessment she has made of the legality of contracts entered into by Chinese prisoners with the Chinese Government for organ donation. [79216]

Mr. McCartney: The Government has the Chinese Government's assurance that prisoners agree to the donations voluntarily and that, in some cases, their families are paid. We are not privy to the way these donations are agreed and therefore not in a position to make any form of assessment. We continue to be concerned about the use of prisoners' organs and to raise these concerns with the Chinese Government.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 628W, on organ harvesting (China), what further representations she plans to make to the Chinese government following the implementation of regulations relating to the sale of organs in China on 1 July. [79217]

Mr. McCartney: The Government remain concerned about the use of organs from executed prisoners in China. At the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue in May 2006, delegates discussed the detail of China's new regulation to ban the sale of organs and introduce medical standards for organ transplants, and the importance of adhering to World Medical Association standards for organ transplants. We will continue to pursue these issues with Chinese interlocutors.

Outer Space Treaty

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the progress of the Outer Space Treaty. [79085]

Dr. Howells: The Outer Space treaty (1967), to which the UK is a depository, entered into force on 10 October 1967. The treaty places important constraints on the use of space, including prohibiting the deployment of weapons of mass destruction in space and military activity on the moon and other celestial bodies. Since 1967, there has been growing support for the Outer Space treaty: 98 states have now ratified the treaty and an additional 27 are signatories. The Outer Space treaty has become the cornerstone of international space law and the UK continues to be a firm supporter and to abide by each of the treaty's principles.

Fugitive Indictees

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the hunt for *(a)* Radovan Karadzic, *(b)* General Ratko Mladic and *(c)* Vlastimir Djordjevic; and if she will make a statement. [79928]

Mr. Hoon: In her address to the UN Security Council on 7 June, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Carla Del Ponte, was critical of the Serbian authorities' efforts to arrest Ratko Mladic and the other remaining fugitive indictees. She noted that there was serious political and administrative resistance from within the Serbian system, and underlined that strong political will was required to overcome these obstacles.

The Chief Prosecutor also stressed that the Republika Srpska within Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) had to increase its efforts to locate and arrest fugitives. It was unclear where Radovan Karadzic himself resided, but part of his network and his family remained in BiH. She also expressed disappointment at the lack of progress in locating Vlastimir Djordjevic. She believes he may be in Russia but investigations by the Russian authorities have failed to produce results.

As we regularly make clear to the countries of the region, full co-operation with the ICTY remains a fundamental requirement for progress towards the EU and NATO. We supported the decision in May of EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn to disrupt Serbia's Stabilisation and Association Agreement negotiations because of Belgrade's failure to co-operate fully with the ICTY. The Commission has made clear however, that they stand ready to resume the talks as soon as full co-operation is achieved.

Renditions

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any *(a)* known and *(b)* suspected al-Qaeda operative found in the UK since 1997 has been rendered to the US. [79318]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement by the then Foreign Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) of 20 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS, which summarises the position in respect of renditions through UK territory or airspace since May 1997.

UN Secretary General

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions

Ministers in her Department have had with candidates for the position of Secretary General of the United Nations. [79431]

Dr. Howells: Ministers and officials have held a number of meetings in recent months with candidates who have declared an interest in the position of United Nations Secretary General. They have met all four declared candidates, Ban Ki-Moon, Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Jayantha Dhanapala and Shashi Tharoor. These discussions focussed on a wide range of issues including UN reform.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK Government will be supporting any candidate in the forthcoming selection of the new Secretary General of the United Nations. [79432]

Dr. Howells: It is long standing UK policy not to reveal publicly our voting intentions for the election of the UN Secretary-General. The Government will carefully consider the merits of each candidate. We believe the successful candidate needs to have the political skills and management experience to carry forward necessary reforms to the UN.

Sierra Leone

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written statement of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 69-70WS, on Sierra Leone, who will bear the costs if Charles Taylor is sent to prison in the United Kingdom. [79437]

Dr. Howells: If Charles Taylor were convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and imprisoned in the United Kingdom, the UK would meet the cost. This is in line with established policy for commitments arising from sentence enforcement agreements with international criminal tribunals.

It is judged preferable for the UK to meet directly the costs associated with prisoners held in the UK system than to take on the more general, and possibly greater, financial commitment that would arise if all sentence enforcement costs, relating to imprisonment in any state of those convicted by an international criminal tribunal, were added to the tribunal running costs, to which the UK contributes.

Somalia

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking towards ensuring the safety of British citizens based in Somalia. [79010]

Mr. McCartney: Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice continues firmly to advise British citizens against all travel to Somalia. We keep that advice under review and have updated it to take account of the most recent developments. We have no diplomatic representation in Somalia and very little capacity to assist any British citizens based there.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the situation in Sri Lanka following the bombing on Thursday 15 June and the subsequent government attacks on Tamil forces; and what role the UK is playing in seeking to stabilise the country. [79370]

Dr. Howells: We remain deeply concerned at the violence in Sri Lanka and, again, offer our condolences following last week's attack in Kebitigollawe. Such barbaric acts have no place in the search for a solution to the conflict. I issued a statement on 15 June condemning this attack unreservedly along with all forms of violence and intimidation. That statement is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1150379181467%20&year=2006&month=2006-06-01&date=2006-06-15.

There is a real need for political will on all sides to change the dynamics of the conflict. Violence can never be an answer to Sri Lanka's problems; all sides need to understand this. It is vital that both sides, which were at the Geneva talks in February, live up to their commitments. This includes the Sri Lankan Government acting constructively to ensure that paramilitaries or others are not able to operate, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eeelam (LTTE) calling a halt to acts of violence against civilians, the security forces and police, and both sides ensuring that intimidation, acts of violence, abductions and killings cease. We continue to believe that dialogue is the only way to achieve a negotiated settlement to the conflict, which takes full account of the legitimate demands of all communities and promotes a democratic and stable Sri Lanka. All sides need to exercise restraint and act constructively.

We fully support the Norwegian peace facilitation efforts. We welcome the recent statements of commitment to the Ceasefire Agreement by the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE and continue to do what we can to encourage both sides to return in good faith, to face-to-face talks. We make this clear in our regular contacts with the Sri Lankan Government, Members of Parliament, including representatives of Tamil political groups, and civil society. We also actively contribute to the EU's work, not least in its role as one of the Tokyo co-chairs to the Sri Lankan peace process.

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many working days have been lost to the Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated cost to the Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [77755]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The average number of working days lost through sick

absence since 2000, the year from which reliable records were held, and the estimated cost to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is as follows:

	Days	Cost (£)
2000	2.87	1,103,794.80
2001	4.55	1,823,124.68
2002	4.88	2,091,575.58
2003	5.59	2,626,479.90
2004	6.18	3,096,696.68

Data for 2005 are not yet available.

Syria/Iran

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications of the recent discussions between the Syrian and Iranian Governments on strategic and military co-operation; and if she will make a statement. [79923]

Dr. Howells: Syria and Iran reportedly signed a Memorandum of Understanding on defence issues during a visit to Tehran by the Syrian Defence Minister, Hassan Turkmani, on 15 June. We continue to have serious concerns about the role of Syria and Iran in the region, including their support for Hizbollah and Palestinian rejectionist groups that continue to espouse violence. Further military co-operation between Syria and Iran is unlikely to build international confidence. We urge both countries to fulfil their obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions 1559 and 1680.

Turkey

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in accession negotiations on Turkey's membership of the European Union; and if she will make a statement. [79927]

Mr. Hoon: Since opening accession negotiations on 3 October 2005, the Commission has been assessing Turkey's existing legislation against the 35 chapters of the EU acquis and has now published its reports on five. We were pleased that on 12 June the EU and Turkey opened and provisionally closed negotiations on the first chapter, Science and Research. As both the EU and Turkey recognise, much remains to be done before accession.

West Papua

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations the Department has received on behalf of the people of West Papua; and what representations she has made on their behalf to the Government of Indonesia. [79429]

Mr. McCartney: In recent months, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received a small number of letters from members of the public and hon. Members about Papua. There have also been a few parliamentary questions tabled. The then Minister of State for Trade my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, South (Ian Pearson) held a meeting with the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Papua on 16 March. Some civil society representatives interested in Papuan issues also attended that meeting.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made any representations about Papua to the Government of Indonesia. However, our embassy in Jakarta discusses Papua with the Indonesian authorities. During his visit to Indonesia on 29-30 March, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister expressed the UK's support for dialogue between the central Government and representatives of the Papuan people. The UK supports the territorial integrity of Indonesia. We believe that full implementation of existing Special Autonomy legislation is the best way to proceed towards a peaceful, stable and prosperous Papua.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Age Positive Campaign

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent per head of population on the Age Positive campaign in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; and how much has been spent in 2006-07. [78881]

Maria Eagle: The total costs associated with the Age Positive campaign for the period requested are:

	£	£ per head of population
2004-05	68,242	0.040
2005-06	6,022	0.0036
2006-07	[1]—	[1]—

[1] No costs have yet been incurred during the current financial year

Assets Recovery Agency

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been investigated by the Assets Recovery Agency. [77368]

Paul Goggins: The Assets Recovery Agency is not a prosecuting authority and does not investigate individuals, but rather investigates assets. In terms of caseload since the agency's inception, ARA has adopted and investigated the following case levels for civil recovery and tax:

	Referrals[1]	Adoptions[2]
Referred cases		
2003-04	25	15
2004-05	43	16
2005-06	49	38
Target		
2006-07	—	30-40

[1] Referrals include all cases referred, including cases under assessment for adoption, adopted cases, completed cases and rejected/withdrawn cases.

[2] Adoptions include cases under investigation and completed cases. This does not include cases that were adopted and subsequently withdrawn.

Breath Testing

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were breathalysed in *(a)* West Belfast, *(b)* East Belfast, *(c)* South Belfast, *(d)* North Belfast and *(e)* Castlereagh District Command Units in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [78742]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is contained in the following table:

	East Belfast	*West Belfast*	*South Belfast*	*North Belfast*	*Castlereagh*
2003[1]	370	605	1,279	479	125
2004	1,338	654	1,889	903	295
2005	1,439	480	2,533	685	198

[1] Earliest date for which information is available.

Cervical Cancer

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been diagnosed with cervical cancer. [79452]

Paul Goggins: Between 1 January 1993 and 31 December 2003, 895 females were diagnosed with cervical cancer in Northern Ireland.

This information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry (established in 2004) and is the most up to date currently available.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many new cases of cervical cancer have been diagnosed in the Province in each of the last 10 years. [79453]

Paul Goggins: The following table details information on the incidence of cervical cancer (ICD-10 C53) in Northern Ireland for the last 10 years for which data were available.

Cervical cancer incidence in Northern Ireland: 1994-2003

	Number
1994	75
1995	86
1996	93
1997	84
1998	80
1999	75
2000	96
2001	72
2002	79
2003	71

This information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry and is the most up to date currently available.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many deaths have there been from cervical cancer in the Province in each of the last 10 years. [79454]

Mr. Hanson: The table gives the number of deaths due to cervical cancer[1] in Northern Ireland for the last 10 years.

[1] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision code C53 for years 2001-05 and Ninth Revision code 180 for years 1996-2000.

Deaths due to cervical cancer

Registration year	*Number*
1996	45
1997	26
1898	33
1999	36
2000	30
2001	24
2002	25
2003	31
2004	37
2005[1]	20

[1] Provisional.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many individuals from each health board area in the Province *(a)* were offered and *(b)* received screening for cervical cancer in each of the last five years. [79455]

Paul Goggins: The following table provides figures for the number of women from each Health Board area in Northern Ireland who *(a)* were eligible to receive cervical screening and *(b)* received cervical screening at least once in the previous five years. The totals provided are for five year periods from period ending 31 March 2001 to period ending 31 March 2005.

	(a) Eligible population	*(b) Received cervical screening at least once in last five years*	
Five year period ending 31 March 2005/Health Board	*Number*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2000-01			
Eastern	163,439	109,493	66.99
Northern	101,037	75,755	74.98
Southern	74,870	54,310	72.54
Western	72,820	49,503	67.98
2001-02			
Eastern	157,054	108,633	69.17
Northern	98,489	75,806	76.97
Southern	73,303	54,598	74.48
Western	71,607	49,883	69.66
2002-03			
Eastern	156,814	108,457	69.16
Northern	98,345	75,863	77.14
Southern	73,775	54,944	74.47
Western	72,262	49,653	68.71
2003-04			
Eastern	154,526	105,094	68.01
Northern	96,776	73,527	75.98
Southern	73,748	54,504	73.91
Western	71,849	49,522	68.92
2004-05			
Eastern	162,291	109,527	67.49
Northern	91,452	69,978	76.52

Five year period ending 31 March 2005/Health Board	(a) Eligible population	(b) Received cervical screening at least once in last five years	
	Number	Number	Percentage
Southern	72,954	53,436	73.25
Western	71,462	49,707	69.56

Note:
The eligible population is the number of women aged 25-64, from the mid year estimates of population who were eligible for cervical cancer screening in Northern Ireland.
Source:
Quality Assurance Reference Centre

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were found to have abnormal cervical smears in the Province in each of the last five years. [79856]

Paul Goggins: The number of abnormal cervical smear results in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

	Number of abnormal smear results
2000-01	6,551
2001-02	7,781
2002-03	6,702
2003-04	5,496
2004-05	6,058

Source:
Quality Assurance Reference Centre—KC53a

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment has been made of the merits of introducing a human papilloma virus vaccination programme. [79857]

Paul Goggins: The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation is currently considering if and how a human papilloma vaccination programme might be introduced across the UK. There is currently no human papilloma vaccine licensed in the UK.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many hospital admissions there have been in the Province for cervical cancer in each of the last five years. [79858]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of admissions[1] to hospital with a primary diagnosis of cervical cancer, for each year between 2000-01 and 2004-05 (the latest year for which data are available).

It should be noted that any individual could have been admitted to hospital more than once over the course of a year or over a number of years and would therefore be counted more than once in the table.

	Admissions[1]
2000-01	320
2001-02	349
2002-03	409
2003-04	358
2004-05	333

[1] Discharges and deaths are used as an approximation to admissions.
Source:
Hospital Inpatients System

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many bed days in the Province were accounted for by admissions for cervical cancer in each of the last five years. [79859]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of bed days accounted for by admissions to hospital with a primary diagnosis of cervical cancer, for each year between 2000-01 and 2004-05 (the latest year for which data are available).

	Bed days
2000-01	1,670
2001-02	2,328
2002-03	2,034
2003-04	2,213
2004-05	1,726

Note:
Discharges and deaths are used as an approximation to admissions.
Source:
Hospital Inpatients System

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many operations to remove cervical lesions took place in the Province in each of the last five years. [79860]

Paul Goggins: The number of operations to remove cervical lesions performed in HPSS hospitals in Northern Ireland in each year between 2000-01 and 2004-05 is detailed in the following table.

	Removal of cervical lesions
2000-01	2,977
2001-02	2,898
2002-03	2,935
2003-04	2,591
2004-05	2,482

Source:
Hospital Inpatients System

Community-based Sentences

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many criminal offences resulted in a sentence of community work in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months; and how many were completed. [76625]

Mr. Hanson: According to figures provided by the Probation Board for Northern Ireland (PBNI) in relation to the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, 652 community service orders were made, representing a contribution of approximately 95,000 hours of unpaid work to the community, while 212 combination orders were made, representing a contribution of approximately 25,000 hours of unpaid work to the community.

Over the same period, 514 community service orders and 154 Combination orders were completed. It should be noted that figures are collated based on the number of persons convicted rather than the number of offences.

Council Audits

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action his Department is taking

to reduce the cost of auditing local councils in Northern Ireland. [78791]

David Cairns: Audit fees, which are determined by the Department in discussion with the local government Audit Office, seek to recover 100 per cent. of auditors' time. Time spent on the audit of district councils' accounts is kept to a minimum and the Department monitors the position of these statutory audits through regular meetings with the Chief Local Government Auditor.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of audit fees was for each local council in Northern Ireland in each year since 1990. [78792]

David Cairns: The records for audit fees charged to individual district councils are not held centrally prior to 1998-99. Fees for the financial years 1998-99 to 2004-05 are set out in the table.

£

District council	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*[1]
Antrim	10,824	10,544	15,797	23,436	19,816	[2]20,051	15,280
Ards	14,099	15,417	15,656	20,315	19,742	20,924	24,130
Armagh	11,709	12,307	13,030	17,106	18,322	[2]33,535	16,100
Ballymena	16,789	19,820	21,211	21,994	20,886	23,243	25,000
Ballymoney	8,954	9,801	13,628	13,711	11,613	15,605	13,300
Banbridge	8,304	11,009	16,432	12,189	11,432	13,255	11,250
Belfast	89,921	81,080	83,672	96,575	109,547	131,859	126,000
Carrickfergus	14,567	16,919	13,551	15,005	16,113	16,419	15,300
Castlereagh	16,038	21,820	22,939	22,252	23,784	[2]27,158	22,100
Coleraine	13,036	13,593	19,220	17,785	18,416	18,971	17,700
Cookstown	8,351	10,006	9,157	12,832	12,620	13,379	11,250
Craigavon	15,363	17,347	20,179	18,958	26,372	[2]29,863	22,100
Derry	28,612	33,670	22,081	21,599	26,947	27,981	28,150
Down	15,364	17,612	17,283	20,053	17,927	[2]25,523	24,150
Dungannon and South Tyrone	11,996	13,220	12,973	15,036	15,272	18,231	15,300
Fermanagh	9,947	9,604	11,179	15,906	77,127	[2]24,605	15,300
Larne	11,538	17,669	12,918	18,298	14,405	16,677	13,300
Limavady	9,283	11,349	12,471	11,380	11,618	17,318	13,300
Lisburn	19,968	21,697	25,490	27,479	21,570	22,381	26,150
Magherafelt	8,743	7,398	7,853	12,454	14,646	13,546	13,300
Moyle	13,119	11,874	12,455	19,013	14,926	14,483	12,050
Newry and Mourne	17,788	19,950	23,470	27,333	27,161	[2]40,855	28,150
Newtownabbey	14,110	39,175	43,069	27,819	22,025	22,694	24,150

District council	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	£ 2004-05[1]
North Down	16,333	20,579	21,838	18,592	24,699	32,650	26,500
Omagh	11,800	12,303	16,954	13,071	14,420	19,138	18,900
Strabane	11,707	14,681	37,198	17,060	12,415	18,380	15,300

[1] Estimate.
[2] Audits not yet complete.

Departmental Chief Accounting Offic...

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the chief accounting officer of his Department. [76711]

Paul Goggins: Accounting officer is a role that the permanent secretary combines with his personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the Department and for department-wide procedures in financial and other matters.

The accounting officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified and experienced senior managers. The head of financial services division of the Northern Ireland Office is a professionally qualified accountant.

Education

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what steps *(a)* education and library boards and *(b)* the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools are taking in their rationalisation plans to ensure that the principles of the Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations in Northern Ireland: A Shared Future are delivered; [78978]

(2) what the timescale is for the strategic review of the schools estate; and whether it will consider how promoting cross-community and cross-sectoral sharing can be incorporated into rationalisation of schools. [78980]

Maria Eagle: The independent Strategic Review of Education will consider how strategic planning and rationalisation of the schools' estate can best encourage and support cross-community and cross-sector collaboration and models of schooling that promote greater integrating of education. It is due to be completed by November 2006. In line with the First Triennial Action Plan for A Shared Future, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and the Education and Library Boards will be required to demonstrate that options for collaboration/sharing on a cross-community basis have been considered and fully explored in developing their plans for reorganisation/ rationalisation of the schools' estate. The outcome of the strategic review of education may lead to further refinement of the commitments and detailed actions in the Action Plan.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what role the new district councils will have in planning for educational choice in Northern Ireland following the Review of Public Administration. [78981]

David Cairns: As part of the implementation of the Review of Public Administration, district councils will be given community planning powers. The Department of Environment (DoE) is currently developing proposals to inform the necessary legislation. The community planning process will afford local government the opportunity to influence the planning for educational choice

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) who will be responsible for ensuring that actions to support greater sharing in education under the Triennial Action Plan for A Shared Future are monitored; [78984]

(2) what powers he has to ensure that all educational partners in Northern Ireland meet the requirements of the Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations: A Shared Future? [78985]

Mr. Hanson: The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister is responsible for monitoring the actions flowing from the Triennial Action Plan for A Shared Future.

The Shared Future Triennial Action Plan, published on 27 April 2006, sets out ministerial commitments and actions in relation to A Shared Future. Specific actions are set out to promote greater sharing in education.

The commitments and actions are underpinned by existing duties and obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the Race Relations (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 as amended.

Emergency Services

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many attacks have been recorded on each emergency service in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [78726]

Paul Goggins: The numbers of attacks on emergency services in Northern Ireland in each of the last three calendar years are as follows:

	2003	2004	2005	Total
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service	[1]173	[1]108	71	352
Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service	327	327	328	982
Police Service of Northern Ireland	1,169	1,210	2,330	4,709
Total	1,669	1,645	2,729	6,043

[1] Figures for Northern Ireland Ambulance Service attacks differ slightly from those previously supplied as a result of a data cleanse in 2005, which removed duplications, and introduction of new software to record the information.

Energy Prices

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the effect of gas prices on Northern Ireland industry. [78787]

Maria Eagle: As a result of increased prices in world energy markets, gas prices have increased across the UK in recent months.

On 30 January the Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, my hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith), announced the introduction of competition for natural gas users in the Phoenix licence area of Greater Belfast and Larne. This will be introduced on a phased basis to all customers by 1 January 2007 and end the monopoly position held by Phoenix. Competition elsewhere has provided consumers with increased choice of supplier, greater transparency, improved customer service and a downward pressure on the price of gas.

In March 2006 my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced a further five year exemption from 2006-11 from the climate change levy for natural gas industrial and commercial users in Northern Ireland. This will improve competitiveness and save £20 million over the five year period. It makes natural gas a more competitive fuel and encourages the uptake of gas which facilitates the roll-out to domestic customers in ten towns outside the greater Belfast and Larne area.

False Alarm Call-outs

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many false alarm call-outs have been registered by the *(a)* Northern Ireland Ambulance Service, *(b)* Police Service of Northern Ireland and *(c)* Northern Ireland Fire Service in each of the last three years, broken down by constituency; how many prosecutions were pursued in each case; and if he will make a statement. [78514]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) dealt with the following numbers of false alarm call-outs in the last two financial years. Figures prior to 2004-05 are not available.

2005-06

Parliamentary constituency	*Hoax caller*	*No case/Nothing found at scene*	*Total*
Constituency not known	2,498	301	2,799
Belfast East	66	118	184
Belfast North	121	201	322
Belfast South	103	274	377
Belfast West	177	241	418
East Antrim	63	76	139
East Londonderry	76	95	171
Fermanagh/South Tyrone	70	78	148
Foyle	173	150	323
Lagan Valley	48	102	150
Mid Ulster	54	79	133
Newry and Armagh	102	110	212
North Antrim	128	95	223
North Down	134	104	238
South Antrim	74	89	163
South Down	81	116	197
Strangford	63	95	158
Upper Bann	75	121	196
West Tyrone	93	81	174
Total	4,199	2,526	6,725

2004-05

Parliamentary constituency	*Hoax caller*	*No case/Nothing found at scene*	*Total*
Constituency not known	2,365	420	2,785
Belfast East	88	133	221
Belfast North	238	235	473
Belfast South	137	318	455
Belfast West	181	219	400
East Antrim	103	72	175
East Londonderry	125	84	209
Fermanagh/South Tyrone	163	90	253
Foyle	228	127	355
Lagan Valley	61	110	171
Mid Ulster	55	82	137
Newry and Armagh	179	140	319
North Antrim	150	91	241
North Down	85	99	184
South Antrim	146	107	253
South Down	112	114	226
Strangford	62	102	164
Upper Bann	144	111	255
West Tyrone	133	72	205
Total	4,755	2,726	7,481

The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) dealt with the following numbers of hoax calls in each of the last three calendar years.

Parliamentary constituency	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Total*
Constituency not known	1,936	2,549	2,508	6,993
Belfast East	247	157	137	541
Belfast North	344	241	154	739
Belfast South	500	430	341	1,271
Belfast West	279	208	171	658
East Antrim	128	136	71	335
East Londonderry	244	233	133	610
Fermanagh/South Tyrone	138	132	102	372
Foyle	347	264	233	844
Lagan Valley	70	65	45	180

Parliamentary constituency	2003	2004	2005	Total
Mid Ulster	75	69	53	197
Newry and Armagh	310	308	195	813
North Antrim	163	116	102	381
North Down	154	108	161	423
South Antrim	232	243	170	645
South Down	242	257	182	681
Strangford	128	105	70	303
Upper Bann	182	192	119	493
West Tyrone	154	139	132	425
Total	5,873	5,952	5,079	16,904

In addition, NIFRS dealt with the following numbers of false alarms from Automated Fire Alarms:

Parliamentary constituency	2003	2004	2005	Total
Constituency not known	0	1	4	5
Belfast East	509	578	541	1,628
Belfast North	401	429	428	1,258
Belfast South	1,319	1,339	1,446	4,104
Belfast West	499	439	404	1,342
East Antrim	219	205	239	663
East Londonderry	298	304	351	953
Fermanagh/ South Tyrone	426	446	453	1,325
Foyle	919	929	815	2,663
Lagan Valley	374	389	327	1,090
Mid Ulster	140	163	188	491
Newry and Armagh	277	308	291	876
North Antrim	262	285	320	867
North Down	251	294	302	847
South Antrim	659	603	717	1,979
South Down	341	294	287	922
Strangford	183	211	209	603
Upper Bann	376	359	371	1,106
West Tyrone	229	280	357	866
Total	7,682	7,856	8,050	23,588

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) has advised that the information requested is not collected in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Under the Communications Act 2003, the maximum penalty for those caught making hoax or malicious calls is a fine not exceeding £5,000 and/or a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months. NIAS and NIFRS have not pursued any prosecutions to date.

Hoax calls and false alarms are serious distraction to the excellent work done by the emergency services and are a waste of their time and resources. However, the most serious aspect is the potential for serious injury or loss of life if the emergency services are not available to respond to genuine emergencies or are delayed in responding because crews are deployed responding to hoax calls or false alarms.

Knives

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been *(a)* fined and *(b)* imprisoned for illegally selling knives to under 16-year-olds in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [78772]

Mr. Hanson: During the period 1994 to 2003, there were no convictions for the offence of 'unlawful sale of a knife to person under 16'. Data beyond 2003 is not yet available. Data are collated on the principal offence rule, thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included. The Government are concerned by the issue of knife crime and is attaching high priority to finding ways in which the law can be strengthened and enforced in respect of illegal possession and sale of knives.

Mental Health

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many individuals in Northern Ireland suffering from depression were recorded as attempting suicide in each of the last five years, broken down by health board. [78721]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not available.

Mini-motorbikes

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what seizure powers are available to *(a)* the police and *(b)* local authorities in Northern Ireland in relation to mini-motorbikes; [71406]

(2) what measures are in place to prevent the *(a)* sale to and *(b)* use by children aged under 16 years of mini-motorbikes in Northern Ireland. [71407]

David Cairns: Neither police nor local authorities in Northern Ireland currently have seizure powers in relation to mini-motorbikes.

However, we recently consulted on legislative proposals to give the PSNI powers to seize motor vehicles, including mini-motorbikes, being driven on public roads while uninsured and these will be brought into effect in due course.

Furthermore, we will shortly be consulting on a range of measures to improve the environmental quality of local neighbourhoods in Northern Ireland, including proposals to update legislative powers in relation to statutory nuisance, including noise nuisance emanating from vehicles (such as mini-motorbikes in the street).

However, the police have powers under Road Traffic and Vehicles legislation to prosecute users of vehicles (including mini-motorbikes) where they are used on a road without being modified to comply with construction and use, lighting and type approval requirements. Police can also prosecute for breach of the requirements for drivers of such vehicles to be 16 or over, to hold an appropriate driving licence, have minimum third party insurance and have the vehicle insured.

The police can also prosecute where mechanically propelled vehicles (including mini-motorbikes) are used off-road without lawful authority or reasonable excuse.

Pensioner Poverty

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many pensioners are living in poverty in each constituency in Northern Ireland; what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners who do not claim the benefits to which they are entitled; and what steps the Government are taking to increase take-up of benefit by pensioners. [78498]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for the number of pensioners on a single year basis by parliamentary constituency are not statistically valid due to insufficient sample sizes. However it is possible to provide figures on a combined yearly basis.

The number and percentage of pensioners in relative poverty by parliamentary constituency for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 combined is detailed in the following table.

Parliamentary constituency	Relative poverty (before housing costs)		Relative poverty (after housing costs)	
	Number[1]	Percentage	Number[1]	Percentage
Belfast East	2,400	19	1,900	15
Belfast North	4,000	25	3,400	24
Belfast South	1,700	15	2,000	18
Belfast West	2,100	18	1,500	12
East Antrim	2,800	22	2,400	19
East Londonderry	4,100	29	2,900	20
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	4,500	34	3,100	23
Foyle	1,900	21	1,300	14
Lagan Valley	2,800	16	2,400	14
Mid Ulster	4,600	46	2,800	38
Newry and Armagh	3,100	21	2,700	19
North Antrim	6,400	31	5,500	27
North Down	3,800	22	3,000	17
South Antrim	3,400	23	2,500	17
South Down	5,400	31	5,100	29
Strangford	4,200	26	3,600	23
Upper Bann	2,900	19	2,100	14
West Tyrone	4,200	36	3,300	28
Total	64,400	25	52,600	21

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:
Households below average income NI 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 Estimate of unclaimed benefits

Estimate of unclaimed benefits

The most recent information on take-up of benefits was reported in the 'Income Related Benefits—Estimates of Take-Up in 2002-04 Northern Ireland'. The report estimated that between 1,200 and 8,400 pensioners were not claiming Housing Benefit for which they may have been entitled, and between 49,800 and 96,400 were not claiming Minimum Income Guarantee/Pension Credit for which they may have been entitled.

Benefit Uptake

The 2005-06 benefit uptake strategy piloted a number of exercises targeting 3,750 pensioners offering them a comprehensive benefit assessment. Of those targeted by the 2005-06 benefit uptake strategy 10 per cent. made successful claims; resulting in £400,000 paid in arrears and an average weekly increase of £30 for each successful customer amounting to additional yearly benefit spend of £575,000.

The 2006-07 expanded programme is targeting 35,000 clients including older people, people with disabilities and carers. Of the 35,000 clients being targeted 33,000 are older people.

Pensions

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people employed in Northern Ireland that have private pension provision and *(b)* what percentage of them are women. [79974]

Mr. Hanson: Results from the Family Resources Survey 2004-05 show that 355,000 people employed in Northern Ireland have private pension provision of which 42 per cent. are women.

Notes:

1. Figures refer to persons from working age 20 to state pension age who are either full or part-time employed (whether employees or self-employed) and do not include those not working.

2. Estimates are taken from the Family Resources Survey 2004-05 which is the latest year for which data are available.

3. Members who are contributing to a private pension scheme include those who are building up rights within a salary related scheme, those who are currently contributing to a scheme or whose employer makes a contribution on their behalf. Private pension refers to an occupational personal or stakeholder pension scheme.

4. Individuals who contribute to both occupational and personal schemes are counted only once in these estimates.

Planning Policy

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many planning applications for building in rural communities in Northern Ireland are affected by Planning Policy Statement 14 introduced by the Department of Environment Planning Services; and if he will make a statement. [78492]

David Cairns: All planning applications for development in the Northern Ireland countryside outside designated limits for cities, towns, villages and other small settlements and received after 16 March 2006 will be affected by the policy provisions of draft PPS 14.

Of all valid applications received between 16 March and 18 June 2006, it is estimated that draft PPS 14 is a material consideration in approximately 2,500.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what land remains available for housing development in Strangford constituency; and if he will make a statement. [78493]

David Cairns: It is estimated that there are 270.8 hectares of land remaining with potential for housing development within the urban areas of Strangford parliamentary constituency. This could provide approximately 5,282 dwelling units.

However, it should be noted that there is a degree of policy uncertainty in relation to land which is currently the subject of objection through the development plan process; this issue will be publicly debated at the public inquiries convened to hear objections to the relevant draft plans i.e. draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) and the Draft Ards and Down Area Plan.

The Ards and Down public inquiry has recently been reconvened and has been scheduled to continue to 21 June 2006 to hear strategic objections to the extent of housing land identified within the draft plan proposals. It will reopen in September to hear site specific objections. No date has yet been set for the public inquiry to consider objections to the draft BMAP.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many sealed packages of monies seized by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) in the course of operations are currently held by each PSNI District Command Unit finance office; and how many such packages have gone missing in each of the last seven years. [75007]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI do not hold this information on a central record. To obtain this information would require a manual trawl of records across all finance offices and as such could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Policing Board

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the attendance record was for *(a)* elected and *(b)* non-elected members of the Policing Board of Northern Ireland at (i) full Policing Board meetings and (ii) Policing Board committee meetings in each of the last three years. [78756]

Paul Goggins: The following tables detail Policing Board members' attendance at Board and Committee meetings and were supplied by the Northern Ireland Policing Board.

Members attendance at policing board meetings

Member	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Total (Possible)*
Alex Attwood	9	11	11	31 (34)
Denis Bradley (Vice Chairman)[1]	10	11	8	29 (34)
Viscount Brookeborough[1]	8	10	9	27 (34)
Joe Byrne	9	12	11	32 (34)
Fred Cobain	10	10	8	28 (34)
Brian Dougherty[1]	9	9	8	26 (34)
Sam Foster	10	12	11	33 (34)
Barry Gilligan[1]	10	10	11	31 (34)
William Hay	7	10	8	25 (34)
Tom Kelly[1]	6	7	7	20 (34)
Lord Kilclooney	5	6	3	14 (34)
Pauline McCabe[1]	10	13	9	32 (34)
Alan McFarland	10	13	9	32 (34)
Fddie McGrady	6	8	7	21 (34)
Rosaleen Moore[1]	7	10	9	26 (34)
Ian Paisley (Jnr)	8	11	10	29 (34)
Desmond Rea[1] (Chairman)	10	13	11	34 (34)
Suneil Sharma[1]	8	8	7	23 (34)
Sammy Wilson	10	12	10	32 (34)

[1] Appointed by the Secretary of State in 2001 as Independent Members.

Note:
The total number of Board meetings that it would have been possible for each Member to attend is shown in brackets.

Members attendance at policing board committee meetings

Member	*Attendance details*	*2003 (1 January to 31 May) (Possible)*	*2003 (1 June to 31 December) (Possible)*	*2004 (Possible)*	*2005 (Possible)*	*Total (Possible)*
Alex Attwood	CA	4 (5)	—	—	—	37 (54)
	CI	—	4 (5)	7 (9)	7 (10)	
	F&GP	—	2 (4)	5 (7)	6 (6)	

Members attendance at policing board committee meetings

Member	*Attendance details*	*2003 (1 January to 31 May) (Possible)*	*2003 (1 June to 31 December) (Possible)*	*2004 (Possible)*	*2005 (Possible)*	*Total (Possible)*
	F&R	1 (2)	—	—	—	
	P&PR	—	0 (3)	1 (3)	0 (0)	
Denis Bradley[1] (Vice Chairman)	CA	3 (5)	—	—	—	51 (63)
	CI	—	4 (5)	8 (9)	7 (10)	
	CP	6 (6)	5 (6)	11 (11)	7 (11)	
Viscount Brookeborough[1]	A&BV	—	3 (3)	3 (5)	2 (2)	49 (82)
	CA	4 (5)	—	—	—	
	CM	1 (2)	—	—	—	
	CI	—	3 (5)	7 (9)	7 (10)	
	CP	1 (2)	0 (1)	7 (9)	—	
	F&GP	—	1 (4)	2 (7)	—	
	HR	—	—	2 (6)	5 (11)	
	A&RM	—	—	—	1 (1)	
Joe Byrne	A	1 (1)	—	—	—	38 (47)
	A&BV	—	3 (3)	3 (5)	2 (2)	
	CA	3 (5)	—	—	—	
	CI	—	5 (5)	7 (9)	8 (10)	
	P&PR	—	3 (3)	2 (3)	0 (0)	
	A&RM	—	—	—	1 (1)	
Fred Cobain	A	0 (1)	—	—	—	50 (65)
	A&BV	—	2 (3)	5 (5)	2 (2)	
	CP	6 (6)	3 (6)	9 (11)	10 (11)	
	F&R	0 (2)	—	—	—	
	F&GP	—	3 (4)	6 (7)	3 (6)	
	A&RM	—	—	—	1 (1)	
Brian Dougherty[1]	A	1 (1)	—	—	—	50 (58)
	CA	4 (5)	—	—	—	
	CI	—	4 (5)	8 (9)	8 (10)	
	CP	4 (4)	4 (5)	2 (2)	10 (11)	
	P&PR	—	2 (3)	3 (3)	0 (0)	
Sam Foster	A	1 (1)	—	—	—	57 (60)
	CI	—	5 (5)	8 (9)	9 (10)	
	HR	—	6 (7)	11 (11)	11 (11)	
	P&GP	6 (6)	—	—	—	
Barry Gilligan[1]	A&BV	—	3 (3)	4 (5)	2 (2)	71 (84)
	CP	4 (4)	3 (6)	9 (9)	—	
	F&GP	—	3 (4)	7 (7)	5 (6)	
	F&R	2 (2)	—	—	—	
	HR	—	7 (7)	8 (11)	9 (11)	
	P&GP	5 (6)	—	—	—	

Members' attendance at policing board committee meetings

Member	*Attendance details*	*2003 (1 January to 31 May) (Possible)*	*2003 (1 June to 31 December) (Possible)*	*2004 (Possible)*	*2005 (Possible)*	*Total (Possible)*
	A&RM	—	—	—	0 (1)	
William Hay	CA	4 (5)	—	—	—	58 (76)
	CI	—	4 (5)	8 (9)	9 (10)	
	CM	2 (2)	—	—	—	
	HR	—	4 (7)	9 (11)	7 (11)	
	HR&PS	—	2 (2)	6 (9)	3 (5)	
Tom Kelly[1]	A	1 (1)	—	—	—	12 (33)
	CM	2 (2)	—	—	—	
	CP	0 (6)	2 (6)	3 (11)	0 (1)	
	P&PR	—	2 (3)	2 (3)	0 (0)	
Lord Kilclooney	A&BV	—	0 (3)	0 (5)	0 (2)	3 (33)
	CA	2 (5)	—	—	—	
	F&R	1 (2)	—	—	—	
	P&PR	—	0 (3)	0 (3)	0 (0)	
	A&RM	—	—	—	0 (1)	
Pauline McCabe[1]	CA	5 (5)	—	—	—	81 (90)
	CP	6 (6)	5 (6)	10 (11)	9 (11)	
	HR	—	7 (7)	11 (11)	11 (11)	
	HR&PS	—	2 (2)	5 (9)	4 (5)	
	P&GP	6 (6)	—	—	—	
Alan McFarland	CM	2 (2)	—	—	—	35 (43)
	F&GP	—	—	3 (4)	4 (6)	
	HR	—	5 (7)	2 (2)	—	
	HR&PS	—	2 (2)	8 (9)	3 (5)	
	P&GP	6 (6)	—	—	—	
Eddie McGrady	CM	2 (2)	—	—	—	52 (87)
	CP	2 (6)	2 (6)	8 (11)	6 (11)	
	HR	—	4 (7)	5 (11)	4 (11)	
	HR&PS	—	2 (2)	9 (9)	5 (5)	
	P&GP	3 (6)	—	—	—	
Rosaleen Moore[1]	CM	2 (2)	—	—	—	
	CP	2 (2)	—	2 (2)	10 (11)	67 (81)
	F&GP	—	4 (4)	6 (7)	3 (6)	
	F&R	1 (2)	—	—	—	
	HR	—	5 (7)	9 (11)	10 (11)	
	HR&PS	—	2 (2)	7 (9)	4 (5)	
Ian Paisley (Jnr)	A	0 (1)	—	—	—	29 (52)
	CA	4 (5)	—	—	—	
	CI	—	4 (5)	3 (9)	6 (10)	
	HRPS	—	0 (2)	5 (9)	2 (5)	

Members attendance at policing board committee meetings

Member	*Attendance details*	*2003 (1 January to 31 May) (Possible)*	*2003 (1 June to 31 December) (Possible)*	*2004 (Possible)*	*2005 (Possible)*	*Total (Possible)*
	P&PR	—	3 (3)	2 (3)	0 (0)	
Desmond Rea (Chairman)[1]	CA	2 (5)	—	—	—	35 (39)
	CPC	6 (6)	6 (6)	11 (11)	10 (11)	
Suneil Sharma[1]	CA	3 (5)	—	—	—	41 (67)
	CI	—	5 (5)	8 (9)	6 (10)	
	CP	—	—	—	1 (10)	
	HR&PS	—	1 (2)	6 (9)	4 (5)	
	P&GP	3 (6)	—	—	—	
	P&PR	—	3 (3)	1 (3)	0 (0)	
Sammy Wilson	A&BV	—	2 (3)	2 (5)	0 (2)	50 (70)
	CP	6 (6)	4 (6)	8 (11)	5 (11)	
	F&GP	—	4 (4)	7 (7)	6 (6)	
	F&R	2 (2)	—	—	—	
	P&GP	4 (6)	—	—	—	
	A&RM	—	—	—	0 (1)	

[1] Appointed by the Secretary of State in 2001 as Independent Members.

Notes:

1. The total number of Committee meetings that it would have been possible for each Member to attend is shown in brackets.
2. This list excludes sub-committees, working groups, ad hoc groups, briefings etc. This list also does not reflect the attendance of members on committees of which they were not formally members—including as deputies for absent colleagues from the same political grouping.

Key:

A—Audit Committee
A & B V—Audit and Best Value Committee
A & RM—Audit and Risk Management
CA—Community Affairs Committee
CI—Community Involvement Committee
CM—Complaints Monitoring Committee
CP—Corporate Policy Committee
F & G P—Finance and General Purposes Committee
F & R—Finance and Resources Committee
H R—Human Resources Committee
H R & P S—Human Rights and Professional Standards Committee
P & PR—Press and Public Relations Committee

Prisons

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* male and *(b)* female prison populations are in Northern Ireland; and what those figures represent as a percentage of total prison capacity. [76445]

Paul Goggins: At 13 June there were 1,409 male and 34 female prisoners in Northern Ireland. These figures represent 107 per cent. and 55 per cent. respectively of the accommodation currently available for each category.

Real IRA

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessment he has made of the terrorist capability of the Real IRA. [79990]

Paul Goggins: The latest IMC report confirmed that the Real IRA continues efforts to recruit and train members and has a continuing aspiration to arm and equip itself. The organisation remains "violent, dangerous and ruthless".

Recruitment Policy

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Equality Commission in Northern Ireland bases its recommendations to employers on whether to include in recruitment advertising the reference that specific groups of people would be particularly welcome to apply on *(a)* the overall composition of the work force and *(b)* recent recruitment to the firm concerned. [80238]

Mr. Hanson: The Equality Commission for Northern Ireland refers to the relevant Codes of Practice and Guidance available from the Commission when considering making recommendations to employers on whether to include in recruitment advertising the reference that specific groups of people would be particularly welcome to apply. A recommendation that employers consider the use of such equality statements, is based on an evaluation of work force trends. Such an evaluation would include the work force composition and recruitment flows. Both *(a)* and *(b)* would therefore be taken into account.

Road Traffic Accidents

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 11 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 540W, on road traffic accidents, how many road traffic accidents there were in the years covered for which a police officer was responsible; how much has been paid out in compensation to members of the public for such accidents; what the total cost of repairs to police vehicles was in relation to such accidents; how many officers have been disciplined for such incidents; and what sanctions were imposed. [77204]

Paul Goggins: My response to the hon. Gentleman of 11 May 2006 referred to road traffic collisions for which a police officer was responsible while on duty and covered the calendar years 2003-05. The following table is also based on these parameters and shows how many road traffic collisions there were during 2003-05 for which an on-duty police officer was responsible. None of these collisions resulted in disciplinary action being taken against the police officer involved. The total cost of repairs to police vehicles during the period 2003-05 was £257,634.92.

Calendar year	*Number of collisions*
2003	82
2004	[1]141
2005	[1]161
Total	384

[1] The definitions used for police collisions were revised in 2004 and a third category of collision was added—'Slight Contact'. This has resulted in some incidents being recorded which previously may not have been which accounts for the increase in the number of incidents for 2004 and 2005.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland do not collate or hold figures relating to the amount of compensation paid to members of the public in respect of these collisions.

Roads

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1096W, on roads, when the report of the preliminary studies of environmental, land form and traffic modelling in relation to the Londonderry to Dungiven dualling is expected to be published. [80239]

David Cairns: The acting chief executive of Roads Service (Mr. Geoff Allister) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Geoff Allister, dated 26 June 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question, "pursuant to the Answer of Tuesday 13th June 2006, Official Report, column 1096W, on roads, when the report of the preliminary studies of environmental, land form and traffic modelling in relation to the Londonderry to Dungiven dualling is expected to be published".

I have been asked to reply as these issues fall within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service.

In Dr McKibbin's reply to your earlier question, he advised that the current study is well advanced and will report later this summer. He further advised that it is not normal practice to make announcements at this stage in a scheme development and that the results would be made public through a public exhibition and consultation that will be undertaken as the next step in the more detailed development of the Londonderry to Dungiven scheme. It is not anticipated that the next stage of the scheme development would be sufficiently progressed to support the exhibition until the first couple of months in 2007.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were employed in each Divisional Roads Service Office in Northern Ireland in April *(a)* 2000 and *(b)* 2006. [76323]

David Cairns: The acting chief executive of Roads Service (Mr. Geoff Allister) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Geoff Allister, dated 16 June 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding how many people were employed in each Divisional Roads Service Office in Northern Ireland in April (a) 2000 and (b) 2006.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

The tables attached at Annex 1 detail the number of industrial and non-industrial Roads Service staff employed in each Divisional Roads Service office on 1 April 2000 and 1 April 2006.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Non-industrial staff: Annex

	Staff in post	
Divisional Roads Service Office	*1 April 2000*	*1 April 2006*
Crescent Road, Londonderry BT47 2NQ	27	40
Newcastle Road, Seaforde BT30 8PR	12	23
Ballynahonemore Road, Armagh BT60 1JD	19	29
Newmills Road, Coleraine BT52 2JB	0	3
Larne Road Link, Ballymena BT42 3HA	18	34
Airport Road, Belfast BT3 9DY	33	59
Balloo Road, Bangor BT19 7PG	10	15
Aghanloo Depot, Dowland Road, Limavady BT49 OHR	1	2
Arvalee Depot, Deverney Road, Omagh BT79 OJJ	25	39
Benson House, Benson Street, Lisburn BT28 2BG	16	31
Carn Industrial Estate, Portadown BT63 5RH	17	25
Castle Barracks, Wellington Place, Enniskillen BT74 7HN	34	44
Caulside, New Lodge Road, Antrim BT41 2GW	10	11
Clarence Court, Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB	147	219

Non-industrial staff: Annex

Divisional Roads Service Office	Staff in post 1 April 2000	Staff in post 1 April 2006
Aughnacloy Road, Banbridge BT32 3RU	1	2
County Hall, Galgorm Road, Ballymena BT42 1QG	135	131
County Hall, Castlerock Road, Coleraine BT51 3HS	99	123
County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh BT79 7AF	94	80
Castle Street, Antrim BT41 4JE	8	12
Elm View, Derry Road, Strabane BT82 8DT	11	19
Ferry Terminal, Strangford, BT30 7NE	1	2
Cecil Street, Newry BT35 6AU	14	26
Tullybroom Road, Clogher BT76 OUW	2	2
Molesworth Street, Cookstown BT80 8PA	8	15
Newry Street, Banbridge BT32 3EA	6	13
Jubilee Road, Newtownards BT23 4XP	8	13
Main Street, Limavady BT49 0ET	7	9
Hydebank, Hospital Road, Belfast BT8 8JL	167	214
Marlborough House, Central Way, Craigavon BT64 1AD	100	119
Moygashel, Dungannon BT71 7QR	15	22
New Mills House, New Mills Road Lower, Coleraine BT52 2JR	5	6
Rathkeltair House, Market Street, Downpatrick BT30 6UU	103	121
Rathmore Depot, Loughanmore Road, Antrim BT41 2QP	1	2
Sandyknowes, Glengormley, Newtownabbey BT36 8RF	2	3
Station Road, Magherafelt BT45 5DN	8	15
Corporation Street, Belfast BT1 3DH	27	53
Silverhill Plant Depot, Shore Road, Enniskillen BT47 7EF	6	9
Sprucefield Depot, Sprucefield Roundabout, Lisburn BT27 5QY	1	3
The McAleer Building, 31 Market Street, Omagh BT78 1EE	0	36
Trillick House, Queen Street, Ballymoney BT53 6JD	0	14
Market Street, Ballymoney BT53 6EE	1	0
High Street, Ballymoney BT53 6AG	7	0
Total	1,206	1,638

Note:
It should be noted that some of the people employed in respect of Road Service Offices are attributable to general accommodation moves.

Industrial Staff

Divisional Roads Service Office	Staff in post 1 April 2000	Staff in post 1 April 2006
Cecil Street, Newry BT35 6AU	51	30
Crescent Road, Londonderry BT47 2NQ	38	33
Main Street, Moygashel, Dungannon BT71 7QR	47	34
Loughnamore Road, Antrim BT41 4AE	0	24
Ballynahonemore Road, Armagh, Co Armagh BT60 1JD	64	37
Airport Road, Belfast BT3 9DY	54	35
Market Street, Ballymoney BT53 6EE	0	14
Belfast Road, Larne BT40 2PJ	0	14
Aghanloo Depot, Dowland Road, Limavady BT49 OHR	26	19
Arvalee Depot, Deverney Road, Omagh BT79 OJJ	56	47
Ballykeel Depot, Larne Road, Ballymena BT42 3HA	33	16
Carn Industrial Estate, Craigavon BT63 5RH	43	34
Castle Barracks, Wellington Place, Enniskillen BT74 7HN	6	2
Aughnacloy Road, Banbridge BT32 3RU	16	19
County Hall, Drumragh Avenue, Omagh BT79 7AF	0	2
County Hall, Galgorm Road, Ballymena BT42 1QG	18	18
County Hall, Castlerock Road, Coleraine BT51 3HS	18	11
Station Road, Magherafelt BT45 5DN	19	14
Elm View, Derry Road, Strabane BT82 8DT	33	28
Ferry Terminal, Strangford, BT30 7NE	17	18
Newcastle Road, Seaforde BT30 8PR	41	23
Molesworth Street, Cookstown BT80 9PA	11	9
Marlborough House, Central Way, Craigavon BT64 1AD	11	11
Station Road, Ballycastle BT54 6AP	17	9
Balloo Road, Bangor BT19 2PG	39	28
Newmills Road, Coleraine BT52 2JB	31	23
Rathkeltair House, Market Street, Downpatrick BT30 6UU	5	4

Industrial Staff

Divisional Roads Service Office	*Staff in post 1 April 2000*	*Staff in post 1 April 2006*
Sandyknowes, Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 8RF	12	26
Corporation Street, Belfast BT1 3DH	43	13
Shore Road, Enniskillen BT47 7EF	59	48
Sprucefield Depot, Sprucefield Roundabout, Lisburn BT27 5QY	34	34
Victoria Street, Carrickfergus, BT38 8AQ	0	13
Ferrard, Railway Street, Antrim BT41 4AE	25	0
Dervock Road, Ballymoney BT53	18	0
Govenors Place, Carrickfergus BT38 7BN	12	0
Exchange Road, Larne BT40 1RD	18	0
Jublie Road, Newtownards BT23 4XP	8	0

Industrial Staff

Divisional Roads Service Office	*Staff in post 1 April 2000*	*Staff in post 1 April 2006*
Hydebank, Hospital Road, Belfast BT8 8JL	9	0
Total	932	690

Notes:
1. It should be noted that in some instances, the difference in the number of staff in various locations is attributable to general accommodation moves.
2. The reduction in number of industrial staff at a number of offices reflects a major exercise to re-grade certain industrial grades.

School Violence

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many court cases have been pursued by teachers on the grounds of assaults by pupils in each of the last three years, broken down by education and library board area; and how much compensation was paid in total in each year. [78500]

Maria Eagle: I have been advised that the information requested is as follows:

	2003-04		*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
	Number of cases	*Compensation paid (£)*	*Number of cases*	*Compensation paid (£)*	*Number of cases*	*Compensation paid (£)*
BELB	0	—	0	—	0	—
NEELB	0	—	2	—	0	—
SEELB	1	[1]3,000	0	—	0	[2]5,000
SELB	0	—	0	—	0	—
WELB	0	—	0	—	0	—
Total	1	3,000	2	—	0	5,000

[1] Compensation paid in respect of a case brought in 2002-03.
[2] Compensation paid in respect of a case brought in 2003-04.
Note:
The table excludes voluntary grammar schools.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many suspensions for physical attacks on staff there were in each of the last three years for which figures are available in each education board in Northern Ireland. [78735]

Maria Eagle: From the 2002-03 school year, statistics on the reasons for suspension have been gathered annually from each education and library board and relate to the number of individual suspensions not to the number of pupils suspended.

The following table details the number of suspensions[1] for physical attacks on staff, in each education and library board, in the 2002-03 to 2004-05 school years:

Physical attacks on staff

Education and library board	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Belfast	75	73	84
Western	99	72	51
North Eastern	91	49	57
South Eastern	64	79	21
Southern	36	47	49
NI total	365	320	262

[1] The count of occasions is based on each incidence of suspension, where an incident is defined as a count from the first day a pupil was suspended until the last day suspended. In previous years, the count of occasions was based on each record of suspension identified by the education and library boards, where in some instances, longer periods of suspension may have had more than one record. This change is due to an improvement in the data collection systems for suspensions in the education and library boards which has enabled better analysis of the data. As a result, the number of occasions pupils were suspended in 2004-05 has decreased from previous years'. However, care should be taken when comparing the number of occasions in 2004-05 with the number of occasions in previous years'.

Sean Kelly

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he received new security information directly relating to Sean Kelly subsequent to his re-arrest prior to his order to re-release Kelly. [36532]

Paul Goggins: The Secretary of State's decision to grant Sean Kelly temporary release from prison on 27 July 2005 was based on the material from which he

based his original decision and because he believed that the IRA statement the next day, would create a new situation in which the context of Kelly's license suspension decision had changed and no longer supported the conclusion that Kelly would be a danger to others if at liberty.

Sentences (Remissions)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will review the appropriateness of the policy of 50 per cent. remission of sentences in Northern Ireland, with particular reference to those convicted of serious *(a)* violent and *(b)* sexual attacks. [79459]

Mr. Hanson: Last year the Northern Ireland Office undertook a public consultation on the Review of the Sentencing Framework in Northern Ireland. Consultees were asked to consider a range of sentencing disposals, including indeterminate and extended public protection sentences. I will shortly be examining policy options considered in the Review and the responses to the consultation.

Special Needs Children

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children in Northern Ireland with special needs are awaiting a statement. [78543]

Maria Eagle: The Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs sets out a 5-stage approach to the process. At Stage 4 the Education and Library Board considers the need for a statutory assessment, following a request from the parents, the school or other agencies. If the Board considers that such an assessment is necessary, the parents will be notified and the assessment will be undertaken and if a statement of Special Educational Needs is considered appropriate, the Board has 18 weeks, subject to certain exceptions, to issue a draft statement.

The following table shows the total number of children at Stage 4 of the Code of Practice, i.e. the number of children whose formal assessment of Special Educational Needs has been completed and for whom it is proposed to issue a statement of special educational needs, but the statement has not yet been issued.

Education and Library Board	*Number of children at stage 4*
Belfast	33
North Eastern	15
South Eastern	81
Southern	134
Western	30

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children in Northern Ireland require places for September in Special Needs Schools; and how many places are available. [78558]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the total number of children who at present require a place in a Special School in September 2006 in Northern Ireland (by Education and Library Board area) and the total number of places available in Special Schools.

The apparent number of vacant places is based on maximum school enrolment figures set some years ago, and is not a meaningful reflection of the current capacity of Special Schools. In recent years the complexity of the needs of children in Special Schools has increased and the ratio of teachers to pupils has decreased accordingly in order to meet this need.

Education and Library Board	*Number of children requiring place in Special School (September 2006)*	*Number of Special School places available*
Belfast[1]	166	265
North Eastern	75	159
South Eastern	80	138
Southern[2]	26	26
Western	70	118

[1] The Belfast Education and Library Board have more children placed in Special Schools than other Boards. In addition they have significant proportions of children transferring between Special Schools at Year 4 and attending Special Schools for Year 1 placements.

[2] The Southern Education and Library Board, unlike the other Boards, do not have Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD) Special Schools and therefore the figures relate only to pupils requiring a place in a school for children with severe learning difficulties.

Staff Surveys

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was of staff surveys conducted by each department in Northern Ireland, including the Northern Ireland Office, in each of the last three years. [77089]

Mr. Hanson: The following table provides a breakdown of the costs involved in undertaking staff surveys in each of the 11 NICS core departments and the Northern Ireland Office for the financial years from 2003-04 to 2005-06.

Costs by financial year

£

Department	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
DARD	[1]41,492.00	6,486.00	10,078.00
DCAL	[2]—	[3]—	129.30
DE	11,005.00	2,749.00	16,196.00
DEL	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
DFP	600.00	1,051.75	8,376.06
DHSSPS[4]	11,752.00	5,552.00	73,299.78
DSD	[3]—	13,250.00	3,248.00
OFMDFM	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
DETI	[2]—	490.00	575.00
NIO	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
DRD	225.00	480.00	3,304.00
DOE	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—

[1] Includes 29,478 internal and external costs for European Foundation Quality Management assessment for the Veterinary Service.

[2] Not available.

[3] No surveys undertaken.

[4] The DHSSPS figure for 2005-06 includes a cost of £60,503.78 for a Workplace Health and Well-being survey that was issued across the NICS. The survey was commissioned by the NICS Workplace Health Committee and the cost of the survey should be attributed to all departments and not solely DHSSPS.

Teacher Training

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps teacher training colleges in Northern Ireland have taken to develop sharing in teacher education as set out in the Policy and Strategic Framework for Good Relations: A Shared Future. [78977]

Maria Eagle: Since 2005, the Northern Ireland University Colleges have jointly delivered, an "Inter-College Programme for Diversity and Mutual Understanding", as an essential aspect of study for all student teachers. The programme is designed and organised by the college's joint liaison group comprised of members of academic staff and students who work alongside the Nation Union of Students—Union of Students of Ireland (NUS-USI) to deal with issued such as racism, sectarianism and development of positive community relations.

Trout Fisheries

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether there have been any recent reported breakouts of bacterial kidney disease in trout fisheries in the Province; and if he will make a statement. [80112]

David Cairns: There has never been a reported outbreak of bacterial kidney disease in trout fisheries in Northern Ireland.

Valuation and Lands Agency

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cameras the Valuation and Lands Agency in Northern Ireland owns; and how many it has purchased in each of the last five years. [78231]

Mr. Hanson: At 21 June 2006 the Agency owns 207 cameras.

The numbers of cameras purchased over the last five years are as follows:

April to March each year.	*Number*
2001-02	33
2002-03	35
2003-04	16
2004-05	56
2005-06	58

The Valuation and Lands Agency photographs properties, with the consent of the owner, during inspections for rating purposes, compensation and assets valuation.

The Agency has more than 200 staff engaged in field inspections for these purposes.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Valuation and Lands Agency in Northern Ireland has purchased *(a)* software and *(b)* consultancy services from CDC Ltd. in the last five years. [78326]

Mr. Hanson: Within the last five years:

(a) The Valuation and Lands Agency purchased "Spatialest" Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) software from CDC.

(b) The Valuation and Lands Agency also purchased consultancy services from CDC to facilitate the setup and use of this software.

Vehicle Tests

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average waiting time for a vehicle test was *(a)* in each test centre and *(b)* in Northern Ireland in the last period for which figures are available. [79297]

David Cairns: The average waiting time for a vehicle test at each test centre and the Northern Ireland average for the week ending 17 June 2006 is set out in the table.

Centre	*Average waiting time (days)*
Armagh	58
Ballymena	33
Balmoral	30
Coleraine	20
Cookstown	39
Craigavon	44
Downpatrick	50
Enniskillen	43
Larne	25
Lisburn	33
Mallusk	28
New Buildings	28
Newry	57
Newtownards	34
Omagh	33
Northern Ireland	38

Waste Recycling

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of waste from Government Departments in Northern Ireland was recycled in the last period for which figures are available. [79537]

David Cairns: Data have not been collected in this form. However, waste management action plans have now been prepared for all 11 NICS Departments in accordance with a requirement of the recently published "Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland". Copies of these documents may be found in the Library.

The first round of monitoring of Departments' performance against their plans will take place at the end of the first year.

Wind Turbines (Acute Hospitals)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will estimate the annual total effect on costs if each of Northern Ireland's acute hospitals were to construct a wind turbine in their grounds similar to that operated by Antrim Hospital. [79457]

Paul Goggins: If wind turbines were to be successfully installed at the nine acute hospital sites identified in "Developing Better Services" the estimated total net reduction in payments to the electricity supply company would be £495,000 at current price levels.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 26 June 2006

HEALTH

Adverse Drug Reactions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to reduce the number of people admitted to hospital with adverse drug reactions. [74156]

Andy Burnham: The most recent estimate of the burden of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) in the United Kingdom (UK) comes from a study published in the *British Medical Journal* in July 2004. The study conducted in two large hospitals in Merseyside, suggested that ADRs account for one in 16 hospital admissions. This is a similar estimate to a number of studies worldwide, including figures from the United States of America.

This study highlights the importance of effective systems for monitoring and responding to issues relating to the safety of medicines, a process called pharmacovigilance. This study, which was funded by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), underlines their commitment to improving the evidence base for pharmacovigilance in the UK.

As part of this commitment, the MHRA is working to strengthen the yellow card scheme for reporting suspected ADRs and has widened access to the scheme to enable patients to report ADRs directly.

This study also highlights the vital importance of safety information which meets the needs of prescribers and patients. The MHRA committee on safety of medicines publication "Always read the leaflet" proposed actions to improve risk communication, including development of a leaflet for patients published by the MHRA. The commission on human medicines has established a working group to examine ways to improve the provision of safety information accompanying medicines.

Changes to medicines legislation introduced in 2005 were also designed to enhance the capability of regulation to reduce the burden of adverse drug reaction, for example in the requirement on marketing authorisation holders to develop risk management plans for newly licensed medicines.

Alcohol Treatment Services

Lynda Waltho: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to increase *(a)* access to and *(b)* capacity of specialist alcohol treatment services; and what plans she has (i) to respond to and (ii) to implement recommendations arising out of the departmental alcohol needs assessment research project. [77518]

Caroline Flint: Commissioning of specialist alcohol treatment services is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs). The Department has issued to PCTs 'Alcohol Misuse Interventions: Guidance on Developing a Local Programme of Improvement'. It provides practical steps on improving interventions and services for problem drinkers based on local need. It will be supported by the soon to be published 'Models of Care for Alcohol Misuse' (MoCAM), which will provide commissioners with a framework against which to commission effective, quality services. MoCAM is informed by an extensive effectiveness review, which will be published as a companion document.

Alternative Medicine

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the use of alternative medicine in the NHS. [79469]

Caroline Flint: There are no centrally held records on the general use of complementary and alternative medicines within the national health service. The Government considers that decision making on individual clinical interventions, using either complementary or alternative medicines or more orthodox medicines, is a matter for local NHS service providers and practitioners. However, when making any clinical decisions, clinicians are expected to consider the safety and effectiveness of treatments whether complementary, alternative or orthodox medicines.

Audiology

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to reform the public-private partnership for the provision of digital hearing aids; and if she will make a statement. [78640]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The existing national framework agreement for the provision of adult hearing services to the national health service is operational until September 2006. Since October 2003, there have been over 52,000 patient journeys provided to the NHS through this agreement. A separate procurement is currently being undertaken by the commercial directorate of the Department to support improvements to diagnostic capacity in the NHS. This procurement includes the potential for approximately 42,000 patient journeys per annum to be provided to the NHS for adult hearing services.

The guidance recently published by the Department around implementing the 18-week patient pathway, whilst not including direct access adult hearing services, made reference to the development of a national action plan. The Department is considering a number of options to improve services and to provide sustainable solutions.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting time is for the fitting of digital hearing aids in the Greater Peterborough Primary Care Partnership area; and if she will make a statement. [80462]

Andy Burnham: The information requested in not collected centrally.

Bowel Cancer

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost is of the research being conducted by York Health Economics Consortium and the School of Health and Related Research at Sheffield University into the costs and benefits of current services for bowel cancer. [80007]

Andy Burnham: The cost of the research project to which the hon. Member refers is £192,150.

Cancer Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information cancer networks have been asked to submit to her Department as part of the follow-up to the report by the National Cancer Director on variations in the usage of cancer drugs approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence; and when she expects to publish the results of the follow-up. [80061]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As in the first review, each cancer network was provided with centrally held information on its usage of the 16 National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraised cancer drugs and four cancer drugs which have not been appraised by NICE. The information covered the period from January to June 2005.

Each network was asked whether they considered the information to be a reasonable estimate of usage. Where networks provided revised figures, these have been used in the report.

The follow-up report is expected to be published shortly.

Cancer Nurses

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of specialist cancer nurses working in the NHS in each of the last five years; and what steps she is taking to increase this number. [80060]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Cancer nurses were not separately identified in the census from the rest of the nursing work force.

Work force planning is the responsibility of local national health service employers and strategic health authorities, who must ensure that they have sufficient staff, with the right skills to meet local service needs.

Capital Investment

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to encourage capital investment by NHS organisations. [78017]

Andy Burnham: The Department's capital investment plans are set out in chapter four of the Departmental Report 2006 published in May of this year. This states that the public capital resources available to the national health service will increase by a further £950 million in 2006-07, a real terms increase of 21 per cent., and outlines the priorities for this funding during 2006-07. As in previous years, there will also be further investment through the private finance initiative and NHS local improvement finance trust, the public-private partnership vehicle for transforming primary care premises.

Child Sexual Abuse

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services for children who have been sexually abused are funded by her Department; and what mechanisms are in place to provide liaison between services funded by her Department and those provided by other funding streams. [78215]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Specialist services including treatment for sexually transmitted infections, termination of pregnancy and mental health services are available for those children who need them as a result of sexual abuse. For children with less severe mental health problems, it is more appropriate for universal services to provide the psychological support they need than for them to be referred to specialist child and adolescent mental health services.

It is important that child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) are developed in a way that is responsive to the needs of the populations they serve. The CAMHS standard of the children's national service framework (NSF) sets out the requirement for an assessment of the needs of particular groups of children in the locality who are vulnerable or at risk. The NSF also states the commissioners and services should be able to demonstrate multi-agency partnership working in the following areas: the provision of services to children and young people who may or may not have been harmed, as set out in "Working Together to Safeguard Children"; contributing to the assessment of complex child abuse cases; the assessment and provision of post-abuse therapeutic services; and services for looked-after and adopted children.

The Department has been working closely with the Home Office to develop sexual assault referral centres (SARCs). A SARC is a one-stop location where victims of rape and sexual assault can receive medical care and counselling, and have the opportunity to report to the police and undergo a forensic examination. The joint Department of Health and Home Office National Service Guidelines for Developing Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) was published in October 2005.

Since 2003, £1.27 million from the Home Office's Victims Fund has been spent on new and existing SARCs. The Department has an important role in allocating these resources as departmental officials are on the committee that make grant assessments. SARCs currently operate in 14 locations in England and Wales and there are six more due to open in the forthcoming year.

The Department and the Home Office are supporting the development of appropriate services for children within existing or new SARCs. St. Mary's SARC in Manchester has established a service for children. In London, Project Amethyst was piloted in 2005-06 jointly by local police and health to provide services for children in association with the three London SARCs (the Havens

in Camberwell, Whitechapel and Paddington). A number of the new SARCs scheduled to open will be providing services for children.

Children's Hospices

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to meet the Association of Children's Hospices to commence formal discussions on a sustainable long-term funding arrangement for delivery of palliative care to children and respite to their families; and if she will make a statement. [78603]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Departmental officials have already held a preliminary meeting with the Association of Children's Hospices and will have further discussions with them and other stakeholders about the forthcoming review of children's hospice services and their long-term funding.

Chiropody/Podiatry Treatment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was in Colchester primary care trust (PCT) for chiropody/podiatry treatment in the past 12 months; what the average waiting time for such treatment was in other primary care trusts of equivalent size, demographic character and spending patterns; whether all the funding allocated by Colchester PCT for employing clinical staff in chiropody/podiatry in that period was used; whether there are fewer clinical staff applying for jobs in chiropody/podiatry than vacant posts in that area; and if she will make a statement. [78944]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally by the Department. Primary care trusts are responsible for assessing the needs of their local community. They have the resources to commission services, and to identify the number of professional and non-professional staff they need to deliver those services. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community, including the provision of chiropody and podiatry services.

Colchester General Hospital

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether there is a requirement for the costs incurred by the private sector partner in preparing the abandoned private finance initiative expansion at Colchester General Hospital to be repaid to the partner; what estimate she has made of the costs; and if she will make a statement; [79853]

(2) what estimate she has made of the costs incurred by *(a)* Essex Rivers Healthcare Trust and *(b)* the national health service centrally in preparing the abandoned private finance initiative expansion at Colchester General Hospital; and if she will make a statement. [79854]

Andy Burnham: The Government's policy is that whenever a procuring authority such as Essex Rivers Healthcare Trust abandons a viable, affordable project, reasonable compensation should be paid for costs incurred by bidders.

To date, no discussions have been held with either the trust or their private sector partner to determine if the Government's policy applies to the circumstances under which this project was abandoned nor of the likely costs.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much of the £100 million capital investment to build, rebuild or refurbish at least 50 community hospitals identified by her Department has been earmarked for new projects; how much has been spent; and if she will make a statement; [78989]

(2) how many new community hospitals have been built in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [78993]

Andy Burnham: Configuration of local service provision facilities, including the building of new community hospitals, is a matter for primary care trusts (PCTs). Therefore, the Department has not historically monitored the number of new community hospitals that have been built and it is not possible to provide the data requested in relation to this.

As confirmed in the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services", the Government fully intends to fulfil its manifesto commitment to develop a new generation of modern national health service community hospitals over the next five years.

The Department will shortly be publishing further guidance, which will outline the next steps that PCTs and strategic health authorities need to take to access central capital to invest in community hospitals and services. Capital will be available but has not currently been earmarked for specific projects.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department plans to assess the effect on the number of community hospitals of primary care trust deficits; and if she will make a statement. [78990]

Andy Burnham: There are no plans to assess the effects of primary care trust (PCT) deficits on the provision of services in community hospitals. Commissioning decisions are of course for local determination. However, the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say" makes it clear that community facilities, including community hospitals, should not be lost in response to short-term budgetary pressures in PCTs that are not related to the viability of the community facility itself. Therefore, no community hospitals should be closed solely as a result of national health service PCT budget deficits.

A letter was sent to strategic health authorities (SHAs) on 16 February, which concerned the commitment relating to community hospitals, made in paragraphs 6.42 and 6.43 of the aforementioned White Paper. This letter provided instruction on how SHAs should go about ensuring and testing that PCTs comply with the commitment made. A copy of this letter is available in the Library.

Continuing NHS Health Care

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what arrangements health authorities are required to put in place for the provision of independent advice for NHS patients' consideration of signing up for continuing care; [79270]

(2) what estimate she has made of the likely number of re-assessments of entitlement to free continuing care. [79272]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Following a rigorous procurement exercise, the Department has recently awarded contracts to three organisations who will deliver a new and improved independent complaints advocacy service (ICAS) from 1 April 2006 across England. The ICAS provides an advocacy for all national health service services, including NHS continuing care. The Carers Federation, South East Advocacy Projects and POhWER have been delivering ICAS under contract to the Department since 1 September 2003, bringing a wealth of experience and expertise in general and specialist advocacy service delivery.

The consultation on an improved national framework for continuing care was launched on 19 June 2006. We cannot anticipate what the new framework will be until the consultation is completed, and we have considered all responses.

Correspondence

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what priority is given to answering letters from hon. Members by the chief executive of NHS Direct; [80000]

(2) what the average time taken by the chief executive of NHS Direct to respond to correspondence was in the last period for which figures are available; [80001]

(3) how many letters the chief executive of NHS Direct has received from hon. Members on the issue of the proposed closure of NHS Direct centres. [80002]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Chief Executive of NHS Direct endeavours to answer all correspondence promptly, whilst ensuring that information is accurate before the response is sent. All correspondence from hon. Members is treated as a high priority.

Figures for the average response time are not collected, but correspondence requiring a letter in response is generally dealt with in approximately seven working days. In more complex cases, responses may take longer than this.

There has been an increase in correspondence since the beginning of the consultation period and, as a result, it has taken longer than usual to respond. In addition, the chief executive has been out of the office more than usual, visiting sites and meeting staff potentially affected by the consultation proposals.

A number of contacts from hon. Members have been received in relation to the consultation, addressed to various senior managers. The chief executive has received six letters or emails directly relating to the consultation. In addition, there have been two letters addressed to the Chair and one further to a senior manager.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Reigate of 11 May 2006 on her decision to overrule the recommendations of the 'Better Health Care Closer to Home' report; and whether her reply will take into account the decision to allow a judicial review of her decision. [80289]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A reply to this letter was sent on 22 June 2006. The Department has received details and is currently considering the situation.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the criminal offences created in legislation sponsored by her Department since April 2005, broken down by Act. [76912]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No criminal offences have been created in primary legislation sponsored by the Department since April 2005.

Dentistry

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Government's position is on the recommendation of the European medical devices expert group that dental patients be given a copy of the Statement of Conformity; and if she will make a statement. [79794]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones) on 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1799W.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what opportunities exist for people to work beyond retirement age in her Department. [69216]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's normal retirement age for all employees is 60. However, employees below the senior civil service level are entitled to work to age 65 if they wish. Any request to work beyond age 65 would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Members of the senior civil service may be retained beyond age 60 if it is considered to be in the public interest and the Department is satisfied about the fitness and efficiency of the individual to carry out his or her duties.

Drug Tariffs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what process her Department used to determine the proposed 15 per cent. price decrease for chemical reagents in the Drug Tariff Part IX consultation; and what steps she is taking to ensure transparency in the consultation. [80428]

Andy Burnham: The Department has undertaken an analysis of the reimbursement prices on the drug tariff for chemical reagents and as a result, has concluded that the national health service and the taxpayer may not be obtaining value-for-money at the current reimbursement levels. Further details are available in the consultation document 'Arrangements for the provision of dressings and chemical reagents to primary care: A consultation' which is available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/ClosedConsultations/fs/en. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Where specific information has been required from manufacturers as part of the consultation, the Department has provided clear guidelines as to what was required. The Department has held meetings with manufacturers and their representative trade body, with NHS representatives and with patient groups. In addition, a meeting was hosted to brief hon. Members on 21 June 2006.

Flag Flying

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on how many days since May 1997 the St. George's flag has been flown from her Department's buildings; [77730]

(2) what her Department's policy is on flying the *(a)* St. George's flag and *(b)* EU flag from departmental buildings; [77731]

(3) if she will ensure that the Union Flag is flown from her Department's buildings on every day the offices are open. [77732]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport issues guidance for flying flags on Government buildings of which the Department adheres to. This includes flying the St. George's flag and the European flag on buildings with two or more flagpoles. These rules area approved by the Queen on advice from that department.

The Department has only one flagpole and therefore does not fly the St. George's flag or the European flag. There are no plans at present to change the number of days flags can be flown from Government buildings.

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on foreign travel by her Department in each of the last eight years. [78061]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Practitioners

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs there were in Coventry, South constituency *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [79470]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of general practitioners (GPs) within the area covered by the current West Midlands South strategic health authority in each year since 1997, and within Coventry teaching primary care trust (PCT) each year since 2001, the earliest date for which figures are available.

All general medical practitioners, excluding retainers and registrars[1], for specified organisations, 1997 to 2005

	West Midlands, South	*Of which: Coventry PCT*
1997	859	n/a
1998	867	n/a
1999	873	n/a
2000	870	n/a
2001	884	174
2002	897	173
2003	928	172
2004	959	184
2005	1,013	187

n/a = Data not applicable

[1] General medical practitioners, excluding retainers and registrars, includes contracted GPs, general medical service (GMS) others and personal medical service (PMS) others. Prior to September 2004 this group included GMS unrestricted principals, PMS contracted GPs, PMS salaried GPs, restricted principals, assistants, salaried doctors (Para 52 SFA), PMS other, flexible career scheme GPs and GP returners.

Note:
Data as at 1 October 1997- 2000 and 30 September 2001-2005

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Health Treatment Centres

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of her Department's budget was spent on the establishment of independent sector treatment centres in each year since 1997; what proportion of the budget for the establishment of such centres was spent on the employment of management consultants in each year; and what proportion of each budget she expects to be spent in each category in 2006-07. [61717]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) programme was launched in December 2002 and figures for the establishment of ISTCs are not available prior to 2003. The percentage of the Department's budget that was spent on the procurement of ISTCs was 0.03 per cent. in 2003-04; 0.05 per cent. in 2004-05; 0.04 per cent. in 2005-06 and it is estimated to be 0.05 per cent. for 2006-07. Much of the work of this programme is done through consulting staff so the proportion of these costs estimated to have been spent on management consultants is 84.6 per cent., 67.4 per cent., 59.3 and 60 per cent., respectively.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by her Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature of the charges brought against them were. [73963]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by the Department in the period for which information is requested.

Independent Sector Treatment Centres

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria she uses to determine the allocation of resources to independent sector treatment; and what account she takes of the distance between facilities, whether NHS or not, providing similar services. [79279]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for local national health service commissioners to determine the volume of healthcare they purchase from the independent sector (IS) in line with local priorities.

The Department conducted national capacity planning exercises through strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2002 and 2004. Through these exercises SHAs estimated the additional capacity in elective treatment and diagnostics required to meet key public service agreement waiting times targets, and identified how much of this capacity would need to be sourced from IS providers.

The outcomes of capacity planning provided the basis for taking forward national procurements of elective and diagnostics capacity from the IS. The procurement process is designed to allow the independent sector to work in partnership with local healthcare economies to provide solutions which meet local requirements and work effectively alongside NHS provided services.

Mental Health

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total expenditure was on mental health promotion in each year since 1997-98. [75437]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We provide support to implementing mental health promotion through our funding of the National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE), part of the care services improvement partnership. Most of NIMHE's national programme priorities will not have had mental health promotion as a distinct priority, but will have included this as an integral element. Information on the exact proportion of spending on mental health promotion is therefore not known.

The table shows NIMHE's total allocations for each year since 2002-03, when it was established. Information on funding which could have been used for mental health promotion prior to this date is not available. NIMHE's eight regional development centres (RDCs) are allocated funding each year to finance all mental health workstreams in their own areas, and RDCs make their own spending decisions, including choosing the proportion of their budgets which are spent on mental health promotion.

Total departmental funding for NIMHE, by financial year, since 2002-03

	Funding (£000)
2002-03	8,563
2003-04	12,007
2004-05	22,903
2005-06	23,908

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what physical protection is routinely offered to mental health professionals in the course of their work; [76760]

(2) how many attacks have been made on people who work with mental health patients in each of the last 10 years for which records are available. [76777]

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she is taking to improve the safety of patients and staff on mental health wards; [77228]

(2) how many *(a)* members of staff, *(b)* patients and *(c)* visitors have suffered (i) verbal and (ii) physical assaults on mental health wards in each of the last 10 years. [77229]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The NHS Security Management Service has developed a range of both proactive and reactive initiatives to tackle violence and aggression against staff, including those who work in the mental health setting.

A network of local specialists has been put in place, with the professional skills to provide advice on the protection of national health service staff, supported nationally by the NHS Security Management Service. All health bodies, including mental health trusts, are required to nominate a local security management specialist to provide localised, specialist skills. A specific accreditation course has been developed for those local security management specialists based in mental health trusts and the first course took place in April 2006.

An expert group has also developed a national syllabus for the management of violence training in mental health and learning disability settings. The aim is to equip staff with the necessary skills to be able to identify and de-escalate potentially violent situations from occurring in the first place. The NHS Security Management Service has worked closely with stakeholders such as the Department, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the National Institute of Mental Health England to develop this syllabus.

The information requested was not collected in the format requested prior to 2004-05. However, the NHS Security Management Service has collected data on the number of physical assaults on NHS staff in England for the period 2004-05. The figure for assaults in mental health and learning disability environments was 43,097.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been provided by her Department for research into the *(a)* prevention, *(b)* treatment and *(c)* cure of dementia in each of the last three years; whether she has made an assessment of the research funding provided by other EU countries; and if her Department will increase the priority for those purposes it gives to such research. [77632]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The main agency through which the Government supports medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Innovation. Recent levels of MRC expenditure on research into dementia[1] have been as follows:

[1] Including Alzheimer's disease, general dementia. AIDS-related dementia, Pick's disease and Huntingtons.

	£ million
2002-03	6.6
2003-04	7.4
2004-05	not yet available

The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service. National research programme expenditure on projects related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementia has been:

	£ million
2002-03	1.6
2003-04	1.1
2004-05	0.6

The Department has not made international comparisons of research spend in this area.

The Department has set up and is investing £20 million in a national research network on dementias and neurodegenerative disease. The network will bring together NHS staff and resources to expand the number and range of clinical trials of medical treatments for neurodegenerative diseases. In addition, the funders' forum for research on ageing and older people will shortly begin the process of mapping the profile of ageing-related research and identify gaps. This work will help the Department, and other funders, to decide on research priorities.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department collects data on the regional and socio-demographic profile of people with dementia; whether she has made a comparison of the prevalence of dementia in the UK with other EU countries; what plans her Department has for monitoring changes in the number of people with dementia; and if her Department will *(a)* estimate the costs to the NHS of dementia and *(b)* assess the economic effect on those affected by dementia and their carers. [77633]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on the regional and socio-demographic profile of people with dementia is not collected centrally and the Department has not compared prevalence of dementia in the United Kingdom with other European Union countries.

The Department is currently looking into the process of collecting information on older people with mental health needs, including people with dementia, and the services which support them.

NHS employers have announced changes to the new general medical services contract for 2006-07. New indicators are being introduced to the quality and outcomes framework for 2006-07 and include the introduction of a disease register of patients diagnosed with dementia.

The Department has not made an estimate of the costs to the national health service of dementia and an assessment of the economic effect on those affected by dementia and on their carers.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many visits to NHS hospitals *(a)* she and *(b)* each of her Ministers made between 4 April and 13 June; and which hospital was visited in each case. [78644]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 19 June 2006]*: Between 4 April and 13 June 2006 the Secretary of State for Health visited the following national health service hospitals:

4 April 2006—Broadgreen Hospital, Liverpool;

4 April 2006—Liverpool Royal Infirmary, Liverpool;

4 April 2006—North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, Stoke on Trent;

1 June 2006—Lewisham University Hospital, London; and

2 June 2006—The Whittington Hospital, London.

The Minister of State with responsibility for reform visited Chase Farm Hospital, London on 8 May 2006.

The Minister of State with responsibility for delivery and quality visited the following hospitals:

31 May 2006—The Princess Royal Hospital, Orpington;

1 June 2006—Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading;

1 June 2006—Salisbury Hospital, Salisbury; and

1 June 2006—Yeovil District Hospital, Yeovil.

The Minister of State with responsibility for health services visited the University College Hospital, London on 11 May 2006.

The Minister of State with responsibility for public health visited the Crawley Hospital, Crawley on 11 April 2006.

Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers Framework

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to publish the Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers framework (MoCAM); what the reasons are for the delay in publication; and when she expects to publish the evidence review of effectiveness of treatment expected to inform the MoCAM framework. [79261]

Caroline Flint: The delay in publication has occurred because of some recent changes made to the document to ensure that it does not contradict other key commissioning guidance, including guidance on "Models of Care for Drug Misusers", which has recently been reviewed.

A comprehensive review of the evidence base for the effectiveness of alcohol treatment interventions will be published shortly, alongside guidance on "Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers" which will lay out how best to combine treatment approaches into an effective local alcohol treatment system.

National Beds Inquiry

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department is following the care closer to home scenario outlined in the conclusions of the national beds inquiry of 2000. [79039]

Andy Burnham: "Our Health Our Care Our Say: a future direction for community services" signalled our intention to carry out a project in conjunction with the speciality associations and Royal Colleges to look at a range of care pathways and service models that deliver care that is more convenient for patients in settings that are more accessible to them. The care closer to home demonstration project is now under way and it is considering intermediate care, step down facilities and greater use of community-based services as per the suggestions in the national beds inquiry.

National Radiotherapy Advisory Group

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times the National Radiotherapy Advisory Group has met; when the next meeting will be; what the group's terms of reference are; when the group will report; and if she will make a statement. [80062]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national radiotherapy advisory group (NRAG) has met five times and will meet again in the autumn. We expect NRAG to report later this year.

The terms of reference are as follows:

to advise on the development and delivery of radiotherapy services, including relevant elements of the NHS Cancer Plan and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance

to advise on radiotherapy policy programmes including:

demand and capacity for radiotherapy;

streamlining service delivery;

future developments;

service quality;

equipment requirements; and

training and work force requirements.

NHS Connecting for Health Computer System

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will commission an independent review of technical and financial matters related to the NHS Connecting for Health computer system. [76529]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1880W.

NHS Direct

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on (1) what basis redundancies and site closures relating to NHS Direct were made; and what effects on costs these had; [80552]

(2) how many *(a)* redundancies and *(b)* site closures have been made in relation to NHS Direct. [80553]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS Direct began a 12-week consultation period with staff and staff-side representatives on 16 May 2006 on proposals to ensure that its organisational structure, estates and staffing are fit for purpose to meet future developments and demand. The consultation period is due to end on 16 August 2006. The outcomes of the consultation will be made public thereafter.

The NHS Direct consultation document proposes that 12 sites will close over the next 18 months. Implementation of the proposals will be dependent on a number of factors but the current estimate is that a maximum of 573 posts could be at risk of redundancy. However, these proposals are subject to the outcome of the consultation. A more precise estimate of the costs saved will be made on completion of the consultation.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls were made to NHS Direct in each year since it was launched; and how many calls NHS Direct is forecast to receive in each of the next two years. [80554]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Warrington, North (Helen Jones) on 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1574W.

NHS Direct is a multi channel service which receives over 500,000 calls per month, as well as over 1,500,000 contacts per month through its web and digital television channels.

Information on calls forecast is not centrally held. The information may be available from the Chairman of NHS Direct special health authority.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many telephone advisers were employed by NHS Direct in each year since it was set up; and how many telephone advisers will be employed in each of the next two years. [80556]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on this is not centrally held. The information may be available from the chairman of NHS Direct special health authority.

NHS Information Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 944W, on the NHS IT programme, whether the estimate of the cost of the contract over 10 years remains £6.2 billion. [76391]

Caroline Flint: The value of contracts let for the original core components of the programme amounts to £6.2 billion over 10 years. This figure is not an estimate.

NHS IT Programme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she was first informed that the central cost of the NHS IT programme was likely to be around £9 billion. [79676]

Caroline Flint: The National Audit Office have made clear in their report published on 16 June 2006 that the contracted costs of the national programme for information technology over 10 years is £6.2 billion, and that this cost has not increased since the contracts were let in 2003 and 2004. The report also refers to central expenditure of £1.9 billion over 10 years. That will not just be spent on running the national programme, but also covers the functions previously undertaken by the NHS Information Authority, which was closed in 2005, and, in its last year, cost £219 million. It is clear therefore that the £1.9 billion is not additional funding but is in fact a reduction on what the central management of national health service information technology services cost before the national programme.

NHS Prescriptions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS prescriptions were issued in each year since 1997. [74067]

Andy Burnham: Figures are not available on the number of national health service prescriptions issued. Figures are, however, available on the number of prescriptions dispensed in the community in England, which is shown in the table.

	Prescriptions items
1997	500,153,113
1998	513,209,036
1999	529,770,174
2000	551,842,948
2001	587,049,035
2002	617,021,718
2003	649,702,677
2004	686,138,915
2005	720,283,164

Sources:
For figures from 1997 to 2004, these are available in the Statistical Bulletin to be found at: www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/prescriptionsdispensed05
For the 2005 figure, this can be found in the prescription cost analysis tables at: www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/prescostanalysis2005

NHS Service Contracts

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which US companies have been awarded contracts for the delivery of NHS services; and what the value was of such contracts. [57560]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department itself has awarded no contracts to United States companies for the delivery of national health service services and does not collect information about contracts which are agreed locally between primary care trusts and providers.

NHS Treatment (Funding)

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps an NHS clinician can take if funding for a treatment they deem to be most clinically appropriate is refused by their primary care trust; [78313]

(2) whether a primary care trust may refuse funding for a treatment that has been deemed most clinically appropriate by an NHS clinician. [78314]

Andy Burnham: The responsibility for local health services is for primary care trusts (PCTs) who are responsible for the planning and development of services to meet the needs of their local populations. Where no guidance or directions have been issued to PCTs that are relevant to a treatment, PCTs should make their decision on funding based on their own assessment of the relevant factors and circumstances of the case. If a clinician is unhappy with the decision of a PCT they should request a full explanation of the rationale behind the decision in the first instance, and the PCT should seek to engage the clinician in dialogue with regard to treatment options.

Nuffield Speech and Language Unit

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will visit the Nuffield Speech and Language Unit. [65295]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Due to diary commitments and parliamentary business, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health is regrettably unable to visit the Nuffield speech and language unit in the foreseeable future.

Nurses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of professional misconduct were *(a)* reported and *(b)* upheld against nursing staff trained and qualified outside the United Kingdom in each year since 1997. [79638]

Andy Burnham: Incidences of professional misconduct are reported to the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the relevant statutory independent regulator who deals with them under its fitness to practise procedures. Queries regarding this should be made directly to the Chief Executive at the Nursing and Midwifery Council, 23 Portland Place, London, W1B 1PZ, telephone number: 0207 637 7181.

Older People's Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the Government have made of the extent to which continuity of care for older people encompasses the choice to live *(a)* at home and *(b)* in a care home. [70124]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government's policy is to support people to remain in their own homes, where it is safe to do so and when it accords with their wishes and assessed needs.

Most people want to live in their own home for as long as possible. To enable them to do so, the Government have made substantial investment in care settings such as domiciliary care and extra care housing. Domiciliary

care services can help people to remain in control of their own lives. They need to be delivered in ways that reflect individual needs and wishes and with respect for individuals, their homes and preferred lifestyles.

The Government believe that care homes are one of a range of options that should be available for supporting people with long-term care needs. We recognise that there will always be people who need or want the type of care that only care homes can provide. For them, care in a care home will be best suited to their needs and wishes and care homes offer them a positive choice. However, we believe that no one should be admitted into a care home until all other options have been explored and discussed with the service user, their carers and relatives.

Operations (Private Sector)

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what proportion of the Department's budget has been allocated to the private sector for the performance of routine operations for NHS patients in each year since 1997; [61719]

(2) what proportion of the Department's total budget has been *(a)* spent on private sector contracts in each year since 1997 and *(b)* allocated to private sector contracts in 2006-07. [61720]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's expenditure on centrally procured independent sector treatment centre providers, the General Supplementary Contract and the national contract for magnetic resonance imaging scans is shown in the table. Locally procured expenditure is not available.

	Centrally procured independent sector (£ million)	*Proportion as a percentage of total net NHS expenditure*
2003-04	1.4	0.002
2004-05	80.3	0.12
2005-06	198.6	[1]0.26
2006-07	[1]233.1	[1]0.25

[1] Estimated

Source:
Department of Health

Osteoporosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Department's strategy is for encouraging general practitioners to look for early diagnosis of osteoporosis. [77809]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The prevention, treatment, care and support of those at risk of osteoporosis are important components in the delivery of the falls standard of the national service framework (NSF) for older people. The standard requires local health services to establish appropriate interventions and advice to prevent osteoporotic fractures.

The Department has asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to develop clinical guidelines and undertake technology appraisals of new treatments to build on and improve the framework of services set out in the NSF.

Picture Archiving and Communications System

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many images have been stored on the National Programme for Information Technology's Picture Archiving and Communications System. [75436]

Caroline Flint: At the beginning of June 2006, over 35 million images had been stored using picture archiving and communications systems (PACS) delivered through the national programme for information technology. 32 PACS systems are now live, with around six new systems being deployed each month. Before advent of the national programme, this figure was around only five each year. The bulk of PACS deployments will be complete by March 2007, in line with the plan to have finished deployment throughout the national health service in England by the end of 2007.

Practice-based Commissioning

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS services will not be contained within the commissioning scope of practice-based commissioning. [79038]

Andy Burnham: The services specifically excluded from the commissioning scope of practice-based commissioning are:

core general medical services and personal medical services; and

specialised services, services commissioned regionally and nationally and national screening programmes.

These services are excluded from the scope of a practice's indicative budget as outlined in "Practice-based commissioning: achieving universal coverage" (January 2006) which is available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/12/74/25/04127425.pdf

A copy has been placed in the Library.

Private Care (NHS Facilities)

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress she is making in estimating the costs of provision by NHS facilities of private care; and what assessment she has made of whether the NHS makes a surplus from such provision. [79263]

Andy Burnham: The information is not held centrally.

Private Prescribing

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the guidance issued by her Department's Medicines, Pharmacy and Industry Group on procedures for the private prescribing of schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs, in what areas of the country general practitioners will be permitted to use the new FP10PCD prescription forms once registered with their local primary care trust. [80012]

Andy Burnham: FP10PCD prescription forms are for use by all prescribers, including general practitioners issuing private prescriptions (non-national health service activity) for schedule 2 and 3 controlled drugs, where these drugs are to be dispensed by a community pharmacist. From 7 July 2006, their use will become a statutory requirement.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement about the pilot prostate cancer awareness campaign; and when the campaign will be rolled-out nationally. [80394]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Raising the public awareness of prostate cancer is one of the key challenges for the future. We want men to know what their prostate is, what it does, and what can go wrong with it. However, we have to raise awareness in a responsible way so as not to cause undue anxiety and worry, and also not to overwhelm national health service services when there is no clear clinical benefit.

Through the work of the prostate cancer advisory group, chaired by the National Cancer Director Professor Mike Richards, a pilot public awareness programme on the prostate has been developed. The pilot is jointly funded by the Department and signatories to the Prostate Cancer Charter for Action. The Department is providing £100,000 for the pilot.

ContinYOU, a community learning charity based in Coventry, were successful in being appointed to run the pilot following a formal tendering exercise. ContinYOU is currently holding focus groups with different groups of men to assist in designing the programme, which is due to run in September 2006 in Coventry.

A formal evaluation of the pilot will be undertaken, assessing the effectiveness of the intervention tools used in raising awareness of the prostate and the impact of the pilot on NHS services.

If the evaluation proves that the pilot is successful, consideration will be given on how best to roll the pilot out across the NHS.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress her Department is making towards finding a diagnostic test for prostate cancer which would be suitable for use in a national screening programme. [80396]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are committed to introducing a national population screening programme for prostate cancer if and when screening and treatment techniques are sufficiently well developed for such a programme to be introduced.

The Department is supporting the development of screening technology for prostate cancer by having a comprehensive research strategy into all aspects of prostate cancer. We are jointly with other National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) members funding two NCRI prostate cancer research collaborates, and the Department is funding half of the total £7.4 million cost.

The research undertaken by the collaboratives covers all aspects of prostate cancer and has already generated the groundbreaking discovery of the overactive E2F3 gene in prostate cancer tumours. This discovery provides the potential not only to identify those at risk of developing the disease, but for the first time allows the prediction of how aggressive the cancer will be. Research is under way to turn this into a diagnostic test so that we can identify those patients whose prostate cancers are aggressive and urgently need treatment.

It is important to note that in order for a screening technology to contribute to saving lives it is essential for there to be effective treatments for the disease detected. That is why the Department is funding a £20 million trial of treatments for prostate specific antigen (PSA) screen-detected early prostate cancer (the ProtecT trial).

Rheumatoid Arthritis

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations her Department made to the European Commission regarding the inclusion of rheumatoid arthritis as a priority area of EU Framework Programme 7. [79177]

Andy Burnham: At the Competitiveness Council held on 30 May 2006, a general approach was agreed on the seventh framework programme high-level text. A general approach is a political agreement which allows Ministers to agree in principle to a text that has yet to be considered by the European Parliament. The United Kingdom Government have supported the inclusion of arthritis as one of the priority diseases named in the agreed text.

Spinal Cord Injuries

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration she has given to the merits of establishing a national clinical director for spinal cord injury. [80342]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: None. Primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning specialist services through specialised commissioning groups, and the national service framework for long-term conditions is specifically concerned with meeting the health and social care needs of all those living with long-term neurological conditions.

Strategic Health Authorities

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will summarise the representations she received in response to the consultations on *(a)* strategic health authorities, *(b)* primary care trusts and *(c)* ambulance services; and how many she received (i) in total and (ii) from Staffordshire. [76751]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 1,030 separate letters were sent to Ministers, including the Secretary of State, during the consultation period on strategic health authority and primary care trusts reconfiguration. Of these, 11 were specific to Staffordshire.

261 separate letters were sent to Ministers, including the Secretary of State, during the consultation period on ambulance trust configuration. Of these, 192 concerned Staffordshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust and eight of these letters enclosed petitions totalling 2,946 signatures. In addition, Ministers met with a number of hon. Members during that time.

Sunitinib

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to commence appraisal for the cancer drug Sunitinib; and how long the appraisal is expected to last. [79333]

Andy Burnham: Sunitinib for renal cell carcinoma is currently being considered by the Department for referral to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). NICE will publish a timescale for the appraisal when and if the drug is referred to them.

Tuberculosis

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the risk to NHS professionals of litigation arising from *(a)* misdiagnosis and *(b)* medical complications when using the Mantoux skin test for tuberculosis. [76381]

Andy Burnham: The tuberculin product used in the United Kingdom (UK) is the most widely used product for Mantoux testing and is the World Health Organization reference standard. This product is currently unlicensed in the UK and can, therefore, only be administered on a named patient basis via a patient specific direction.

Doctors prescribe or administer unlicensed medicines to their patients on their own direct responsibility. Unlicensed medicines can be administered by other national health service professionals on the directions of a doctor but the doctor remains responsible for the decision to give the unlicensed product for the individual concerned. A claim can be brought against a doctor who prescribes or administers any medicine, whether licensed or unlicensed, if the patient can show that the doctor acted negligently. NHS professionals are required to have in place appropriate professional negligence insurance in respect of such claims.

United Health Europe

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the contracts that have been awarded in the UK by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* primary care trusts to United Health Europe; and if she will make a statement. [53684]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: One contract has been made between the Department and United Health Europe. This contract is for project management of nine primary care trust (PCT) pilots for improving the co-ordination of cancer care services.

The Department does not collect information about contracts which are agreed locally between PCTs and providers or which are within the purview of the devolved Administrations.

Waiting Times

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people had been waiting more than six months for an NHS in-patient operation in England at the end of *(a)* April and *(b)* May. [77693]

Andy Burnham: The number of patients waiting over six months at the end of April 2006 was 144. The figures relating to the end of May 2006 will be published on 30 June.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 27 June 2006

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biomass Sector

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the skills level in the biomass sector; and if he will make a statement. [79485]

Ian Pearson: The Biomass Task Force identified that the demand for a skilled work force would increase as the biomass industry expands. The Government recognise that a well trained and highly skilled work force is essential for the future success of the biomass industry and agreed with the task force's recommendation for identifying the skills and training requirements in this sector. We will continue to work closely with relevant bodies, including the Sector Skills Councils and Regional Development Agencies, on a range of actions to underpin future training provision for both the clean biomass and waste biomass sectors.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by how many tonnes of carbon dioxide vehicle emissions changed after the passage of the Euro III (2000) emissions standards; and what change is expected once the Euro IV (2005) standards take effect. [79369]

Ian Pearson: The Euro III and Euro IV standards deal with the emissions of pollutants that impact upon air quality, rather than climate. However, while trying to improve air quality through introduction of the challenging emissions requirements of the Euro III and Euro IV standards, the European Community is also working with car manufacturers to achieve voluntary agreements on new car fuel efficiency.

The following table shows the evolution of average performance of passenger cars as different Euro standards have been introduced.

Table 1: Average carbon dioxide emissions of new cars sold in the United Kingdom, under urban driving, rural driving and motorway driving conditions

	Emissions (grams per kilometre) of carbon dioxide from average new passenger car					
	Petrol			*Diesel*		
	Urban	*Rural*	*Motorway*	*Urban*	*Rural*	*Motorway*
Cars sold 1996-1999 (pre-Euro III)	195	187	227	188	174	232
Cars sold 2000-2004 (Euro III)	183	176	213	168	155	207
Projected emissions from cars sold 2005-2010 (Euro IV)	163	157	190	153	141	188

Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 1 March concerning Mr. Dan Stephenson; what the reasons are for the delay in replying; and if he will make a statement. [79468]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 22 June.

The Department has no record of receiving the letter of 1 March. A follow-up letter was received on 25 April but it did not contain a copy of the constituent's letter so officials were unable to draft a response. The hon. Member's office then faxed a copy of the letter to the Department.

However, I apologise for the fact that it has taken longer than usual for a reply to be sent.

David Diamond

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when *(a)* an interim and *(b)* the full single payment scheme payment will be made to Mr. David Diamond of South Brent (holding number 10/296/025); and if he will meet Mr. Diamond to discuss the reasons for delays in payment. [68331]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* I can confirm that Mr. David Diamond of South Brent was made a full payment under the single payment scheme on 10 May 2006. Ministers and officials at the Rural Payments Agency have apologised for the delay in making payments under the single payment scheme and RPA staff are working hard to complete outstanding payments as quickly as possible.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by his Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77271]

Barry Gardiner: The Department has no plans to record separately the cost of alcohol for hospitality purposes.

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* other member states of the European Union on proposing policy on improvements in energy efficiency. [79683]

Ian Pearson: Energy efficiency is at the heart of UK energy policy. We have made significant efforts to ensure its importance is recognised at European level to enable the EU to meet its climate change goals, while simultaneously increasing competitiveness and security of supply.

The European Commission's Green Paper on Energy Efficiency, published on 29 June 2005, set a target to reduce energy consumption across the EU by 20 per cent. by 2020. The Government have welcomed the stance taken in the Green Paper and made an active contribution to the consultation process, which ended in March this year. The Government look forward to the release, in September, of an ambitious and realistic Energy Efficiency Action Plan from the Commission, which incorporates comments from the UK, and forms an integral part of EU energy policy.

Entry Level Scheme

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking towards fulfilling his Department's commitment to *(a)* 70 per cent. uptake of the Entry Level Scheme and *(b)* providing continued expenditure for the Higher Tier Scheme. [72523]

Barry Gardiner: The Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) scheme is open to all farmers. The Department's only published target for ELS is to achieve 60 per cent. coverage of eligible English farmland by the end of 2007. At the present rate of uptake we are well on course to achieving this target.

Both the Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship schemes will be funded under the new Rural Development Programme for England 2007-2013. The total amount of funding available will depend on the outcome of discussions at EU level about how the voluntary modulation mechanism will operate from 2007 onwards. No decisions have yet been taken about the rate of voluntary modulation and any Exchequer co-financing in this period.

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on foreign travel by his Department in each of the last eight years. [76056]

Barry Gardiner: Since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. This information is available in the Library. Information for the financial year 2004-05 was published on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, 158WS. Information for the financial year 2005-06 is in the process of being collated and will be published shortly.

The following table shows expenditure for the Department, including its agencies, recorded since the Department was formed in 2001. There are no figures for DEFRA's predecessor Departments as this information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Expenditure on foreign travel including accommodation and subsistence

	£000
2001-02	2,760
2002-03	3,526
2003-04	3,507
2004-05	3,618
2005-06	4,578

All foreign travel undertaken by Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the ministerial code and the civil service management code.

Rural Enterprise Scheme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grants for rural businesses will be administered by the regional development agencies from 2007; what details have been made available on these schemes; and if he will make a statement. [80009]

Barry Gardiner: RDAs will be responsible for delivering the socio-economic elements of the new Rural Development Programme for England from January 2007. Priorities for this European co-funded programme are still being established, taking into consideration the results of a public consultation which ended on 22 May 2006.

RDAs already provide support to both urban and rural businesses, through a range of initiatives within their regions, funded through the RDA single programme. As priorities and activities are determined regionally, initiatives vary between regions. Details of this support is available from each RDA.

Sustainable Water Systems

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many businesses have used the Enhanced Capital Allowance scheme for investment water-saving technologies in *(a)* Dudley, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England since the scheme's introduction. [79211]

Ian Pearson: Detailed information on the take-up by businesses of the Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA) scheme for investment in water-saving technologies is not available.

HM Revenue and Customs and HM Treasury ask businesses to tick a box on their income tax and corporation tax returns if their claim to capital allowances includes ECAs for environmentally beneficial technologies (i.e. energy-saving, water-efficient/ sustainable or low CO_2

emission cars). However, this cannot specify the number of claims to ECAs made under the water scheme. Claims cannot be refined down to an individual city, local authority or country within the UK.

Thames Gateway

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1683W, to the hon. Member for Brent, East (Sarah Teather) on the Thames Gateway, what progress has been made as part of the National Flood and Coastal Defence Database in ascertaining the condition of the Thames estuary tidal defences. [79317]

Ian Pearson: The National Flood and Coastal Defence Database will record the location, height and condition of all flood defences in England.

The Thames estuary tidal defences in London and Kent have now been entered into the database. More than 90 per cent. of the Thames estuary tidal defences in the Anglian region have also been entered into the database. Where defences have not been entered this is due to technical reasons rather than a lack of information about defences.

London and the Thames estuary have one of the best tidal defence systems in the world, which provides a high standard of protection from flooding. The Environment Agency is currently developing a major flood risk management strategy—Thames Estuary 2100—to look at how we can manage flood risk to London over the next 100 years, taking into account future predicted impacts of climate change.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners Finance Director

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the Commissioners finance director. [80094]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners financial and deputy secretary is Christopher Daws FCA, CTA, MCT, MA (Cantab). He has 36 years of financial experience in both the profession and a range of commercial businesses, before joining the Commissioners in 1994.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Arms Exports

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research his Department has *(a)* carried out and *(b)* commissioned into the economic consequences of ending export credit support for UK producers of military goods. [76856]

Mr. McCartney: The Department has not carried out or commissioned specific research into the wider economic consequences of ending export credit support for UK military goods producers. However, it did contribute to a University of York study (2001) into the economic costs and benefits of a reduction in UK exports of military goods. In the recent past, it has also provided data to independent researchers investigating this subject area.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff were responsible for approving applications for arms exports in the most recent year for which figures are available. [80764]

Malcolm Wicks: The Export Control Organisation of the Department of Trade and Industry acts as licensing body for all strategic exports from the UK and currently has a dedicated staff complement of 110.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff are tasked with monitoring compliance of UK *(a)* companies and *(b)* citizens in relation to UK arms export regulations. [80765]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department of Trade and Industry's Export Control Organisation has seven full-time Compliance Visiting Officers who check compliance with the terms and conditions of open export and trade control licences.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate has been made of the annual carbon dioxide emissions from the new Centrica power plant in Devon once it is fully functioning. [79368]

Malcolm Wicks: Annual emissions from any combustion plant depend on the load factor (the proportion of the time that the plant operates), which is a matter for the plant operator, and the efficiency with which it converts fuel into electricity, which will depend on the design of the plant, also a matter for the plant operator.

If the Langage plant operates at about the average load factor observed for newer plants of this type over recent years (about 66 per cent.) and at the efficiency expected of a new plant of this type (about 47 per cent. on a gross calorific value basis) it might be expected to emit some 1.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum.

Korea

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures the Department has taken to promote UK industry, technology and innovation in Korea to encourage inward investment from that country. [79322]

Mr. McCartney: UK Trade and Investment, in partnership with the regional development agencies and devolved Administrations, is responsible for promoting the UK as a destination for high quality inward investment from overseas, including the Republic of Korea.

Recently, UK Trade and Investment in Korea has focused on "in market" PR and media activity; the use of experts from industry and academia to talk directly to Korean companies about the UK's strengths in technology sectors and events aimed at encouraging partnerships between UK and Korean companies. Other elements are the facilitation of bilateral technology focused co-operation; inward/outward visits including technology fact-finding missions and technology partnering. The teams from UK Trade and Investment and the FCO's Science and Innovation Network based in Seoul collaborate to maximise the science and innovation aspects of events.

Micro-Renewables Targets

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to set national micro-renewable targets before November 2008; and if he will make a statement. [78895]

Malcolm Wicks: Section 4 of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 requires the Government to take a decision as to whether it would be appropriate to designate targets for microgeneration by November 2008. If considered appropriate, targets would then need to be set by March 2009.

We will be closely monitoring the development of the microgeneration market, assessing future trends and undertaking any further analysis and research required in order to take a decision on the suitability of a target within the designated time scales.

OM Energy Ltd.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress the Department has made in relation to the trading activities of OM Energy Ltd.; what support the Government have provided for the company and its associated companies; and if he will make a statement. [79752]

Mr. McCartney: OM Energy is a research stage company and is one of a pipeline of early-stage companies being assisted by UK Trade and Investment's Global Entrepreneur Programme (GEP). The GEP, which aims to attract entrepreneurial talent and technologies based overseas to relocate and carry out business in the UK, has provided normal Dealmaker support including information and guidance to the scientists and founders on the following, during Phase 1 of the project:

- Information on establishing a UK company
- Establishing a UK bank account
- Assigning the core patent to the UK company
- Introductions to non-governmental private equity sources of seed capital for early-stage high-risk research projects
- Filing for worldwide patents with UK patent agents
- Introductions to the UK scientific community to award a contract to characterise the research
- Information on British companies to procure specialist materials required.

Renewable Energy

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment has been made of the potential electricity generating capacity of tidal lagoons in the Severn estuary. [76541]

Malcolm Wicks: Between 1978 and 1994 the Government supported the most comprehensive programme of research and development on tidal energy in the world at an overall cost in excess of £20 million. Part of those studies reported in Energy Paper 46 HMSO 1981 (ISBN 011 4109168 and 410919 2) evaluated two proposals for multiple tidal power lagoons in the Severn estuary.

Telephone Advice Lines

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many telephone advice lines his Department and its non-departmental public bodies support; how many telephone advisers each employs; and how much funding is provided by *(a)* his Department and its non-departmental public bodies, *(b)* other Government Departments, *(c)* the private sector and *(d)* the voluntary sector. [66581]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's central records do not contain the information to answer this question. Therefore, the Department of Trade and Industry could answer this question only at disproportionate cost.

Zimbabwe

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the sale of military equipment to the Zimbabwe Defence Force by Avient Ltd. [78639]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave her on 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1886W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC Licence Fee

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the final report of the House of Lords BBC Charter Review Committee, what steps she plans to take to ensure there is parliamentary scrutiny of the BBC licence fee bid. [79521]

Mr. Woodward: The level of the licence fee is set by regulations made under the Communications Act 2003, which must be laid before both Houses of Parliament before they can come into effect. The regulations are subject to negative resolution procedure, but the opportunity exists for any change to be debated by both Houses.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will include in the BBC licence fee settlement ring-fenced funding *(a)* to cover the costs of digital switchover and *(b)* to help the over-75s and other vulnerable groups with the costs of digital switchover. [79523]

Mr. Woodward: The Government are currently conducting a funding review to determine the level of the licence fee to apply from April 2007. The White Paper, "A public service for all: the BBC in the digital age", sets out the BBC's role in Digital Switchover including helping to establish and fund a scheme to help the most vulnerable TV viewers through digital switchover. The Government will take this issue into account, alongside all other relevant factors, as part of the funding review.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department has assessed the possible impact of the licence fee settlement delay on digital switchover; and if she will make a statement. [79574]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* There is no delay in the licence fee settlement. The Government are currently conducting a funding review to determine the level of the licence fee to apply from April 2007; all relevant factors will be considered as part of the review. An announcement will be made later this year.

Cultural Services (Funding)

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what maximum amount of funding was available to local authorities from the cultural services block in each of the last five years; and what average amount was awarded in each year. [79905]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services Block is one of seven service blocks supported via formula grant. Formula grant comprises revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula police grant. Formula grant is an un-hypothecated block grant, i.e. authorities are able to use the money for any service. This means that it is not possible to say how much grant was provided for environmental, protective and cultural services.

Eveline Lowe School, Bermondsey

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she will announce her decision on whether the application for listing for part of the Eveline Lowe school in Bermondsey, London SE1 has been granted. [80751]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received advice from English Heritage and will be making a decision shortly.

London Bombings

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the outcome of the meeting she has had with people severely injured in the London bombings. [77712]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* As Minister responsible for the aftercare of victims of major disasters, I have held meetings with around 150 survivors of the bombings, many of whom sustained physical injuries. These meetings have highlighted many important issues which we must learn from if we are to improve our response to major emergencies in the future. The lessons identified following the 7 July 2006, and the work we are engaging in to make sure things change in the future, will be outlined in a Government paper to be published in due course.

Tourist Attractions (Suffolk)

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which 10 tourist attractions in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency attracted the largest number of visitors in each year since 1997. [79391]

Mr. Woodward: My Department does not maintain central records of visitors to tourist attractions. However, Visit Britain and its predecessor have previously carried out periodical surveys of regional attractions. Where data are available the estimated visitor numbers for the most popular attractions covering Suffolk and the Bury St. Edmunds constituency are set out in the following table.

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Mannings Amusement Park	250,000	200,000	200,000	250,000	[1]	270,000	270,000	270,000
Nowton Park	90,000	250,000	200,000	200,000	194,268	240,037	[1]	[1]
Clare Castle Country Park	155,000	200,000	200,000	173,300	171,500	168,000	170,000	170,000
Sutton Hoo Burial Site	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]	210,000	135,000	102,000
Suffolk Wildlife Park	119,573	110,876	117,788	115,000	[1]	[1]	[1]	[1]
Ickworth House, Park and Garden	93,339	86,459	94,893	[1]	[1]	109,178	117,651	102,159
Minsmere Nature Reserve (RSPB)	84,000	76,912	74,656	71,642	61,526	75,105	81,466	85,166
Easton Farm Park	40,000	38,000	35,000	[1]	[1]	65,000	[1]	[1]
Framlingham Castle	66,240	62,318	64,126	63,836	57,634	57,176	59,932	55,088
Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral	60,000	50,000	50,000	45,700	50,000	50,000	55,000	55,000

[1] No data

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether British troops killed and injured in Helmand province, Afghanistan, on Sunday 11 June were evacuated by air or land; and if he will make a statement. [80526]

Des Browne: Following enemy action on Sunday 11 June, the Ministry of Defence was saddened to confirm the death of Captain Philippson and the injury of two other UK personnel. The injured personnel were evacuated by CH47 Chinook helicopter from the scene of the incident to the UK medical facility at Camp Bastion, Helmand Province.

Cadet Forces

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to replace the cadet general purpose rifle used by the cadet forces; and if he will make a statement. [79056]

Mr. Watson: While there are currently sufficient stocks of all types of cadet rifles, future options, including replacement and extending the life of the current weapons, are being considered as part of the Ministry of Defence's normal planning process.

Complaints Management

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he plans to assess the implementation of his December 2005 Defence Instruction Notice concerning recording and retention of information in respect of the management of complaints; and if he will make a report to the House when his assessment has been made. [79882]

Mr. Watson: Assessment of the implementation of the Defence Instruction Notice concerning the recording and retention of information in respect of the management of complaints will commence in January 2007. It is envisaged that a report will be made to the House in 2008 at the conclusion of Phase Three of the Agreement between the Ministry of Defence and the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Defence Police College

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many *(a)* new and *(b)* existing members of the Royal Military Police have attended courses since the opening of the Defence Police college in 2005; and what percentage of the total Royal Military Police personnel this represents; [79885]

(2) what courses are available at the Defence Police college; what the duration is of each; how many external consultants in what fields of expertise have assisted in training in the last five years; and what advice the college has sought from human rights experts in that period; [79886]

(3) who has been appointed as head of the Defence Police college. [79887]

Mr. Ingram: Lieutenant Colonel T P Watton OBE AGC (RMP) was appointed as Commanding Officer, Defence Police college, when the college was formed in September 2005.

The college provides the following courses:

	Number of working days
Royal Navy	
Senior Rates Regulation Acquaint	10
Leading Regulator Sea Pre-Joining	6
Provisional Professional Examination	1
Regulating Petty Officer's Course	15
Initial Regulating Qualifying Course	60
Submarine Coxswain Course	23
Personal Safety Training Course	10
Professional Investigations Course	20
Royal Military Police	
Military Police Officers Course	40
Company Commanders Course	10
Investigations Course	18
Initial Military Police Course	105
Management of Investigations	5
Intermediate Qualifying Course	25
Junior Qualifying Course	5
Scene of Crime Officer Course	40
Provost Warrant Officer Course	5
Pre-Field Army Course	12
RMP Senior Qualifying Course	20
Royal Air Force	
Assistant Provost Marshal Course	102
Basic Police Course	115
Police Further Training Course	12
Trade Management Training	10
Air Transport Security	5
Defensive Tactics (Unit Instructor)	5
Counter Intelligence Course	48
PACE Interview Technique Course	5
Unit Security Officers Course	3
Station Security Officers Course	1.5
Computer Security 1 Course	15
Computer Security 2 Course	18
Computer Installation Manager Course	3
Tri-Service	
Level 3 Investigations Course	45

In total, 21 external consultants have assisted with this training since the formation of the college. They have expertise in the following fields:

The role of solicitors in interviews

Forensic Science (including DNA, drugs, firearms and metallurgy)

Fatal road traffic accidents

Obscene publications

Sexual offences and use of sex offence kits

Conduct of investigations

Current drug trends

Interviewing sex offenders

Murder investigations

Use of audio/visual equipment
Kidnap and related offences
Forensic pathology
Fire pattern/accelerants
Fingerprinting
Crime scene investigation
Forensic odentology
Computer security
Physical Security
Intelligence reporting

The college has not sought advice from external human rights experts. However, all RMP recruits receive training on the implications of the Human Rights Act 1998 during their basic training.

A total of 97 trainees and 336 existing members of the Royal Military Police have attended courses at the Defence Police college since its formation. This represents 5.3 per cent. and 18.2 per cent. respectively of the Royal Military Police strength as of 1 May 2006.

European Security and Defence Policy

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the objectives are of the European Security and Defence Policy. [80191]

Des Browne: The European Security and Defence Policy was devised as a means of adding military and civilian crisis management capabilities to the range of instruments—political, diplomatic, economic—already available to the EU to address crisis situations elsewhere in the world.

The UK has succeeded in steering the policy from the outset to ensure that it complements the role of NATO as the cornerstone of European defence.

The existence today of 14 EU-led missions, mostly civilian, on three continents, all in areas of high priority in terms of the UK's foreign policy interests, is evidence that the policy is making a positive difference to international security.

Iraq

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether an inquiry has been conducted into the unlawful killings in Iraq of *(a)* Gunner David Lawrence of 1st Battalion Royal Horse Artillery and *(b)* Corporal Marc Taylor of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers by (i) the Iraqi police and (ii) the British armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [53690]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 27 February 2006]:* The conduct or otherwise of inquiries by the Iraqi Police Service is solely a matter for the Iraqi Government. The Royal Military Police Special Investigation Branch (RMP(SIB)) conducted an investigation into the incident in which Gunner David Lawrence and Corporal Marc Taylor died. A copy of the RMP(SIB) report was submitted to the coroner for the inquest into the death of both soldiers which concluded on 15 February 2006.

Joint Personnel Administration

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) why the roll-out of Joint Personnel Administration has been delayed for *(a)* the Army and *(b)* the Royal Navy; and what the expected dates are for roll-out for each service; [79661]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of Joint Personnel Administration in March; and if he will make a statement. [79664]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my Noble Friend (Lord Drayson) gave on 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column WA31 in another place to the Noble Lord Garden.

Operation Dominic (Compensation)

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provisions have been made to provide compensation for *(a)* British personnel who have suffered injury and *(b)* families of those who have died as a consequence of the Operation Dominic series of nuclear tests conducted in the vicinity of Christmas Island in 1962. [79784]

Mr. Watson: British service personnel who suffered injury as a result of service, or their surviving spouses, may apply for a war pension, or war widow's pension, under the terms of the war pension scheme. A war pension may be payable in respect of any disablement or death due to service. There are no restrictions on the time or place of service and no time limits for making a claim under the scheme.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will answer Question 53690, tabled on 16 February, Question 70034, tabled on 9 May, and Questions 70033 and 70145, tabled on 10 May, by the hon. Member for Forest of Dean. [80284]

Mr. Watson: I answered Question 53690, today. Work to answer Questions 70033, 70034 and 70145 is under way and I expect to be in a position to answer them shortly.

RAF Cosford

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on RAF Cosford being the preferred site for aeronautical training in the Defence Training Review; and if he will make a statement. [80794]

Mr. Watson: I have received many representations recommending Cosford as the preferred site for Aeronautical Engineering training; since January 2006 these have included 99 letters from the public, 14 letters from MPs, five Parliamentary Questions plus various meetings with MPs and officials. But, as I have said previously, we will select the solution which offers the best training capability for Defence.

Royal Military Police

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training the Royal Military Police receive in the use of the computerised Home Office Large Murder Enquiry System. [79883]

Mr. Ingram: Senior Royal Military Police Special Investigation Branch (RMP (SIB)) personnel attend Home Office approved Senior Investigation Officer Courses, which cover the use the Home Office Large Major Enquiry System (HOLMES) Version 2 and other systems designed to assist in major police investigations. Although RMP (SIB) personnel are no longer trained as HOLMES operators, this capability is maintained by the Ministry of Defence police, whose personnel attend courses provided by Home Department police forces training schools. The Service police forces have access to the system as required.

Royal Navy (Catering)

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all Royal Navy personnel serving at sea have access to Halal and non-Halal meat options. [79765]

Mr. Watson: Yes.

Service Allowances

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Answer of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1583, on service allowances, for what reason regular service personnel of less than 12 months' service are not entitled to longer separation service allowance. [80497]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The X-Factor is an adjustment made to military pay, recommended by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body (AFPRB), which recognises the relative disadvantages of the conditions of service experienced by members of the armed forces, compared with personnel in the civilian sector.

X-Factor is currently set at 13 per cent. for Regular personnel and is made up of a number of elements, one of which includes an element of separation. Therefore, to avoid double recompense, service personnel must experience a degree of separation (the qualifying period) before Longer Separated Service Allowance (LSSA) becomes payable.

With the roll-out of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA), LSSA is being replaced by Longer Separation Allowance (LSA). In recognition of the fact some junior personnel, particularly those in the infantry and Royal Marines, deploy immediately after their training, the Initial Qualifying Period for LSA has been set at 100 days of qualifying separated service. (Qualifying separated service requires personnel to be at a location that precludes return to their duty station, family or permanent residence for periods in excess of 10 days). This change from 12 months benefits those who deploy early in their careers.

Territorial Army

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people *(a)* joined and *(b)* resigned from the Territorial Army in Scotland in 2005. [62480]

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people in the London borough of Bexley serve in the Territorial Army. [78964]

Mr. Watson: The information is not held centrally in the format requested. Official strength figures for the Territorial Army (TA) are collated for the United Kingdom and not its constituent nations, counties or towns. As at 1 May 2006, the total strength of the TA was 37,270.

Notes:

1. This figure includes 1,090 Mobilised TA personnel and 5,090 members of the Officer Training Corps, but excludes 1,070 Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS). Full-time Reserve Service personnel are also excluded.

2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Training (Supervisory Care)

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the principal components are of the new policy on the provision of supervisory care in phase one and two training establishments introduced in March 2006; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the supervisory care directive applicable to *(a)* Deepcut barracks and *(b)* Catterick barracks. [79844]

Mr. Watson: The new Supervisory Care Policy for Defence Individual Training Establishments was published as a Defence Information Notice in March 2006 (2006DIN06-049). The policy mandates the determination of a Supervisory Care Directive, underpinned by a Unit Commander's Risk Assessment. The Supervisory Care Directive clearly articulates a Unit Commander's commitment to the care of trainees. It highlights areas where detailed care responsibilities are required, and cross-refers to other policies where appropriate. The Unit Commander's Risk Assessment takes account of the particular factors of the environment, the trainee population and the type of training being undertaken at each training establishment. The new policy mandates that minimum levels of supervision are determined from the Unit Commander's Risk Assessment and must be articulated against the relevant serials during the working day, out of hours, weekend and leave periods. Implementation of the new Supervisory Care Policy is subject to evaluation by the MOD HQ Defence Individual Training Capability (DITC) team in order to establish whether relevant policies have been correctly interpreted and successfully implemented.

The Risk Assessment for Deepcut has been completed and a copy of its Supervisory Care Directive will be placed in the Library of the House. Work on the more complex directive for Catterick is not yet finalised and I anticipate that it will be available for placement in the Library of the House in the coming weeks. I will write to my hon. Friend as soon as that work is complete.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures he plans to take to monitor the adoption and dissemination of a supervisory care

directive in each unit of the Army; by what means he will ensure the minimum standards to be reached in drawing up a directive; what measures he plans to take to correct any omissions and flaws; and what his target is for compliance across the training estate. [79846]

Mr. Watson: Instructions for the implementation of the Supervisory Care Policy for Defence Individual Training Establishments were issued in March 2006. Under this policy the Unit Commander of every training establishment is required to publish a Supervisory Care Directive, which they are to review annually. This Directive is underpinned by the Unit Commander's Risk Assessment which determines the minimum acceptable levels of supervision based on a number of local factors.

The Directorate of Individual Training Capability team conducts a continuing programme of evaluation of Army training establishments looking at policy implementation to establish whether correct and consistent outcomes are being achieved.

Veterans Day

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding has been made available by his Department for events in celebration of Veterans Day; and how this funding has been allocated. [76285]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence has made available around £130,000 to support Veterans Day events around the United Kingdom, in addition to the funding for the national event in London. The money has been allocated to bids which best meet the objectives of publicly promoting the Veterans Day messages. The messages include: that veterans have made and continue to make a major contribution to our nation; that veterans can be any age; that the veterans' community is diverse; and that there is support and advice available to veterans from both official and voluntary sources.

TRANSPORT

Aviation (Carbon Generation)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will meet the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss alternative taxation to discourage carbon generation by the aviation industry; and what his policy is on such taxation. [80386]

Gillian Merron: Tax policy is a matter for Her Majesty's Treasury. The Chancellor keeps all taxation policy under review. Any changes are announced in the context of his Budget statement after giving consideration to all relevant environmental, social and economic factors.

Biofuel Production

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department has allocated to encourage biofuel production in the UK in 2006-07. [79963]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government are committed to promoting the use of biofuels for road transport as part of our wider programme to combat climate change. The Government's main support is currently in the form of a 20 pence per litre fuel duty incentive, which has stimulated a growing market in the UK, including new UK production facilities.

The Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation (RTFO), which we announced last year, will provide significant further support to this industry by ensuring a stable, long-term market for biofuels in the UK. It should mean that by 2010, sales of biofuel will amount to over 2 billion litres, or around 5 per cent. of total petrol and diesel sales. A number of firms have reacted very positively to our announcement and are planning significant investment in UK biofuel production capacity.

In addition to the RTFO the Chancellor has announced that, subject to European Union State Aid approval, the Government will introduce a 100 per cent. first year capital allowance for the cleanest biofuels production facilities. This should help support innovation and help develop the lowest-carbon biofuels production methods.

Cargo Transfers

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 377W, on cargo transfers, whether any aspect of ship-to-ship transfers of oil and other chemicals within harbour authority areas requires an order under the Harbours Act 1964. [80427]

Dr. Ladyman: It is for individual harbour authorities to determine whether they require a Harbour Revision Order (HRO) to gain powers to conduct operations within their harbours. We have received no applications for an HRO from an English or Welsh harbour authority specifically to enable ship to ship transfers of oil or other chemicals. In the case of harbours in Scotland applications would be made to the Scottish Executive.

Crash Helmets

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motor cyclists' lives he estimates were saved in each of the last 10 years by their crash helmets. [80204]

Dr. Ladyman: On the basis of four months' experience of compulsory helmet wearing in 1973, it was estimated that around 200 fatal and serious casualties would be saved per annum. Because helmet wearing is now so long established in the UK, it is no longer possible to calculate further effects on road safety: there is no non-helmet wearing group with which to compare.

However, US researchers are able to compare helmeted and unhelmeted riders as some states do not have helmet laws. Comparisons have concluded that the use of a safety helmet is the single critical factor in the prevention and reduction of head injury, with unhelmeted riders being 2.4 times as likely to sustain head injuries as helmeted riders.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79068]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport maintains 37 public-facing websites, including those run by our Executive agencies.

The cost of hosting, maintenance and development (excluding staff costs) of the Department for Transport websites is as follows:

Website	*Cost for 2005-06 (£)*
www.dft.gov.uk	299,425.71
www.cfit.gov.uk	10,118.00
www.dptac.gov.uk	2,446.95
www.highwaycode.gov.uk	1,568.92
www.utmc.gov.uk	[1]3,000
www.webtag.org.uk	6,867.00
www.transportdirect.info	16,019,175.00
www.freightbestpractice.org.uk	37,820.00
www.dft-eb-calculator.co.uk	40,500.00
www.cyclesense.net	50.00
www.thinkroadsafety.gov.uk	12,510,90
www.hedgehogs.gov.uk	4,013.34
www.databases.dft.gov.uk/primary	0
www.databases.dft.gov.uk/secondary	0
www.thinkseatbelts.com	1,259.54
www.databases.dft.gov.uk/roadsafety	13,575.00
www.databases.dft.gov.uk/schools	0
www.drugdrive.com	1,000.00
www.cyclesmart.org	4,746.66
www.mcga.gov.uk	16,717.00
www.highways.gov.uk	726,914.65
Highways Agency research compendium site	50,278.00
Highways Traffic Map	227,176.00
www.dvlaregistrations.co.uk	85,768.75
www.dvla.gov.uk	40,000.00
www.dvla.gov.uk/vehiclelicence	88,530.34
www.dvlaonline.gov.uk	68,000.00
www.homezoneschallenge.com	0
www.dsa.gov.uk	[2]74,648.00
www.passplus.org.uk	[3]DSA website
www.arrive-alive.info	[3]DSA website
www.ask-what-if.com	[3]DSA website
www.theory-tests.co.uk	[3]DSA website
www.vcacarfueldata.org.uk	4,089.00
www.vca.gov.uk	4,589.00
www.vosa.gov.uk	[4]n/a
www.transportoffice.gov.uk	459,642.00
www.gcda.gov.uk	1,669.68
Total	18,238,099.44

[1] Approximately.
[2] This is the combined figure for all DSA websites.
[3] See note 2.
[4] Not available (costs integrated with IT partners solution)

M25

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate how many bottles of water were dispensed to motorists who were trapped on the M25 on 9 June following the incident in the vicinity of junctions eight to 10 and the subsequent closure of the motorway; and if he will make a statement. [79312]

Dr. Ladyman: Highways Agency Traffic Officers and Surrey police mounted a joint operation, in association with Surrey county council Emergency Planning Services, to provide welfare to motorists caught in queues on the M25 on 9 June. Traffic officers and the police distributed approximately 1,500 0.5 litre bottles of water to motorists, 600 of which were flown in by police helicopter.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total duration in hours was of closures of the M25 *(a)* clockwise and *(b)* anti-clockwise in each of the past six months; and if he will make a statement. [79313]

Dr. Ladyman: Closures are implemented on the M25 for either planned works or in response to an incident. Closures are only implemented if they are necessary to secure the safety of the travelling public, road workers or those responding to incidents. Wherever possible closures are managed to minimise disruption to the travelling public with all planned closures being undertaken at night. The following tables show the number of planned and incident-related closures on the M25 during the last six months.

Planned works (night time)

	Clockwise		*Anti-clockwise*	
	Number	*Time (hours)*	*Number*	*Total time (hours)*
2005				
December	0	0	0	0
2006				
January	0	0	1	5
February	0	0	0	0
March	0	0	3	15
April	0	0	1	5
May	0	0	6	30
Total	—	0	—	55

Incident related closures

	Clockwise		*Anti-clockwise*	
	Number	*Time (hours)*	*Number*	*Total time (hours)*
2005				
December	0	0	0	0
2006				
January	2	11	1	3
February	1	0.5	2	5.5
March	1	0.5	1	0.5
April	1	3	3	9.5
May	1	3	6	9
Total	—	18	—	27.5

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what lessons relating to *(a)* evacuation of the motorway, *(b)* minimising the jam of vehicles and

(c) other related matters were drawn from the incident in the vicinity of junctions 29 and 31 of the M25 on 17 March 2004; to what extent these lessons were applied to the incident on the M25 between junctions 8 and 10 on 9 June 2006; and if he will make a statement. [79473]

Dr. Ladyman: Although the circumstances of the incidents on 17 March 2004 and 9 June 2006 were significantly different, lessons learnt from incidents such as that in 2004 have enabled the Highways Agency to better manage the recent event. The nature of the earlier incident enabled traffic to pass safely the site of the accident; the more recent one resulted in fire and damage to infrastructure which prevented this from taking place.

Since 2004 the Highways Agency has improved capability for the evacuation of the motorway through detailed and tested joint operating procedures with the local emergency services in the event of a major incident. It has also developed detailed incident management procedures such as the capability to implement rearward relief; the process by which trapped vehicles are turned on the carriageway and returned to the previous exit. These procedures include the support and welfare of motorists where they cannot be assisted from the site.

The period since the 2004 incident has seen significant developments in the Highways Agency's capability to minimise congestion caused by incidents. The introduction of Regional Control Centres as part of the Traffic Officer Service and the commencement of the National Traffic Control Centre provide an ability to divert traffic away from an incident through strategic signing, and around an incident through tactical signing and direction.

The Highways Agency has substantially strengthened its ability to detect and respond to incidents and reduce the resulting congestion. The Traffic Officer Service on the M25 and other motorways is enabling significantly increased resources to be more quickly available at the scene to support the management of the incidents. Traffic officers worked well with emergency services on 9 June to minimise the duration of the incident and quickly restore the motorway to a safe condition. The emergency procedures were implemented and motorists received both welfare and medical assistance as necessary.

The Highways Agency has continued to develop its Incident Support Unit service on the M25 and, following its successful contribution to incident management on the M25, implemented similar services on most of the strategic road network. In addition Regional Control Centres are proactively monitoring the road network quickly to detect incidents and improve communication between responders with the aim of reducing the clearance time.

All major incidents are reviewed soon afterwards jointly by the Highways Agency and emergency services to identify lessons to be learnt in dealing with future incidents. There is an ongoing programme to continually develop incident management capability including innovations such as central reserve screens to prevent visual distraction of motorists on adjacent carriageways and specialist equipment to support the clear-up operation.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* supply to the hon. Member for Thurrock a copy of the full report into the incident between junctions 29 and 30 of the M25 on the 17 and 18 March 2004 which was prepared by Mr. Paul McCreevy, M25 Route Manager North at the Highways Agency; [79474]

(2) if he will make a statement on the hold-up of traffic flows on the M25 consequent to the accident in the vicinity of junctions 29 and 31 on 17 March 2004; what the maximum length in miles was of the resulting traffic queues; what the duration was of the hold-up; what actions were taken by *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* Essex and Kent Police (i) to advise motorists of the hold-up and (ii) to ameliorate the delay and congestion; at what time each such action was taken; and why the answers to these questions were not supplied in the executive summary of the report by Mr. Paul McCreevy on the incident placed in the Library and supplied to the hon. Member for Thurrock following his Question answered on 24 March 2004, *Official Report*, column 982W, on the M25. [79476]

Dr. Ladyman: The maximum length of traffic queuing on the M25 as a result of the incident on 17 March 2004 was 14 miles on the clockwise carriageway and 11 miles on the anti-clockwise carriageway. The maximum length of the traffic queuing on the A128, which was used as the diversion route, was 6 miles.

The M25 clockwise carriageway was closed for 22 hours. The anti-clockwise carriageway was also closed for 1.5 hours for safety reasons while the tanker was being removed.

The Highways Agency advised motorists of the incident and delays by providing radio stations and news media with regular updates, and their website and Information Line also provided up-to-the-minute information. Television and press representatives were invited to the incident scene by Essex police to observe the recovery operation.

The Highways Agency repaired the nearside boundary fence and used a specialist environmental sub-contractor to clean the road surface. This enabled the carriageway to be opened safely for the public after the vehicles and debris had been removed.

Essex police carried out the incident investigation, co-ordinated the recovery operation, and set the diversion signs. They also allowed the trapped clockwise traffic between junction 29 and the incident to escape using lanes 2 and 3. Throughout the duration of the closure, the variable message signs advised motorists that this section of the M25 motorway was closed. Contractors undertaking road works on the A128 were contacted by Essex police and agreed to change the mechanism of temporary traffic lights at the road works in order to give priority to diverted traffic travelling south from the M25.

An Executive Summary and full report were produced at the time of the incident. The summary was a chronological log of events on the day detailing agencies involved and actions taken to clear the incident. A full copy of the report has been sent to my hon. Friend by the Highways Agency, and copies of the document have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average time was for which motorists were detained on the M25 on Friday 9 June following the incident in the vicinity of junctions 8 to 10 and the subsequent closure of the motorway; what the maximum length of time was for which motorists were so detained in the *(a)* clockwise and *(b)* anti-clockwise direction; and if he will make a statement. [79475]

Dr. Ladyman: As a consequence of a heavy goods vehicle catching fire on 9 June, the M25 was closed in both directions to ensure the safety of the travelling public and emergency services dealing with the incident. Under the direction of Highways Agency Traffic Officers, a number of vehicles that had already passed the exit slip roads at junction 9 were turned around and were then able to use the available diversion routes.

The Highways Agency estimates that for the majority of vehicles this exercise was undertaken on both carriageways within 2 to 3 hours of the incident occurring.

Some heavy goods vehicles on the clockwise carriageway were too long to turn around and these vehicles remained on the motorway for approximately five hours.

Emergency procedures were implemented to assist motorists who were trapped between motorway exits and the incident, with water provided and medical assistance given to those in need.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated number is of *(a)* vehicles and *(b)* passengers who were trapped on the M25 on 9 June following an incident in the vicinity of junctions 8 to 10; and if he will make a statement. [79623]

Dr. Ladyman: As a consequence of a heavy goods vehicle catching fire on 9 June the M25 was closed in both directions to ensure the safety of the travelling public and emergency services dealing with the incident. Following the closure some vehicles were prevented from continuing with their journey to the next exit of the motorway.

The Highways Agency estimates that approximately 1,000 vehicles and 1,200 drivers and passengers were affected in this way.

Emergency procedures were implemented to assist motorists who were trapped between motorway exits following the incident with water provided and medical assistance given to those in need.

Noise Nuisance (Essex)

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress is being made in reducing the noise nuisance caused by train horns in Ardleigh, Essex; and if he will make a statement. [79492]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* Network Rail has been served a noise abatement order by Tendring district council regarding train horn noise at Ardleigh. As this now constitutes a legal process I am unable to comment further.

More generally, and in response to public concern at the levels of train horn noise, the rail industry is reconsidering arrangements for the use and application of train horns. A steering group has been set up under the leadership of the Rail Safety and Standards Board to oversee the review and includes representatives from Network Rail and train operators.

Rail Safety

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many signals passed at danger were recorded in each Network Rail Region in each of the last 12 months. [77785]

Derek Twigg: Information on signals passed at danger is published on a quarterly basis by the Office of Rail Regulation. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

South West Trains

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the current operational performance of South West Trains; and how many complaints he has received from rail users' groups in Hampshire about failures to operate timetabled services; and if he will make a statement. [78369]

Derek Twigg: The South Western franchise replacement process included a "base-lining" exercise undertaken in 2005, in which performance for South West Trains was reviewed. This showed that operational performance had increased significantly since the December 2004 timetable change under the Public Performance Measure (PPM) which records the percentage of trains arriving within five minutes of their planned destination arrival time. The moving annual average of the PPM statistic rose from 75 per cent. in July 2004 to 87 per cent. by September 2005, and currently stands at 90 per cent.

The Department for Transport has recently received an extensive report from the South Hampshire Rail Users Group setting out a range of complaints associated with the current South West Trains franchise. A response will be made shortly to this specific letter.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria were used in making the decision to reduce services on the *(a)* Salisbury to Southampton and *(b)* Reading to Brighton lines. [78371]

Derek Twigg: The decision to change these services was made during the replacement process for the South Western franchises. The replacement process offers the opportunity to review current service levels, and to assess whether value for money is delivered for passengers and taxpayers by their operation.

The South Western franchise has specified that there will be a regular half-hourly service operating between Salisbury and Southampton. This will be formed of the existing Cardiff-Portsmouth hourly service, and a new hourly service that has been created by extending the current Romsey-Totton operation; this creates a net

increase in services between Salisbury and Southampton despite a small reduction in Greater Western trains.

The decision to remove services between Reading and Brighton via Eastleigh has been specified in the South Western franchise. Surveys were conducted in September 2005 that confirmed the low utilisation of this service, and the Department for Transport's standard appraisal methods confirmed that the withdrawal of the service represents good value for money.

Most journeys on this service occur on stations between Basingstoke and Eastleigh, and along the South Coast between Havant and Brighton. A new service is proposed to operate between Brighton and Southampton. The specification does not preclude providing a service between Havant and Eastleigh in the future to meet proposed developments or in response to customer demand, subject to the franchisee's commercial position and Network Rail's operational assessment.

Thames Gateway

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what expenditure is planned on improving rail links between central London and the Thames Gateway area. [79283]

Derek Twigg: The Channel Tunnel Rail Link has been constructed from central London to the Kent coast through the southern part of the Thames Gateway at a cost of £5.2 billion. Domestic rail services from Kent, including those in the growth area, will be making use of this new infrastructure from December 2009.

In 2001 the Department of Transport approved a grant of £154 million to finance the development and parliamentary process for the Crossrail scheme. This will serve the Thames Gateway, providing links from Shenfield, Essex and Abbey Wood, south east London through to Stratford, Docklands, central London, Heathrow and on to the Thames Valley. The Department of Transport has also provided funding support to the Mayor to provide extensions to the Docklands Light Railway (DLR).

The GLA and the Mayor are working with TfL to consider the transport implications of growth in the Thames Gateway that falls within the Greater London area.

Trunk Road Islands

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what penalties can be enforced against the Highways Agency for failing to maintain trunk road islands. [80329]

Dr. Ladyman: As long as trunks roads islands are within the boundaries of the highway, they are part of the highway and for maintenance are treated as such. Enforcement of liability for maintenance is covered under section 56 of the Highways Act 1980. An application can be made to the magistrates court under that section of the Highways Act 1980 for an order to keep a highway in repair. If the repair is not carried out within the stipulated period the court can by order authorise the complainant to carry out the works and he can recover the costs incurred as a civil debt from the highways authority.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has given to the Afghan Government to provide basic services to the population throughout the country; and if he will make a statement. [80344]

Hilary Benn: DFID's aid programme to Afghanistan (£102 million in 2006-07) supports three of the Afghan Government's own objectives, as set out in their Interim National Development Strategy: (i) Building effective state institutions; (ii) improving economic management and the effectiveness of aid to Afghanistan; and (iii) improving the livelihoods of rural poor. These are the key steps needed in Afghanistan to generate a self-sustaining state with the capacity to meet basic social needs and start the process of reducing poverty.

The UK is currently the largest donor to the Government's recurrent budget through allocations to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. This covers recurrent costs such as salaries for teachers and health workers. This is the support the Afghan Government wants, and is the best chance for building effective state institutions that will last and are able to deliver basic services across the country.

The UK also supports a number of key Government of Afghanistan National Programmes, which focus on improving the livelihoods of the rural poor. The National Solidarity Programme (NSP) for example, helps local communities to identify their own needs and provides the means to meet them. Often this includes the provision of basic service infrastructure such as schools and health centres.

DFID also provides 19 per cent. of the EC's commitment to Afghanistan of 1 billion euros (2002-06) and over 10 per cent. of the World Banks Commitment of $250-300 million a year. DFID also contributes to UN agencies. These partners are all actively engaged in the delivery of basic services across the country.

Bali Peace Agreement

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid the UK Government plan to provide to the *(a)* East Timorese and *(b)* Indonesians following the Bali peace agreement. [79430]

Hilary Benn: DFID will provide £6 million to East Timor between 2006 and 2009. The bulk of this sum will be spent implementing the National Development

Plan which focuses upon poverty reduction and providing better services to poor communities. We are also considering a substantial contribution to help strengthen financial management within Government.

In response to the recent unrest we have provided £110,000 to help alleviate the poor conditions within the refugee camps, which were set up following the recent disturbances in the country. DFID continues to monitor developments there closely and we stand ready to consider further support. We are particularly interested in programmes which promote longer-term peace and stability by addressing the causes of tension and by strengthening dispute resolution processes.

DFID's programme to Indonesia for this year will total £41.5 million. Of this sum, £18.5 million will finance tsunami reconstruction work in Aceh, and a further £3 million has been made available for the relief effort following the earthquake in Jogjakarta last month.

In Indonesia DFID, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have developed a joint strategy under the Global Conflict Prevention (GCPP) to help establish the conditions in which causes of inter-communal violent conflict can be addressed and a reduction in conflict secured. As part of this strategy, DFID has provided £4.2 million to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s Crisis Prevention and Recovery Unit (CPRU).

Burma

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) when the policy review of providing aid to internally displaced people in Burma is expected to be completed; [79248]

(2) what studies he has evaluated on the accountability and effectiveness of cross-border aid to internally displaced people in Burma. [79247]

Mr. Thomas: DFID intends to carry out the review of its support to internally displaced people in Burma and refugees on the Thai-Burma border before the end of 2006.

The most recent review of DFID's role on the Thai-Burma border was carried out in June 2004. I have arranged for copies of the document entitled 'Executive Summary to review of DFID's work on the Thai-Burma Border' to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Gaza

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what response the UK has made to the recent UN appeal for £205 million for humanitarian aid in Gaza. [80404]

Hilary Benn: DFID continues to work with both the UN and the European Commission to ensure the most effective and co-ordinated international response to the worsening humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. It is our assessment that the most effective way to address this will be through the Temporary International Mechanism.

Indonesian Earthquake (Aid)

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the EU has pledged to the emergency response to the Indonesian earthquake; and if he will make a statement. [79907]

Hilary Benn: DFID has pledged £5 million towards the relief effort, including £1 million to the International Federation of the Red Cross, £3 million to the United Nations (UN) agencies and £1 million to non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The £1 million to UK NGOs is made up of £400,000 to Oxfam, £400,000 to Save the Children Fund and £200,000 to Handicap International. DFID's contributions will be used for shelter, health, water and sanitation, emergency packs of essential items for affected families, and livelihoods.

The European Commission (EC) has pledged €3 million to the emergency response. Approximately 17-17.5 per cent. is attributed to the UK which roughly equates to €518,000. The total pledged to date by the European Union member states including the EC is €20.79 million.

Natural Disaster Facility

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the UK's contribution to the ACP-EU Natural Disaster Facility was in 2005-06; what it is planned to be in each of the next three financial years; and if he will make a statement. [79277]

Hilary Benn: The Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)—European Community (EC) Council of Ministers meeting in Luxembourg on 24-25 June 2005, agreed to establish a Natural Disaster Facility to support regional initiatives in disaster reduction, mitigation and preparedness in the ACP countries. An initial sum of €12 million (approximately £8 million) was allocated from the 9th European development fund (EDF) to support programmes in the period up to the end of December 2007. The UK share of this assistance is 12.7 per cent. (approximately €1.5 million or £1 million). Further support is envisaged under the 10th EDF, which will be committed over the period 2008-13. The UK's share of the 10th EDF will be 14.82 per cent.

Occupied Territories

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when the temporary international finance mechanism to deliver aid to the Occupied Territories is expected to become operational. [80411]

Hilary Benn: On 16 June, the European Council issued a declaration finalising the details of a temporary international mechanism to help support Palestinians' basic needs. The European Commission is urgently taking this forward and expects payments to front-line health workers to begin by mid-July. The World Bank, which will ultimately assume management of the mechanism, expects its operation to be ready in August.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the criteria will be for the three-month review of the temporary international finance mechanism to deliver aid to the Occupied Territories; and if he will make a statement. [80413]

Hilary Benn: The criteria for reviewing the temporary international mechanism are yet to be agreed. Responsibility for this lies with the Consultative Group of organisations and countries who are overseeing the management of the mechanism.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in what proportion the temporary international finance mechanism to deliver aid to the Occupied Territories will support *(a)* essential supplies, *(b)* social services, *(c)* health, *(d)* education and *(e)* utilities. [80414]

Hilary Benn: It has not yet been decided how donor contributions will be divided between the three main channels of support: for the health sector; support for the uninterrupted supply of utilities; and basic needs allowances to meet the essential needs of the poorest segments of the population. The European Commission and the World Bank are urgently undertaking preliminary design work on the temporary international mechanism that will enable donors to determine how their contributions will be used.

The European Commission will contribute €104 million to the mechanism and has invited European Union member states to announce their contributions shortly. We encourage other donors to contribute. The UK will make a contribution of up to £12 million.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) which states and organisations will contribute to the temporary international finance mechanism to deliver aid to the Occupied Territories; [80415]

(2) what funds *(a)* the UK, *(b)* other European member states and *(c)* other members of the Quartet will provide to the temporary international finance mechanism to deliver aid to the Occupied Territories. [80412]

Hilary Benn: The mechanism is open to any donor that wishes to contribute. We are expecting individual European Union member states to release statements regarding their contributions shortly. The UK encourages other donors to contribute.

The European Commission's financing plan for the mechanism is in the order of €104 million. The UK Government will contribute up to £12 million to be disbursed once the mechanism is fully operational.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the humanitarian situation, *(b)* access to essential services and *(c)* rates of poverty and extreme poverty in (i) the West Bank and (ii) Gaza. [80416]

Hilary Benn: DFID is keeping close track of the humanitarian situation in the West Bank and Gaza through the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). With assistance from DFID, the UN OCHA has produced the first Monthly Humanitarian Monitor. The main messages from this report are that poverty is rising, particularly among families which depended on salaries or cash payments from the Palestinian Authority and there are emerging problems in the health sector with a number of essential drugs now out of stock. The full report is available online at:

http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/opt/docs/UN/OCHA/UN_HumanitarianMonitor_May06.pdf

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will consider ways to improve the opportunities for the public to raise their concern about antisocial behaviour with *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* police authorities. [80049]

Mr. McNulty: To tackle antisocial behaviour effectively, local agencies like local authorities and police authorities need to listen to and act upon community concerns and priorities, reporting back on what has been done.

The Police and Justice Bill contains provisions for the "Community Call for Action" which will enable local residents to trigger action where community safety partners have failed to address a persistent local problem. The Bill places a duty on a local councillor to respond to a call for action. Where the issue cannot be resolved by informal means, the councillor would be able to refer the matter to the local authority overview and scrutiny committee for consideration. The Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) or Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in Wales on which both local authorities and police authorities are partners would have to respond to any report of the scrutiny committee, and to explain any decision not to take action. Under the terms of the Police and Justice Bill, the commencement of the relevant provisions in Wales is a matter for the National Assembly for Wales.

"Face the People" sessions will also be delivered through the provisions in the Police and Justice Bill and will require senior representatives of the CDRP or CSP to hold regular question and answer sessions open to the public and the media. These sessions will provide the opportunity for local communities to raise issues of concern and ask questions regarding the CDRP's or CSP's work. The requirement would be introduced by regulations arising from an order made jointly by the Home Secretary and the National Assembly for Wales.

Bail Hostels

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria he used for establishing which bail hostels are near schools and should not be used for sex offenders. [80405]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Accommodating certain offenders on licence in approved premises, formerly probation and bail hostels, is an important public protection measure. In approved premises, offenders may be closely supervised and monitored, to ensure compliance with their licence conditions.

There has been concern about the housing of child sex offenders in approved premises adjacent to schools and nurseries. In order to maintain public confidence in our systems for managing the risks posed by such offenders, I took the decision that child sex offenders should no longer be housed in approved premises that are immediately adjacent to schools and nurseries.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of residents at the bail hostel in Wesleyan road, Peterborough are sex offenders. [78920]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of sex offenders accommodated in any approved premises, formerly bail and probation hostels, will vary at any one time. Statistical information about the type of offences committed by offenders residing at an approved premises at any one time is not collected centrally.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former prisoners were resident at the bail hostel in Wesleyan road, Peterborough on *(a)* 31 December 2004, *(b)* 31 December 2005 and *(c)* 31 May 2006. [78921]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of residents on post release licences from custody at the Peterborough approved premises was as follows:

		Number
(a)	31 December 2004	24
(b)	31 December 2005	26
(c)	28 February 2006	27

Note:
Latest date available was 28 February.

Fingerprint Centres

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment was made of the pilot project for fingerprint centres for recovered stolen *(a)* cars and *(b)* other moveable property; and what conclusions were reached. [79565]

Mr. McNulty: The Metropolitan Police Service utilised one of the fingerprint development laboratories funded by the Home Office's Police Standards Unit. The part they played regarding recovered stolen vehicles was internally assessed by the force and the findings presented to the Police Standards Unit, the Government Office of London (the co-sponsor) and finally to the House of Lords European Secure Vehicle Alliance Parliamentary Group at a plenary session on the 5 November 2003 and a general meeting on 10 September 2003. The laboratories themselves are deemed particularly successful at reducing the time from crime to analysis, and we were informed the force intended extending this approach across more of the force area.

Illegal Immigration

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants are living in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [74687]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the Home Affairs Committee by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 23 May 2006. No UK Government has been able to answer with accuracy because (a) successive Governments inherit an unknown number from its predecessor and (b) no complete records exist of the number of people who leave the country.

Knife Crime

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been found guilty of wounding someone with a knife in each of the last five years; and how many of these received a prison sentence. [77161]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The specific information requested is not available as we are unable to differentiate between the weapon(s) used in the various offences of wounding when supplying data.

M25

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police units were deployed from (i) Surrey police, (ii) Metropolitan police and (iii) Kent police at the incident in the vicinity of junctions 8 to 10 of the M25 and its subsequent closure on 9 June. [79314]

Mr. McNulty: I understand that the incident was dealt with only by Surrey police. The Metropolitan police and the Kent police were notified but did not attend. Surrey deployed both police officers and road policing community support officers, 27 in total. 14 police motor vehicles, one police helicopter and four police motorcycles were deployed.

Manor Lodge Approved Premises

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders Manor Lodge Approved Premises in Old Windsor could accommodate *(a)* before and *(b)* after refurbishment; and what percentage of sex offenders could be accommodated in each case. [77655]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is as follows:

(a) Manor Lodge Approved Premises could accommodate 22 offenders prior to refurbishment.

(b) After refurbishment the Approved Premises could accommodate 24 offenders.

(c) The number of sex offenders accommodated in any Approved Premises, formerly bail and probation hostels, will vary at any one time.

Mohammad Sidique Khan

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what information his Department received from the United States Administration on Mohammad Sidique Khan; and on what dates; [79817]

(2) whether his Department was informed by US authorities that Mohammad Sidique Khan was barred from entering the United States. [80011]

Mr. McNulty: It is our policy not to comment on speculation about specific intelligence matters.

Offenders (Licensed Release)

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders on licence have been given permission to travel abroad in each of the last 12 months. [79598]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Passports

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what rules the Passport Office applies regarding the length of names. [80036]

Joan Ryan: The space available for the data fields on the personal details page of the passport is limited by International Civil Aviation Organisation standards. In the British passport this allows 30 characters for the surname plus 30 characters for forenames. Longer names are abbreviated on the personal details page and shown in full on the observations page.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1319W, on passports, whether other biometrics will be stored on the Passport Agency Support System; and if he will make a statement. [79043]

Joan Ryan: The Passport Agency Support System (PASS) only stores the facial image of the passport holder. In the future additional biometrics such as finger images will be collected. There are no current plans for these to be stored in PASS; an evaluation is in progress to decide the most suitable technical architecture solution for this purpose.

Police

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 15WS, on police force restructuring, when he expects to make a report to the House on plans to restructure police forces in the South West. [71379]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, announced on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1057-62, that he would not be laying any orders for Home Secretary-initiated police force mergers before the summer recess. This will allow for further discussion and dialogue with police forces and police authorities on the best way forward, including in the South West.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dogs were deployed by *(a)* Essex police, *(b)* the Metropolitan police, *(c)* City of London police and *(d)* Hertfordshire constabulary in each of the last five years for which information is available, broken down by type; for what purpose they were employed by each force; what the cost of keeping the dogs was in each year in each case; and how many dog handlers were employed by each force in each year. [80178]

Mr. McNulty: Information for the number of dog handlers employed by each force is given in the table.

Police officers and staff (fte)[1] who based on their primary function are recorded as being dog handlers[2]

	31 March				
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Essex	45	46	46	45	48
Hertfordshire	29	28	28	26	26
London, City of	15	17	18	17	18
Metropolitan police	226	201	192	221	229

[1] This table includes full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number.
[2] Dog handlers includes those staff employed for general policing, drugs and explosive detection duties. Figures are based on the primary role/function of staff, including those staff with multiple responsibilities.

The other information that has been requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been issued on the circumstances in which it is appropriate for a police officer to use a caution for the first offence of a person exceeding the speed limit, rather than pressing charges; and if he will make a statement. [80179]

Mr. McNulty: Where a driver is detected committing a speeding offence it is an operational matter for the police to decide what action to take in the circumstances of that particular case. A number of courses are possible, including no further action, oral warning, caution, fixed penalty or report for prosecution.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has issued Speed Enforcement Guidelines, available on the ACPO website (www.acpo.police.uk). Elements of this guidance are also included in a section on speed enforcement in the Home Office's Revised Guidance on the Operation of the Fixed Penalty System for Offences in Respect of a Vehicle, available on the Home Office website, www.homeoffice.gov.uk. These documents provide guidance only and do not replace police discretion in individual cases.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will make a statement on the *(a)* timing and *(b)* conclusions of the most recent review by the director of personnel at HM Prison Service on the arrangements for dealing with investigations under Prison Service Order 1300; [78089]

(2) when the Prison Service Management Board last reviewed the arrangements for investigations under Prison Service Order 1300; and what the conclusions of the board were. [78090]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The last formal review of PSO 1300 was carried out, under the direction of the deputy director general, in early 2003. As a result of this review, a revised version of PSO 1300 was published on 19 June 2003. In May 2005, the Prison Service Management Board asked the directorate of personnel to review Prison Service Order 8460, Conduct and Discipline. This review is still ongoing.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role the Prison Service London area manager has in relation to the multi-agency public protection arrangements strategic management boards that fall within his area. [78091]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1846W.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks are made by Prison Service area offices to ensure that data submitted for the purpose of performance management are correct; and if he will make a statement. [78127]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Area offices are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of performance management data. New guidance has been issued which sets out with greater clarity what must be recorded. The data are collated monthly and are discussed when area managers visit establishments and at their regular bilateral meetings with the director of operations. The data will continue to be validated by line management controls and by both a self-audit process and independent audit.

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the investigation of the previous governor of HM Prison Brixton; what the nature was of the *(a)* allegation and *(b)* investigation; and what the reason was for the subsequent transfer to the Home Office. [78197]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It would be inappropriate to comment while an investigation is ongoing.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* escape from closed prisons and *(b)* absconding from open prisons are criminal offences; and what the penalties are for escaping from each type of prison. [79619]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Escape from lawful custody is an indictable offence at common law, punishable by an unlimited fine or imprisonment.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are in prison, broken down by *(a)* length of sentence and *(b)* category of offence; and what the date was of the most recent prison population data capture. [79848]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The most recent published data on *(a)* length of sentence and *(b)* category of offence, are for the prison population as at the end of April 2006 and can be found on the Home Office website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/prisapr06.pdf, tables 1 and 2.

Public Disorder

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders were found guilty of *(a)* drunken and disorderly behaviour and *(b)* drunken and aggravated behaviour in (i) England, (ii) Bury St. Edmunds constituency and (iii) the Suffolk county council area in each year since 1997. [79396]

Mr. Coaker: Data from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing how many offenders were found guilty of drunkenness offences in England and Suffolk police force area are in the following table. We are unable to provide convictions for Bury St. Edmunds constituency, as the data are not available at the level of detail required.

Figures for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for drunkenness simple and drunkenness aggravated offences in (a) England, and (b) Suffolk police force area, 1997-2004[1]

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
England									
Convictions	Drunkenness, simple	3,333	3,710	3,134	2,579	2,424	2,201	1,999	1,674
Convictions	Drunkenness, with aggravation—found guilty	22,474	23,864	22,764	22,078	21,468	22,741	23,893	17,530
Penalty notices	Drunk and disorderly behaviour	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	25,591
Suffolk									
Convictions	Drunkenness, simple	109	92	99	72	54	61	64	87
Convictions	Drunkenness, with aggravation—found guilty	254	194	197	202	244	301	317	293
Penalty notices	Drunk and disorderly behaviour	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	267

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Figures not applicable, as penalty notices were not introduced until 2004.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Railway/Underground Crime

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes have been reported at each London Underground station in each of the last five years. [76399]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

	Notifiable offences	*Million passenger journeys*	*Offences/ million passenger journey*
2001-02[1]	13,746	953	14.42
2002-03	17,360	942	18.42
2003-04	17,490	948	18.45
2004-05	17,394	976	17.82
2005-06[2]	17,124	971	17.63

[1] 2001-02 data cannot be meaningful compared with subsequent years as on 1 April 2002 the BTP adopted the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) which saw an increase in recorded crime, equating to an average 22 per cent. increase recorded by all police forces across England and Wales.
[2] The 2005-06 figure for notifiable offences includes 231 offences committed on 7 July 2005.

A table providing data broken down by each London Underground station has been placed in the Library of the House.

Reoffending

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the possible correlation between re-offending rates and participation by inmates in an enhanced thinking skills course in prison; and if he will make a statement. [78198]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is considerable evidence, originating mainly from North America, to support the effectiveness of offending behaviour programmes in reducing re-offending (McGuire, 2002; Pearson et. al., 2002; Lipton, et. al., 1998). However, UK research examining the effectiveness of the Enhanced Thinking Skills programme in prisons has produced mixed results. An evaluation of the programme before it was accredited found that reconviction fell considerably after treatment (Friendship et. al., 2002). Further studies since accreditation have found no differences in reconvictions between programme participants and matched comparison groups (Falshaw et. al., 2003; Cann et. al., 2003). These findings might be explained by differences in programme delivery and implementation or research design limitations. The current Home Office research programme includes further research on the effectiveness of offending behaviour programmes based on more effective and rigorous research designs.

Road Deaths (Police Investigation)

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest time taken for a police investigation into a road death was in each of the last 10 years. [79831]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not generally recorded by the police. Incidents are dealt with in accordance with the "Road Death Investigation Manual", published by the Association of Chief Police Officers. The investigation and its duration will, however, vary according to the specific circumstances of the incident concerned and the issues raised.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what sanctions are available to the police to use against *(a)* individuals, *(b)* organisations and *(c)* councils who do not fully co-operate and disclose all information requested in connection with police investigations into road accidents that result in death; and how often such sanctions were applied in each of the last 10 years. [79832]

Mr. McNulty: Generally, anyone who resists or wilfully obstructs a constable in the exercise of his duty is guilty of an offence under section 89(2), Police Act 1996. As regards motoring offences, including those which may have resulted in a fatal accident, the police are empowered under section 172, Road Traffic Act 1988 to ask the registered vehicle keeper who was driving it at the time, and it is an offence not to give that information if possible. Under section 99, Transport Act 1968, the police can examine and copy records relating to commercial vehicles and their drivers. It is an offence not to provide those records, which may provide information relevant to an accident investigation, or to obstruct the police. Details of the circumstances in which police exercise these powers and in which offences are committed are not recorded.

Road Safety

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been for persons using hand-held mobile telephones while driving in each year since the regulation came into force, broken down by constabulary. [80424]

Mr. Coaker: Available information on fixed penalty notices relating to all offences of obstruction, waiting and parking within the Staffordshire police force area during the calendar years 2000 to 2004 (latest available) is given in the table. It is not possible from the data collected centrally to identify the Trent Valley Division within the geographical area covered by the Staffordshire police force.

Information for 2005 will be available early in 2007.

Findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand-held mobile phone while driving[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-04

Police force area	*Total findings of guilt* 2003	2004
Avon and Somerset	—	19
Bedfordshire	1	5
Cambridgeshire	—	6
Cheshire	—	1
Cleveland	—	3
Cumbria	—	24
Derbyshire	—	16
Devon and Cornwall	—	17
Dorset	—	—

Findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand-held mobile phone while driving[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-04

Police force area	Total findings of guilt 2003	2004
Durham	—	1
Essex	—	25
Gloucestershire	—	1
Greater Manchester	—	65
Hampshire	—	15
Hertfordshire	—	6
Humberside	—	4
Kent	—	—
Lancashire	—	16
Leicestershire	—	9
Lincolnshire	—	5
London, City of	—	5
Merseyside	—	20
Metropolitan Police	—	124
Norfolk	—	15
Northamptonshire	—	—
Northumbria	—	29
North Yorkshire	—	18
Nottinghamshire	—	7
South Yorkshire	—	12
Staffordshire	—	10
Suffolk	—	4
Surrey	—	7
Sussex	—	1
Thames Valley	—	21
Warwickshire	—	7
West Mercia	—	15
West Midlands	—	52
West Yorkshire	—	9
Wiltshire	—	19
Dyfed Powys	—	13
Gwent	—	—
North Wales	—	3
South Wales	—	12
England and Wales	1	641

[1] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction & Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3) introduced 1 December 2003.

Source:
Court Proceedings Database.

Rural Crime

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* burglaries, *(b)* offences involving violence against the person, *(c)* sexual offences and *(d)* car and property crimes there were in rural areas in each year since 1997. [78202]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is given in the tables. The figures cover the 13 police force areas described as either 'most rural' or 'least rural' according to "A Classification Of Residential Neighbourhoods (ACORN)". The 13 forces are: Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Dyfed-Powys, Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, North Yorkshire, North Wales, West Mercia and Wiltshire.

Further details regarding ACORN classifications are given in Appendix B of Home Office Statistical Bulletin 01/02 entitled "Rural Crime". A copy of this publication is available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/hosb102.pdf

Table 1: Recorded crime in rural areas—1997

Offence	Number of offences
Burglary	135,099
Violence against the person	37,189
Sexual offences	5,709
Vehicle crime	145,293
All property crime	582,798

Table 2: Recorded crime in rural areas—1998-99 to 2001-02

Offence	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
	Number of offences			
Burglary	125,115	120,103	107,840	116,041
Violence against the person	69,985	77,990	75,651	94,035
Sexual offences	5,370	5,183	5,010	6,016
Vehicle crime	129,764	123,106	109,943	110,416
All property crime	593,222	593,478	562,557	612,380

Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Recorded crime in rural areas—2002-03 to 2004-05

Offence	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
	Number of offences		
Burglary	121,246	110,676	92,964
Violence against the person	137,324	149,306	158,184
Sexual offences	7,412	8,219	9,318
Vehicle crime	115,857	104,586	88,084
All property crime	566,932	658,533	606,200

Notes:
1. The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

Security Service Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the operation of the Security Service Act 1989; what recent representations he has received about the operation of this Act; and whether he has plans to amend this Act. [80276]

Mr. McNulty: I have received no representations on the operation of the Security Service Act 1989 and there are no plans to amend it at present.

Terrorism Act

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted under the Terrorism Act 2000 were (i) Muslim, (ii) British and (iii) foreign. [79055]

Mr. McNulty: Statistics on arrests, charges and convictions under the Terrorism Act (2000) are available on the Home Office website: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/terrorism-act

These statistics are provided by the police and are not broken down in the way requested.

Travel Documentation (Ireland-England)

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the documentation requirements are for a British citizen wishing to travel between England and the Republic of Ireland. [79961]

Joan Ryan: Travel between the UK and Ireland is subject to the provisions of the Common Travel Area (CTA). Section 1(3) of the Immigration Act 1971 gives the CTA full statutory basis in UK legislation and allows for control-free travel for British citizens to or from Ireland. The only documentation requirements that British citizens may encounter are those imposed by travel operators as part of their conditions of carriage and/or those imposed by the Irish Government on arrival in Ireland.

Young Offenders

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average cost of *(a)* keeping a non-violent young offender in prison, broken down by prison category, and *(b)* alternatives to custody of non-violent young offenders was in each of the last five years. [78646]

(2) what the total cost to his Department of *(a)* keeping non-violent young offenders in prison and *(b)* alternatives to custody of non-violent young offenders was for each of the last five years. [78647]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service does not collect cost data in the format requested.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has undertaken on comparative recidivism rates of alternatives to custody and imprisonment for *(a)* non-violent young offenders and *(b)* non-violent offenders. [78649]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Re-offending rates for adults and juveniles, including re-offending rates by disposal, are published annually on the Home Office website. The latest reports are:

"Re-offending of adults: results from the 2002 cohort" (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 25/05) and

"Re-offending of juveniles: results from the 2004 cohort" (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 10/06).

Re-offending rates vary considerably by type of disposal and some of this can be explained by the differences in the characteristics of offenders given each disposal. For instance, the number of previous offences is one of the key indicators for predicting re-offending and these differ substantially between disposals. For reasons such as this, the rates cannot be used to judge the effectiveness of different sentences. Analysis of re-offending by disposal is discussed further on pages seven to nine of the report on adults and pages eight to 10 of the report on juveniles.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date Lee Wagstaff died in HM Young Offenders Institution Hindley; what his age was at the time of death; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* result was of the coroner's inquest. [79864]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Lee Wagstaff tragically died at HMYOI Hindley on 17 January 1997, aged 17. The coroner's inquest was held on 24 March 1998, and the jury returned a unanimous verdict that the deceased had taken his own life while the balance of his mind was disturbed.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children with an assessment of vulnerability were sent to young offenders' institutions in 2004-05. [79865]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures provided by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales show that during the period April 2004—March 2005 the number of young people who were assessed as vulnerable by a youth offending team and subsequently placed in a young offenders' institution was 3,370.

WALES

Departmental Finance Director

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of his Department. [80074]

Mr. Hain: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1347. The Director of the Wales Office accounts for its expenditure as an Additional Accounting Officer to the Accounting Officer for the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA). The Office has no accountancy-qualified finance director but calls on finance and accounting expertise from DCA as need be.

PRIME MINISTER

Iraq

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister on which dates since February 2006 he has visited British soldiers injured in Iraq; and what locations were visited on each occasion. [80691]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 36W.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the administration cost was of each of the benefits administered by his Department and the agencies for which his Department is responsible in each of the last five years. [78006]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested on administration costs of each benefit is not available in the format requested.

The latest available data on administrative costs, taken from the published accounts of each agency (net of income) is as noted below. No entry in a column indicates a period before the Department became responsible for the agency or before it was created. Figures for 2005-06 are not yet available.

£ million

	Outturn			
Agency	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Child Support	290	294	323	326
Appeals Service	61	63	73	66
Jobcentre Plus	—	2,951	3,042	3,148
Pension Service	—	513	761	831
Disability and Carers Service (Part Year)	—	—	—	120
Rent Service	—	—	—	39

The administration costs for Jobcentre Plus also include the costs of administering labour market activities. The costs for the Pension Service also include the costs of delivering Pensions Forecasts.

The major benefits administered by each Agency are as follows:

Agency	*Benefits*
Jobcentre Plus	Jobseekers allowance, incapacity benefit, income support and social fund
Pension Service	State pension and pension credit
Disability and Carers Service	Disability living allowance, carers allowance and attendance allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the reasons for the low take-up rate of council tax benefit; and if he will make a statement. [78156]

Mr. Plaskitt: The latest estimates of the take-up of council tax benefit can be found in the DWP report entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2003-04".

This publication contains analysis of the characteristics of those entitled to but not receiving council tax benefit (CTB). Where appropriate, the analysis contrasts the characteristics of those identified as entitled, but not in receipt, with those of recipients of CTB, and explores some of the possible causes of non-take-up.

Copies of the report are available in the Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the level of fraud and error in housing benefit was in each year since 1996-97; and if he will make a statement. [77945]

Mr. Plaskitt: The most recent available housing benefit fraud and error estimates are in the table.

Housing benefit fraud and error estimates: amount and proportion of expenditure: Great Britain

	2002-03		*2003-04*		*2004-05*	
	Amount (£ million)	*Percentage*	*Amount (£ million)*	*Percentage*	*Amount (£ million)*	*Percentage*
Official error	140	1.1	150	1.2	150	1.1
Customer error	240	1.9	280	2.2	360	2.7
Customer fraud	250	1.9	170	1.4	170	1.3
Total	630	5.0	600	4.8	680	5.2

Notes:
1. Totals and proportions may not sum due to rounding.
2. These figures are estimated using reviews of around 85 per cent. of HB expenditure (used for measuring performance against the relevant PSA target to reduce fraud and error in HB) together with more approximate estimates of error in the remaining 15 per cent. of expenditure. For further details on this, please see the relevant National Statistics reports in the "Fraud and Error in Housing Benefit" series. These are available in the Library and online at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fraud_hb/fraud_hb.asp.
3. Previous estimates were carried out for 1997-98, but a different methodology was used so they are not comparable. No estimates are available for other years.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Department expects all those eligible under the financial assistance scheme to have received payment; and if he will make a statement. [78292]

James Purnell: Members do not generally receive payments until they are 65. With the extension of the financial assistance scheme to members of qualifying schemes who were within 15 years of their scheme pension age on 14 May 2004, all eligible members with scheme pension ages of 65 should have received their first payment by May 2019, while all of those with scheme pension ages of 60 should have received their first payment by May 2024.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many potential recipients of assistance through the financial assistance scheme he estimates will also receive deemed buy-back of contracted out rebates. [78309]

James Purnell: This information is not available. To date only a small number of schemes and members have qualified and opted for deemed buyback, so there is insufficient data on which to base an estimate.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the introduction of the Employer Relationship Management System to Jobcentre Plus. [76511]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the introduction of the Employer Relationship Management System to Jobcentre Plus. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Employer Relationship Management (ERM) database is due to be introduced to Jobcentre Plus during Summer 2006. The new database brings together other databases currently used by Jobcentre Plus, such as the Labour Market System and the Marketing Access Database. Approximately 3000 staff who engage with employers will use the database to access and manage employer information, allowing them to work with current and potential employers more effectively to identify the right type of vacancies at the right time.

I hope this is helpful.

Medical Assessments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of medical assessments for *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* attendance allowance, *(c)* industrial injuries disablement benefit and *(d)* incapacity benefit have been appealed in each of the last five years. [76882]

Vera Baird: I have been asked to reply.

The information you asked for is not available in the format requested as data is collected by benefit type rather than by whether a medical assessment was carried out.

The following table gives details of the total number of appeals received for disability living allowance, attendance allowance, industrial injuries disablement benefit and incapacity benefit over the last five years.

Appeals received by the Appeals Service, March 2001 to February 2006

March to February:	*Incapacity benefit, without PCA*	*Incapacity benefit, with PCA*	*Attendance allowance*	*Disability living allowance*	*Industrial injuries disablement benefit*	*Total*
2001-02	6,230	42,620	11,750	85,460	22,820	168,920
2002-03	7,000	53,910	10,350	81,290	18,340	170,890
2003-04	7,170	55,170	9,810	83,250	15,800	171,210
2004-05	7,180	55,340	8,330	86,820	12,600	170,250
2005-06	7,230	56,660	7,250	80,750	11,630	163,510

Notes:
1. All figures are subject to change as more up-to-date data become available.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. PCA = Personal Capability Assessment.
4. These data are drawn from management information and should not be used in conjunction with sample statistics drawn from the benefit administration systems.

Source:
100 per cent. download of the Generic Appeals Processing System (19 June 2006).

Pension Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate the Department has made of the amount that will be spent on pension credit for the 125,000 people who lost occupational pension rights from schemes that started to wind up before 6 April 2005; and if he will make a statement. [78412]

James Purnell: It is not possible to estimate the amount that will be spent on pension credit for the 125,000 people who lost occupational pension rights from schemes that started to wind up before April 2005. Information on the individual circumstances of these people is not available.

Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former Allied Steel and Wire workers are forecast to receive *(a)* 80 per cent., *(b)* 65 per cent., *(c)* 50 per cent. and *(d)* none of their expected occupational pension under the recently announced changes to the financial assistance scheme; and if he will make a statement. [78290]

James Purnell: We do not hold information on the ages or pension entitlements of members of the ASW pension scheme and therefore we are unable to estimate the number of individuals eligible.

Post Office Card Accounts (Northamptonshire)

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the take up of the Post Office card account in Northamptonshire. [79563]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested.

Information showing the number of DWP benefit and pension payment accounts paid by direct payment into a Post Office card account for each parliamentary constituency has been placed in the Library.

Sure Start

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women have received a Sure Start maternity grant in *(a)* England, *(b)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(c)* Lewisham borough in each of the last two years. [79147]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the table.

Number of sure start maternity grant awards

	England	*South east London Jobcentre Plus district*
2004-05	203,480	3,240
2005-06	205,750	3,590

Notes:
1. Data are not available by parliamentary constituency or local authority but only by Jobcentre Plus District.
2. In 2004-05 and 2005-06, both Lewisham Deptford parliamentary constituency and Lewisham borough were part of south east London Jobcentre Plus district.
3. Figures are for all awards, irrespective of whether the award was made to the mother or her partner.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Unemployed Disabled People, Southend

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people are registered as unemployed in the Southend, West constituency; what encouragement his Department is giving to find them jobs; and if he will make a statement. [80182]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Since 1997 the overall employment rate in the Southend West constituency has increased by 6.9 percentage points to 81.9 per cent., higher than the national average.

Specific information on the number of disabled people registered as unemployed in the constituency is not available. However the number of disabled International Labour Organisation unemployed in East of England aged 16 or over is 30,646.

A 'Pathways to Work' pilot has been operating in Essex since April 2004 providing encouragement, advice and support to disabled people to prepare them for their return to work. So far this has produced 2,710 job entries.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to encourage the provision of affordable housing for key public sector workers in Coventry, South. [79822]

Yvette Cooper: The Key Worker Living programme does not currently operate in the West Midlands. In the West Midlands £148.3 million has been allocated by the Housing Corporation for housing schemes to start in 2006-08. They will provide 3,917 new affordable homes, of which 255 will be in Coventry.

Of the 255 homes being provided in Coventry, 132 will be for social rent, eligibility for which will be decided by the local authority through their nomination procedures. The remaining 123 will be for low cost home ownership. Key public sector workers will be eligible for these units alongside social tenants, those on the housing register and first time buyers prioritised for assistance by regional housing boards.

Brownfield Development

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1387-8W, on brownfield development, what the figures are for 2005 as derived from the Land Use Change Statistics 21. [80712]

Yvette Cooper: The latest LUCS show that in 2005, on a provisional estimate, 73 per cent. of new dwellings, including conversions, were built on previously developed land.

Of the dwellings built on previously developed land in 2005, 21 per cent. were on land that was previously used for residential purposes (which includes buildings and the land associated with those buildings). This is 14 per cent. of all new dwellings built, a slight reduction from 15 per cent. in 2004.

Further to the answer on 22 May 2006, the tables set out LUCS data from 1986. From 1986-88 the data was collected on small sample sizes and is therefore not comparable to the later data. From 1989 the figures have been collected on a comparable basis.

Building Regulations

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many builders have been prosecuted since 1997 for non-compliance with environmental building regulations. [79385]

Angela E. Smith: As building control is a fully devolved service under the Building Act 1984, no central records are kept of prosecutions arising from non-compliance with building regulations.

City Regions Programme

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding will be allocated to the city regions programme. [79438]

Mr. Woolas: Following the round of "Your City, Your Future" summits held last autumn, the eight core cities were invited to prepare business cases setting out what changes they wish to see to enable improved

economic performance across their city-region. Discussions with the core cities are ongoing and we are giving careful consideration to their business case proposals. The evidence and findings to emerge from our work with the core cities will feed into the Treasury led cross cutting review of sub-national economic development and regeneration ahead of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Civil Servants (Expenses)

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the expenditure has been on temporary overnight accommodation in London for civil servants in her Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997. [78360]

Angela E. Smith: Since 2002 my Department has spent the following on temporary overnight accommodation in London for civil servants.

	Total expense (£)
2006-07 (To date)	11,832.54
2005-06	74,351.45
2004-05	101,380.39
2003-04	95,135.24
2002-03	88,047.06

The information is not readily available for the period 1997 to 2002 because the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was not created until that year.

Coalfield Regeneration Trust

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to question 64451, on the Coalfield Regeneration Trust, tabled on 12 April by the hon. Member for Bassetlaw. [80867]

Yvette Cooper: I answered my hon. Friend's question on 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 125W.

Councillors

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when elected councillors are informed by the Standards Board that a complaint has been made against them. [79378]

Mr. Woolas: A local authority member is informed by the Standards Board that an allegation has been made against him following the Board's decision on whether or not to refer the case for investigation. The average time taken by the Board from the receipt of the allegation to making a decision on whether or not to investigate it is currently nine working days, which exceeds the Board's performance target for this of 10 working days.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent staff her Department will employ; and how many the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister employed in each year that it existed. [70584]

Angela E. Smith: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was formed on 29 May 2002. The number of full-time equivalent staff in post at the 31 March in each subsequent year is shown in the table.

Permanent staff in ODPM

31 March	*Full-time equivalents*
2003	2,221.2
2004	2,336.5
2005	2,465.8

Projected staffing levels for the Department of Communities and Local Government by 31 March 2007 are 2,190 full-time equivalents. However, these estimates are expected to change following the transfer of some work and staff from the Department of Trade and Industry and the Home Office to the Department as part of the machinery of government changes announced in May.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants from her Department work in 26 Whitehall; and which divisions are based there. [78653]

Angela E. Smith: There are currently 37 staff from the Department for Communities and Local Government in 26 Whitehall as shown in the following table:

Unit	*Number of staff*
Corporate Strategy and Resources Group	28
Ministerial Group	9
Total	37

All these staff will be moving to Eland House in the next few months.

Equal Pay

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* women and *(b)* men are employed in the Department; what the average pay was for (i) women and (ii) men in the Department in (1) 1997 and (2) 2006; what women's average pay is as a percentage of men's average pay; and how many *(A)* women and *(B)* men the Department employed in each of the last five years, broken down by grade. [67793]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was formed on 29 May 2002. Figures for years before the creation of ODPM are not available. The following table shows the number of men and women employed in ODPM on the 31 March between 2003 and 2005 by grade.

Table 1: Permanent staff by grade and gender 2003-05

Headcount

Responsibility level	*Full-time staff*			*Part-time staff*			*Full-time equivalent*		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
31 March 2003									
All non-industrial staff	1,157	916	2,073	29	153	182	1,178	1,024	2,202
SCS level	78	26	104	2	7	9	79	31	110
Grades 6 and 7	260	138	398	9	36	45	267	164	431
SEO/HEO level	412	286	698	10	43	53	420	316	737
EO level	234	209	443	3	28	31	235	229	464
AO/AA level	172	257	429	5	39	44	175	284	460
Unknown	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
All industrial staff	19	—	19	—	—	—	19	—	19
31 March 2004									
All non-industrial staff	1,194	972	2,166	34	160	194	1,227	1,089	2,316
SCS level	82	43	125	2	9	11	83	50	133
Grades 6 and 7	268	165	433	12	36	48	277	191	468
SEO/HEO level	452	322	774	9	48	57	460	356	816
EO level	234	217	451	5	29	34	246	253	498
AO/AA level	155	225	380	6	38	44	159	239	398
Unknown	3	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	3
All industrial staff	32	—	32	—	—	—	33	—	33
31 March 2005									
All non-industrial staff	1,255	1,032	2,287	38	168	206	1,283	1,152	2,435
SCS level	73	42	115	2	10	12	74	50	124
Grades 6 and 7	310	162	472	12	45	57	319	195	514
SEO/HEO level	470	373	843	11	50	61	479	409	888
EO level	242	232	474	6	29	35	246	253	498
AO/AA level	159	221	380	7	34	41	164	244	408
Unknown	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	2	3
All industrial staff	31	—	31	—	—	—	31	—	31

The Cabinet Office collects and publishes annually statistical information on the civil service by Department. These include data on the employment of men and women.

Information on the numbers of women and men employed in the civil service broken down at 31 December 2005 is available in the Library and on the civil service website at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/employment/index.asp

The following table shows median salaries for men and women and women's median pay as a percentage of men's median pay in March 2003 and March 2006.

Table 2: Changes in median salaries 2003-06

	Median pay		
March	*Women*	*Men*	*Women's pay as a percentage of men's pay*
2003	24,047	27,782	86.6
2006	27,897	30,012	93.0

Fire Service

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if the Minister with responsibility for the fire service will meet *(a)* Southend and *(b)* Essex fire service trade unions to discuss the regionalisation of fire service control rooms; and if she will make a statement. [80173]

Angela E. Smith: I have already agreed to meet the FBU regional secretary for the East of England to discuss the rationalisation of fire and rescue service control rooms.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the fire brigade's trade unions about the regionalisation of the fire service control rooms; and if she will make a statement. [80175]

Angela E. Smith: Over the last year Ministers have met staff representative bodies (including the FBU, Retained Firelighters Union, Fire Officers Association, Association of Principal Fire Officers, Unison, GMB and others) from the fire and rescue service on a range of issues, including the FiReControl project. Regular contact with those bodies will continue.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many large outbreaks of fire there were in *(a)* Southend, West constituency, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* Greater London in each of the last eight years; and if she will make a statement. [80176]

Angela E. Smith: The available information covers parts *(b)-(d)* of the question. Information on Southend, West constituency is not available centrally.

A large outbreak of fire has been taken to be a fire attended by five or more pumping appliances.

Fires attended by five or more pumping appliances 1997-98 to 2004-05

	Essex	*Hertfordshire*	*Greater London*
1997-98	29	10	290
1998-99	26	49	376
1999-2000	67	41	400
2000-01	58	20	254
2001-02	52	29	246
2002-03	24	22	254
2003-04	60	32	213
2004-05	11	25	240

Notes:
1. Figures are based on sampled data grossed to fire and rescue service totals.
2. Figures exclude any fires in November 2002 and January-February 2003 strike periods.

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of staff employed at fire service control rooms who will be made redundant as a result of the planned regionalisation; and if she will make a statement. [80249]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my then colleague, the Member for Bow and Poplar (Jim Fitzpatrick) to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 2 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 797W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the operation of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004; and what recent representations she has received on the operation of this Act. [80250]

Angela E. Smith: The Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 has been in operation for less than two years, and the benefits of the move to prevention based fire and rescue services are already evident. Provisional figures for the year to June 2005 show significant decreases in the number of deaths and injuries, the number of primary fires and the number of deliberate fires. In England, by comparison to the previous year, there has been a 21 per cent. fall in deaths in accidental dwelling fires. The number of fires to which the fire and rescue service were called fell by 25 per cent. Within the primary fires category, there was a fall of 7 per cent. in the total number of building fires including a 10 per cent. decrease in non-domestic building fires (i.e. commercial premises, schools, etc.). Deliberate primary fires fell by 20 per cent. That is a tribute to the way our fire and rescue services have exercised their duties and powers under the Act.

The Government have received representations about charging by fire and rescue services for non-fire-fighting related work; operation of Integrated Risk Management Planning (IRMP) under the National Framework; and about the 24 hour delay on powers on entry to domestic premises for fire investigation purposes. On charging, the matters for which fire and rescue authorities may charge are set out in The Fire and Rescue Services (England) Order 2004. We keep that under review and will consult on any changes that we propose. For the National Framework we have recognised that it can assist fire and rescue services in forward planning if the framework has a longer life than one year. We have therefore introduced a two-year Framework for 2006-08 following consultation with the Fire and Rescue Service. Finally on fire investigation, the powers available to the fire and rescue authorities are at least equivalent to those available to the police. Nonetheless, we are considering the points made in conjunction with the Arson Control Forum.

Flag Flying

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many days since May 1997 the St. George's flag has been flown from her Department's buildings. [77745]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was created on 5 May 2006.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) issue the guidance for flying flags on Government buildings. This includes recommending flying the St. George's Flag on St. George's Day, 23 April, on buildings with two or more flag poles, provided it is flown alongside the Union Flag with the Union Flag in the superior position.

Eland House has a second flag pole and the St. George's flag will be flown on 23 April in future, in line with DCMS recommendation.

Government Office for London

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff were employed in the Government Office for London at each civil service grade in each of the last 10 years. [77113]

Angela E. Smith: The Government Office for London staffing figures[1] from 1997 are as follows:

Staff in post in April by grade[2]

	1997[3]	1998[3]	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[4]
SCS PB2[5]	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1
SCS PB1[5]	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	8	9
Grade 6	5	5	8	10	6	5	5	5	6	4
Grade 7	32	46	76	65	35	34	42	44	45	52
SEO and equivalent	25	27	31	33	17	22	29	43	38	33
HEO and equivalent	60	67	95	93	64	78	87	110	99	99
EO	75	76	86	85	56	60	63	61	57	61
PO	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
SPS	2	4	2	6	3	2	1	1	2	—
AO	50	57	68	63	48	51	40	49	48	43
PS	13	10	13	9	7	6	12	4	4	1
Deputy Speaker	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
AA	9	8	8	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
Typist	2	5	1	1	2	2	—	1	—	—
SGB 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total[2]	274	305	390	370	240	260	288	325	308	303

[1] Prior to 2005 GOL staffing figures were calculated as those staff working in GOL on GOL business. Figures did not include those seconded into GOL who were paid for by their own employer.
[2] Figures up to April 2005 do not include staff on outward secondment, outward loan, maternity leave, special leave, and career breaks for whom we did not pay but who had a right of return to GOL in the future.
[3] March.
[4] Due to the outsourcing of the HR function for all Government Offices and the move to a central database, staffing figures are now calculated as those staff working in GOL on GOL business and on GOL's payroll. In addition, figures include staff on outward secondment, outward loan, maternity leave, special leave, and career breaks for whom we do not pay but who have a right of return to GOL in the future.
[5] Prior to 2003 SCS figures were not recorded centrally in GOL but held by parent departments.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects were managed by the Government Office for London in each year 1996 to 2006; and what the total funding for each project was. [77188]

Angela E. Smith: The Government Office for London (GOL) delivers policies and programmes on behalf of 10 central Government Departments. Programme expenditure figures are available from 1998-99 onwards. I have placed in the Library of the House of Commons tables showing a detailed breakdown of GOL's programme expenditure from 1998-99 to 2004-05, and for the 2005-06 budget (for which final outturn figures are not yet available). The tables make clear that not all programmes are directly delegated to GOL for allocation, but GOL is involved in the delivery and management of them.

	Expenditure (£)
1998-99	1,439,600,000
1999-00	2,202,000,000
2000-01	1,605,269,000
2001-02	2,094,276,000
2002-03	2,529,631,000
2003-04	2,724,391,846
2004-05	3,323,368,336
2005-06	3,360,066,496

Government Office for the North-East

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many whole-time equivalent staff there are in Government Office North East; how many there were in each year since 2001; and what staff reductions are projected in the next three years. [75252]

Angela E. Smith: The figures for whole-time equivalent staff in the Government Office for the North East for each year since 2001 is:

April each year	*Number*
2001	267
2002	286
2003	274
2004	335
2005	331
2006	298

It is expected that the number of staff will reduce by around a third by the end of 2008, compared to the 2004 figure.

Government Office for the West Midlands

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what strategies for sustainable development the Government Office for the West Midlands has in place. [79967]

Angela E. Smith: The Government's commitment to sustainable development in the regions is set out in "Securing the Regions' Futures, strengthening delivery of sustainable development in the English regions", launched on 25 April 2006. The Government Office for the West Midlands is currently considering, in conjunction with Regional Partners, how it will take this work forward, in particular:

"leading by example, to ensure that sustainable development principles are embedded in the way that we work across all our business as well as in partnership with others,

and

making sustainable development one of our key challenges but one which is central to our new more strategic purpose as set out in the Government Office Review"—(Securing the Regions' Futures, Strengthening delivery of sustainable development in the English regions; p25)

Regional partners are responsible for the development of strategies, in particular the Regional Sustainable Development Framework (RSDF), which provide a framework for sustainable development in the West Midlands. The current RSDF was launched in January 2005. The Government Office for the West Midlands has actively supported and challenged partners to develop and use the RSDF in the development of regional and sub regional policies. It has been, or is being, used in the development of the Regional Housing Strategy, the Regional Rural Delivery Framework, the review of the Regional Economic Strategy and the Phase 1 review of the Regional Spatial Strategy, as well as a range of sub regional policies and plans.

A revised version of the RSDF, that incorporates lessons learned from the use of version 1, has been the subject of public consultation and the final document is in preparation.

The Regional Concordat is also being revised, led by the West Midlands Regional Assembly and supported by partners, including GOWM. This is a framework for partnership working and has sustainable development as one of its central tenets.

Sustainability West Midlands is the equivalent of a regional round table. Regional partners, including the Government Office for the West Midlands, have been very active in supporting and promoting its role as a regional champion for sustainable development. It has worked to embed sustainable development thinking into policy making and to develop the links between policy and practice through a wide range of projects.

The Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands was issued as Regional Planning Guidance for the West Midlands (RPG11) in June 2004 on behalf of the Secretary of State by the Government Office for the West Midlands. A number of local authorities within the region have either prepared or are preparing their local development frameworks as part of the local planning process. These frameworks will include policies on sustainable development at the local level. The drafts seen to date have used the RSDF as a tool to help develop their policies.

Home Inspectors

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how a home inspector will be required to prove that he has valid professional indemnity insurance at the time he produced the report; what discussions the Government have had with the insurance industry to ensure that it will provide such insurance to qualified inspectors; what the expected cost is of professional indemnity insurance to an individual inspector; and whether the Government plan to give grants or loans to inspectors to help pay for professional indemnity insurance. [75417]

Yvette Cooper: In order to be approved by the Secretary of State, certification schemes will be required to have robust systems in place to ensure that Home Condition Reports (HCRs) are covered by indemnity insurance, before they are lodged on the central register.

Discussions have been held with insurers and underwriters covering 60 per cent. of the market volume for insurance for existing residential surveyors to ensure that indemnity insurance will be available for home inspectors. Further discussions are under way in the commercial sector to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum.

It is too early for insurers to quote costs but we anticipate that the cost for existing practitioners will be similar to that which applies now.

Home inspectors will be expected to pay for indemnity insurance, as is the case with chartered surveyors at present.

Housing (Luton)

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make an assessment of the impact on equalities of recent budget decisions by Luton council. [80520]

Meg Munn: Public authorities are legally responsible for assessing the impact on equalities of their own policies (including decisions that revise a policy) and functions. The Commission for Racial Equality has powers of enforcement if the Commission is of the view that a public authority has not complied with the duty to promote race equality. Otherwise it is for a public authority itself, in this case Luton council, to demonstrate how its decisions take account of the duty and this is subject to audit.

Living Naze Community Project

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what correspondence her Department has had with the East of England Development Agency concerning the Living Naze community project in Walton-on-the-Naze. [76352]

Yvette Cooper: There has been no correspondence between the Department for Communities and Local Government and the East of England Development Agency concerning the Living Naze community project in Walton-on-the-Naze.

Local Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many written representations her Department has received from *(a)* district and *(b)* county councils calling for unitary status. [70570]

Mr. Woolas: Our records show receipt of over 60 written representations in favour of the principle of unitary local government—24 from district council members and officers and eight from county council members and officers.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government has paid in subsidy to each local authority since 2002. [79379]

Mr. Woolas: A table detailing the amount of central Government grant paid to each local authority since 2002-03 has been made available in the Library of the House.

The data are taken from Revenue Summary (RS) returns for 2002-03 to 2004-05.

Central Government grant is defined here as the sum of Specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF), General GLA grant and Formula grant (Revenue Support Grant, Redistributed business rates and Police Grant).

Specific grants inside Aggregate External Finance are those revenue grants paid for councils' core services (such as waste collection), excluding funding for local authorities' housing management, and can be paid to any type of authority.

Combined Fire authorities did not receive Formula grant until they became major precepting authorities on 1 April 2004. Waste and waste disposal authorities and Passenger Transport Authorities do not directly receive Formula grant but receive levy income from their constituent authorities. They may, however, receive some specific grants. National Park Authorities do not receive Formula grant but receive specific grants, except Lee Valley Regional Park Authority, which receives levy income from its constituent authorities.

Comparisons across years may not be valid due to changing local authority responsibilities.

The information excludes those grant programmes, such as European funding, where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Local Government Staff (Salaries)

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average annual wage was of *(a)* local government chief executives in England and *(b)* local government workers in each year since 1997. [79879]

Mr. Woolas: The requested information has been calculated from information provided by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Local Government Employers (LGE) Organisation and is shown in the following table:

	Chief Executives[1, 3, 6]	*Local government services*[2, 3, 4, 5]
1997	64,628	—
1998	69,690	—
1999	74,653	17,452
2000	78,815	18,345
2001	82,320	18,856
2002	87,857	19,512
2003	96,699	20,264
[7]2004	100,382	21,355
[8]2005	108,958	—

[1] Source: Local Government Employers Organisation: Chief Executive and Chief Officer Salaries and Numbers Surveys 1997-2005.
[2] Source: ONS: Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Table 19.7a, full-time employees, Local authority single status national agreement group, 1999-2004.
[3] England only figures are not available. The Chief Executive figures are for England and Wales and the Local Government Services figures are for England, Wales and Northern Ireland. However, as England is the dominant member of the groupings it is unlikely that the trends would differ if the figures were for England only.
[4] ASHE only collected annual earnings figures from 1999 onwards.
[5] ASHE figures cover earnings rather than basic pay, they are available for earnings less overtime but not for basic pay only.
[6] The Chief Executive figures cover basic salary. Basic salaries are often enhanced by a range of additional bonuses which may include other remunerations such as performance related pay, market supplement, long service supplement, evening meeting allowance and car allowances.
[7] 2004 figures are provisional due to an ONS methodology review.
[8] 2005 figures are not yet available from this source.

Local Strategic Partnerships

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to ensure that local strategic partnerships play a leading role in the reduction of *(a)* criminal and *(b)* antisocial behaviour in their areas. [78330]

Mr. Woolas: In the recent consultation on the future of local strategic partnerships, LSP were positioned as the overarching partnership in an area that would bring all relevant service deliverers together. In order for this to work effectively the consultation described the LSP as needing to consist of a board, which will determine the priorities for an area through the Local Area Agreement, and a series of thematic sub-partnerships including the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) which would deliver against these agreed priorities.

The Home Office's recent Crime and Disorder Act review built on this model and gave further emphasis to the strategic leadership role to the LSP in reducing crime and antisocial behaviour through its setting of the LAA targets. Furthermore, all LAAs contain mandatory targets on both crime and antisocial behaviour, which are developed by LSPs.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department receives annual reports by local strategic partnerships on their *(a)* performance and *(b)* auditing of expenditure. [79682]

Mr. Woolas: Outside areas receiving Neighbourhood Renewal Funding Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) are voluntary partnerships and hence are not monitored on an individual basis by the Department. There are no requirements for LSPs to report to the Secretary of State on their performance. Where a locality has a local area agreement, the LSP, through the local authority, will report on progress to the Government Office on a six-monthly basis. This report is made available to the Secretary of State.

LSPs do not hold funds, funding is held by partner organisations. Any expenditure will be subject to partners' individual audit requirements.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what external monitoring takes place by Government of local strategic partnerships. [80019]

Mr. Woolas: Outside areas receiving Neighbourhood Renewal Funding local strategic partnerships (LSPs) are voluntary partnerships and hence are not monitored on an individual basis by the Department. There are no requirements for LSPs to report to the Secretary of State on their performance. Where a locality has a local area agreement, the LSP, through the local authority, will report on progress to the Government Office on a six-monthly basis. This report is made available to the Secretary of State.

LSPs do not hold funds, funding is held by partner organisations. Any expenditure will be subject to partners individual audit requirements. Local authorities are the accountable body for LAAs.

Since 2004, LSPs in receipt of NRF resources have been required to develop performance management frameworks. This is primarily a self-assessment process. To ensure the process is robust, Government offices have undertaken an annual review, with the outcomes of performance management forming the basis of these reviews. Government offices will provide DCLG with a report on each of the 86 LSPs by 7 July this year.

Mayor of London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the Mayor of London has to make unilateral agreements with representatives of foreign countries on the supply of oil; and if she will make a statement. [73646]

Dr. Ladyman: The Mayor of London acting through the Greater London Authority has a general power, under section 30 of the GLA Act 1999, to do anything he considers will further the Authority's principal purposes of promoting economic development and wealth creation, social development, and the improvement of the environment in Greater London. The use of this general power may enable the Mayor to make agreements with foreign countries on specific matters in certain circumstances, subject to other relevant national, EU and international laws.

Pathfinder Schemes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the funding agreement between her Department and each Pathfinder scheme. [70726]

Yvette Cooper: I have placed in the Libraries of both Houses a copy of the funding agreement up to 31 March 2006 between each pathfinder and the Department. We are currently agreeing with the six pathfinders for whom we have announced offers of funding for 2006-08 variations to those funding agreements to cover the period to 31 March 2008.

Public Pensions (Transferability)

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures her Department has put in place to assist pension transferability of public pensions for members of the *(a)* Local Government and *(b)* Fire Service Pension Schemes. [79771]

Mr. Woolas: On joining the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), a member may request the LGPS fund to accept a transfer value in respect of some or all of his accrued pension rights, from a previous employment. On transferring out of the LGPS, a member is entitled to request a transfer value of his accrued LGPS pension rights, for payment into a new pension scheme.

Similar arrangements are provided for in the Firefighters' Pension Scheme (FPS) and are being provided for in the New Firefighters' Pension Scheme (NFPS).

Special provisions apply to individual transfers between members of the Public Sector Transfer Club under which a transferee will receive equivalent value service credits in the new scheme in respect of service in their former scheme. The LGPS and the FPS are members of the Club and the objective is that the NFPS should also satisfy the requirements to be a member.

Special provisions exist in the LGPS which allow employees transferring out of local government under a best value contracting out arrangement, either to remain in the LGPS in their new employment or to have access to a broadly comparable scheme.

Special Advisers

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who the special advisers are to each Minister in her Department. [78409]

Angela E. Smith: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has two special advisers: Dan Corry and Julie Crowley. No other Ministers in the Department have special advisers.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role is played by special advisers in answering parliamentary questions asked of her Department. [80656]

Angela E. Smith: Special advisers conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements of the 'Code of Conduct for Special Advisers'.

Sustainable Buildings

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the number of homes built since 1997 that do not comply with environmental building regulations. [79384]

Angela E. Smith: Post implementation surveys of amendments to the energy efficiency provisions in Part L of the Building Regulations were carried out in 1998 and 2004 respectively. These surveys examined building control submissions to determine methods of compliance but were not designed to count numbers of non-compliances.

The former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister also commissioned air-tightness tests on 55 new dwellings built in compliance with the 2002 requirements and it subsequently received from The Energy Saving Partnership for Homes the results of a further 99 similar tests on other new dwellings.

The results of these tests and surveys influenced the amendment to Part L that came into effect in April 2006 and the ongoing dissemination and training for builders and Building Control Officers.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

1911 Census

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions she has had with the Information Commissioner on releasing the 1911 census records on a county-by-county basis. [80148]

Bridget Prentice: I have had no discussions with the Information Commissioner on releasing the 1911 census records on a county-by-county basis.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions her Department has had with genealogy and family history organisations on releasing information from the 1911 census on a section-by-section basis. [80149]

Bridget Prentice: The National Archives (TNA), has held discussions with genealogy and family history organisations on TNA's plans for the digitisation and release of the 1911 census, in order to ensure that the end product meets user needs. These groups will continue to be consulted regularly.

Departmental Bills

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what Government Bills sponsored by her Department are still to be introduced during the current Session; and when, and into which House, each will be introduced. [77510]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to the Leader of the House of Commons response dated 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of her staff in each of the last three years; and at what total cost. [73010]

Bridget Prentice: The departmental cost for the payment of non-pensionable bonuses for the last three years and the percentage figure of the total paybill is set out in the following table.

The figures do not include the magistrates courts staff who became civil servants within this Department on April 2005 and who currently have separate pay arrangements which do not include bonuses.

Financial year	*Number of bonuses paid*	*Cost of non-pensionable bonuses (£)*	*Percentage of annual paybill*
2003-04	5,760	1,351,358	0.4
2004-05	3,361	1,410,448	0.4
2005-06	3,991	1,848,538	0.5

Dr. David Kelly

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the occasions since 1 January 2003 when *(a)* the Lord Chancellor and *(b)* (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in her Department have met the Oxfordshire coroner. [74469]

Ms Harman: Neither the Lord Chancellor nor any Ministers have met the Oxfordshire coroner. My officials met the Oxfordshire coroner on 11 August 2003 and on 20 March 2006.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to her answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1664W, on Dr. David Kelly, how the Oxfordshire coroner ascertained reasons for death by the date of issue of the certificate on 18 August 2003. [74493]

Ms Harman: The Oxfordshire coroner informs me that he was able to ascertain reasons for Dr. David Kelly's death from the post mortem report from the Home Office pathologist, Dr. Hunt, and the toxicology report from Dr. Allen. These reports were admitted in evidence in a resumed hearing of the inquest into the death of Dr. Kelly on 14 August 2003.

Hutton Inquiry

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs at what time and on what day *(a)* the Prime Minister asked the Lord Chancellor to identify a suitable judge to lead the inquiry into the death of Dr. David Kelly and *(b)* the decision to appoint Lord Hutton was taken. [65227]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Member to the press release issued by the Hutton inquiry on 21 July. A copy is available on the Hutton website.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the members of the senior judiciary consulted by the Lord Chancellor prior to the appointment of Lord Hutton to investigate the death of Dr. David Kelly. [65241]

Ms Harman: The Lord Chancellor consulted the Senior Law Lord.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs at what time on 21 July 2003 the press notice concerning the appointment of Lord Hutton was issued by her Department; and at what time and on what day this statement was cleared for release. [80144]

Ms Harman: The press release referred to was a statement by Lord Hutton, received from him and distributed by DCA press office on his behalf. Available records suggest this was done at around 10.15 am 21 July 2003. Preparation of the text of the statement is a matter for Lord Hutton.

Inquests

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs in what circumstances inquests can be closed without a verdict; and on how many occasions this has happened since 1 May 1997. [80143]

Ms Harman: Under section 16 of the Coroners Act 1988 an inquest may be adjourned where the coroner is informed that there are criminal proceedings arising from the death and the coroner may only resume the inquest after the criminal proceedings have concluded there is in his opinion sufficient cause to do so. The Lord Chancellor may also require the coroner to adjourn an inquest under section 17A of the Act where he considers that a judicial public inquiry is likely to adequately investigate the death and the coroner may only resume the inquest if in his opinion there is exceptional reason to do so.

Since 1 January 1997 annual figures for inquests adjourned and not resumed are as follows:

	Number
1997	849
1998	843
1999	772
2000	979
2001	899
2002	1,123
2003	908
2004	943
2005	1,008

Legal Aid (Northamptonshire)

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the level of provision of legal aid in Northamptonshire. [79562]

Vera Baird: The Legal Services Commission contracts with service providers throughout England and Wales to provide a range of legal and advice services across different categories of law.

There are currently 35 service providers with a contract to undertake civil legal aid work and 22 service providers with a contract to undertake criminal legal aid work in Northamptonshire. Service providers in Northamptonshire may help people who live outside the area, and people who live in Northamptonshire may visit a service provider in a different area.

Any person residing in England or Wales can access free quality legal advice and information through Community Legal Service Direct. This service is available direct to the public through a telephone line, website and information leaflets.

National Archives

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list records in the National Archives which have been withheld from public inspection; and for what reason each has been withheld. [80183]

Bridget Prentice: The National Archives (TNA) catalogue has more than 10 million records and of these approximately 218,000 records are closed to public inspection at TNA.

The Public Records Acts of 1958 and 1967 determined access to public records. Since January 2005 access is determined by the passing of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The full list of TNA's holdings is on the online catalogue and includes access status of each record.

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/default.asp

Parliamentary Questions

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the reasons are for the delay in answering parliamentary questions *(a)* 74493 tabled on 24 May 2006, *(b)* 65241 tabled on 19 April 2006, *(c)* 65227 tabled on 19 May 2006 and *(d)* 74469 tabled on 24 May 2006 by the hon. Member for Lewes; and when she expects to answer them. [80657]

Ms Harman: The documents necessary to answer the hon. Member's questions had been archived. The questions have been answered on 27 June 2006.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Autism

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department has spent in each year since 1997 on the provision of *(a)* mainstream and *(b)* specialist education provision for children with autism. [79331]

Mr. Dhanda: Funding for schools is a shared responsibility between central and local government. The majority of funding is provided by central Government, with Local Authorities (LAs) providing the rest. For the first time this year, schools will receive

their funding from a Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) rather than as part of the local government settlement. The DSG is a ring-fenced grant and must be used for schools' budgets. It is for each LA to distribute funding using a locally agreed formula, and for schools' governing bodies to decide how to spend the available resources.

Since 1997-98, total funding for education in England has increased nationally, by £1,170 per pupil from £2,940 in 1997-98 to £4,110 per pupil in 2005-06. This represents a rise of nearly 40 per cent. per pupil.

Support for children with special educational needs (SEN) accounts for a high proportion of all education expenditure. We do not hold information centrally about expenditure on autism but information collected from LAs shows planned expenditure on the education of children with SEN has increased from £2.8 billion in 2001-02 (when data was first available) to £4.1 billion in 2005-06. This is about 13 per cent. of all education spending. The figure of £4.1 billion includes about £1.4 billion for maintained special schools, £2.0 billion for mainstream schools, £481 million for independent and non-maintained special schools and £264 million for LA duties and support services.

In addition, between 1997-98 and 2003-04 the Government allocated a total of £360 million through specific grants, to support SEN. The SEN element of the School Development Grant in 2004-05 was £84 million (not ring-fenced, schools decide how they use SDG). Total SDG for 2005-06 is £674 million. This will increase by 3.4 per cent. per pupil in 2006-07 and 3.7 per cent. in 2007-08.

Book Start Scheme

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many parents in Leyton and Wanstead constituency have received book packs for their babies in the Book Start Scheme since it started in October 2005; and if he will make a statement. [79849]

Beverley Hughes: Booktrust tell me that the total number of Bookstart packs issued between September 2005 and May 2006 in the London boroughs of Waltham Forest and Redbridge is as follows:

	Number
Bookstart baby packs	10,130
Bookstart Plus for toddlers	8,732
My Bookstart Treasure Chest	10,330

This information cannot be further broken down by location. Over the three year period 2005-08 we will be providing £27 million to Booktrust.

Childcare Affordability Programme

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Childcare Affordability Programme in London. [80311]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The London Childcare Affordability Programme began in November 2005, with the aim of creating up to 10,000 affordable and flexible child care places. The Department has commissioned an independent evaluation, which began in February 2006 and will be completed in April 2009, to assess the effectiveness of the programme. Interim findings will be published at key points in the study and used to inform the development of policy on affordable child care both in London and more widely.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will obtain a reply to the letters of *(a)* 18 April and *(b)* 18 May 2006 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton to Mr. J. Korzeniewski, Regional Director of the Learning and Skills Council, Greater Manchester with regard to the Greater Manchester Bangladesh and Community Centre; and what the reasons are for the delay in replying hitherto. [80894]

Bill Rammell: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. I understand that Mr. Korzeniewski replied to the Greater Manchester Bangladesh Association last month and has copied his response to my right hon. Friend.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79878]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department runs 25 main URL domains for communication, information and services to parents, young people, frontline workers, campaigns and its corporate presence. Public-facing content is being migrated to Directgov.

The cost of maintaining the DfES-run websites is £1.926 million.

Educational Psychology

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he will reply to question 69587, tabled on 4 May, on resources for the training of educational psychologists. [80579]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department responded to my hon. Friend's question on 10 May 2006. The following is the question and answer that should have appeared on 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 254-55W.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what resources he plans to make available over the next five years for the training of educational psychologists. [69587]

Mr. Dhanda: The full-time equivalent number of educational psychologists in post in local authorities in England as at January 2005 is 2,156, compared to 1,768 in January 1997. There were 100 vacant full-time permanent posts as at January 2005.

Educational psychologists are employed by local authorities and it is for those authorities to determine how many to employ in light of their assessment of local needs and available resources, and to plan for future needs. The Department makes no manpower planning estimates for this group of local employees, nor do we collect centrally information on the number of EPs trained or the cost of EP training, funding for which is not provided by DfES.

There have been no recent discussions between the Department and the British Psychological Society on funding of EP training. Questions relating to clinical psychologists are for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health.

Flag Flying

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what his Department's policy is on flying the *(a)* St. George's Flag and *(b)* EU Flag from departmental buildings; [77749]

(2) on how many days since May 1997 the St. George's Flag has been flown from his Department's buildings. [77748]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answers 14 June 2006]:* The Department for Culture, Media and Sport issue the guidance for flying flags on Government buildings. This includes flying the St. George's Flag on St. George's Day 23 April and the European Flag on Europe Day 9 May on buildings with two or more flag poles provided they are flown alongside the Union Flag with the Union Flag in the superior position.

The Department for Education and Skills flies the St. George's Flag and European Flag on the specified days from its two London head office buildings.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will ensure the Union Flag is flown from his Department's buildings on every day the offices are open. [77750]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 14 June 2006]:* The Department for Education and Skills follows the rules and guidance on flag flying issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. These rules are approved by the Queen on advice from the Department. There are no plans at present to change the number of days flags can be flown from Government buildings.

Further Education, Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many 19 to 25-year-olds in Tamworth are studying for a first level 3 qualification. [80138]

Bill Rammell: In the academic year 2004/05 there were 272 19 to 25-year-olds in Tamworth studying for a full NVQ level 3 or equivalent qualification in further education and work based learning[1]. This does not include access to HE qualifications or wholly privately funded study aims.

We do not have estimates below national level for the 'firstness' of learning aims. Research from 2005 showed that nationally 49 per cent. of full level 3 learners in further education and work based learning were studying for their first full level 3 qualification.

[1] *Source:*
Individualised Learner Record, 2004/05

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many compulsory redundancies will arise from the restructuring of the Learning and Skills Council under its Agenda for Change. [79877]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is undertaking a major restructuring programme designed to streamline the organisation and give regional and local directors a more strategic role.

The LSC and PCS Union have been working together to do everything reasonably possible to avoid compulsory redundancies. They have agreed that no compulsory redundancies or issue of notice of compulsory redundancy will take place before 31 October 2006. Both sides will continue to work together on a series of redundancy avoidance measures which include, as appropriate, offers of suitable alternative roles, redeployment, promotion and further training of staff to help them secure posts within the LSC, the wider civil service and beyond.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in his Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in each of the last three years. [69036]

Mr. Dhanda: There is no central record of the breakdown of civil servants and special advisers and an assessment of the staff time and associated costs could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to him comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74404]

Mr. Dhanda: Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, all public bodies have a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in the exercising of their functions. There is no statutory obligation on Departments to monitor the extent to which public bodies comply with this duty. However, we understand

Defra is working with a wide range of partners to develop guidance for public bodies to support the implementation of this duty and will involve all relevant Departments on the development of guidance.

Nursery Education Grant

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the extent to which the hourly Nursery Education Grant covers the cost for *(a)* private and *(b)* voluntary providers of providing child care. [80310]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* With effect from April 2006, funding has been channelled to local authorities through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to fund educational provision for children aged up to 16 in all types of settings. This includes private, voluntary and independent settings delivering the free nursery education entitlement. The DSG provides the total funding to local authorities. It is then up to the local authority to decide how best to apply the total funding across different settings and age groups.

The level of funding provided to local authorities for under fives is determined by the number of full-time equivalent pupils in the authority, multiplied by the DSG "guaranteed unit of funding". The number of full time equivalent pupils for under fives in PVI settings are calculated according to their age and the number of sessions they complete. The Department consulted widely on the Dedicated Schools Grant between February and May 2005, and on the method of its distribution over summer 2005. The Department will be reviewing various aspects of the funding arrangements over the conning months.

Local authorities are best placed to determine the most effective use of resources at local level and have discretion over the rate at which they fund settings for delivery of early years provision. However, the "Code of Practice on the Provision of Free Nursery Education Places for Three and Four Year-Olds"—a copy of which has been placed in the Library—strongly encourages local authorities to fund provision delivered in different sectors on an equal basis, taking into account local need and circumstances.

Older People (Skills Training)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what paid apprenticeship programmes are available through his Department (a) for people aged over 55 years and *(b)* for people in retirement. [80746]

Phil Hope: We currently support a pilot programme for adult apprentices, in three sectors, construction; engineering; and health and social care and the LSC has local flexibility to fund some apprenticeship training for adults. We will decide on the way ahead in the autumn in light of the evaluation of current pilot activity, in England, and the availability of resources.

Overseas Adoptions

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the remarks of the Minister for Children and Families in Standing Committee B on the Children and Adoption Bill, on 14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 33, when he plans to publish guidelines for fee-charging on overseas adoptions. [80459]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Children and Adoption Act 2006 allows the Government to charge a fee to prospective adopters in order to contribute to the cost of processing of inter-country adoption casework. Charging will not be introduced before April 2007. The fees charged cannot exceed the cost to the Government of providing this service and we are committed to making charging fair, straightforward and based on income. We are currently working to develop the details of a system for charging based on these criteria. We intend to discuss this with stakeholders in the autumn before publishing details of the scheme prior to its introduction.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which Private Members' Bills were drafted by his Department in each session since 1997; and which subsequently received Royal Assent. [77836]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department is unable to provide the information without incurring disproportionate cost.

School Milk

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) whether participants in the school milk scheme are required to supply equal amounts of whole and skimmed dairy products; [77761]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of participation in the school milk scheme on schools' ability to meet school meals nutritional standards. [77762]

Mr. Dhanda: The new nutritional standards for school food, announced on 19 May 2006, allow only skimmed or semi-skimmed milk to be provided or made available to pupils.

There is no requirement on participants in the EU milk subsidy scheme in relation to the proportion of whole, semi-skimmed or skimmed milk products that should be provided.

There are currently different rates of subsidy for whole milk and semi-skimmed milk. Officials in the Department for Education and Skills, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Rural Payments Agency are considering the impact on levels of subsidy of the new nutritional standards.

Sure Start

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures he is taking to guarantee funding of the Sure Start scheme in Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire; and if he will make a statement. [80494]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Waltham Cross Sure Start mini programme has become a Sure Start Children's Centre. We have made a total of £20,242,933 revenue available to Hertfordshire county council as part of the council's 2006-08 General Sure Start Grant, which includes funding for Sure Start Children's Centres. How revenue is distributed to individual centres is a matter for Hertfordshire. However, we have asked local authorities to ensure that revenue funding is continued to be made available to Sure Start local programmes including mini programmes in their Sure Start Children's Centres plan.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to promote the retention of health visitors by Sure Start initiatives in Hertfordshire; and if he will make a statement. [80495]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The recent Department of Health White Paper, "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say: a new direction for community services" encouraged the delivery of health visitor and midwifery through Sure Start Children's Centres. We have been working closely with the Department of Health to ensure consistent messages to local authorities and PCTs. Health visitors and midwives, whether based in a Sure Start Centre or operating some sessions from it, will provide ante-natal and post-natal support to families of young children in the area. The precise way in which these services are organised is a matter for an individual local authority to determine, working with their local primary care trust and other health sector partners.

Teachers (Criminal Records)

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether newly appointed teachers will be allowed to commence work pending a response from the Criminal Records Bureau. [79805]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* Yes. Head teachers will continue to have discretion to allow staff to start work before they receive their disclosure, provided that they have been checked against List 99 and that all other necessary pre-appointment checks have been carried out on them. Head teachers should also reach a judgment on the appropriate level of supervision for such staff.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he expects all required Criminal Records Bureau checks on teachers to be completed for the commencement of the autumn term. [79807]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has informed the Department that it expects to meet requirements for processing applications under existing arrangements, for new appointees to take up positions in the autumn term, provided that all applications have been completed correctly and the required identity checks have been made.

In response to Ofsted's recent report, "Safeguarding Children-An evaluation of procedures for checking staff appointed by schools", which identified that some schools did not maintain complete records of employee checks undertaken, the Secretary of State has asked all schools and colleges to make sure they have the records they need to demonstrate that they have undertaken identity, qualifications and List 99/CRB checks on their staff. We expect schools to be able to obtain the necessary information that checks have been undertaken from the individuals concerned or from their local authority or human resources provider. It is only where records cannot be obtained for checks of staff who have joined the school after 1 March 2002 that a new CRB check will need to be undertaken. The CRB will provide its full support to the Department for Education and Skills in managing any additional intake.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Aliens' Employment Act

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many certificates under the Aliens' Employment Act 1955 permitting employment of aliens in the civil service are in force; how many there were in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; and in which Departments those holding such a certificate work. [79145]

Mr. McFadden: The total number of aliens' certificates in force during 2005-06 was 67. This compares with 58 in 2004-05 and 57 in 2003-04.

The Departments and agencies employing aliens and the numbers of aliens' certificates in force during 2005-06 are shown in the table.

Department	*Number of aliens certificates in force during 2005-06*
Central Office of Information	1
Crown Prosecution Service	2
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	1
Ministry of Defence	39
Department for Education and Skills	2
Export Credits Guarantee Department	1
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	6
Government Actuary's Department	1
Office of Government Commerce	1
Department of Health	1
Home Office	1
Meteorological Office	2
NHS Estates	1
Office for National Statistics	1
Ordnance Survey	1
HM Treasury	3
Department for Work and Pensions	3
Total	67

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average cost to the Cabinet Office was of replying to a letter written by *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public, in the last period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80510]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/ Peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on Thursday 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 75-80WS.

The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Delivery Unit

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will make a statement on the recent work of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit. [79557]

Hilary Armstrong: The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit is providing support to Departments on aspects of the delivery of the Government's top public service priorities in health, education, home affairs and housing and planning. The unit is also leading a programme of capability reviews, designed to improve Departments' performance in pursuing their current objectives and tackling future challenges.

Public Sector Information

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1377W, on public sector information, what the estimated viewing figures are of each public information film commissioned since 1997; which Government Department commissioned each film; at which dayparts each film was shown; and what the estimated airtime value was of each film. [79319]

Mr. McFadden: The detail requested for each film and for the period requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However a breakdown of daypart spread and estimated airtime value by client is available for the period 1 January 2001 to 31 March 2006 and has been placed in the Library.

Also included is an estimate of television ratings by client for the period since these data became available in July 2005. These figures cover only public information films currently in circulation.

The figures quoted refer to television broadcast transmissions only. They do not include out of home media, websites or usage by intermediaries such as road safety officers, fire safety officers etc.

HEALTH

A and E Waiting Times

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for accident and emergency departments at hospitals in the Greater London area in each of the last five years. [79228]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not collected on the average waiting time in accident and emergency (A and E) departments. However, since 2002-03 information on the number and percentage of all attenders who were admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours of arrival at A and E has been collected and published quarterly. Information for national health service organisations in London is shown in the following table for the second quarter of 2002-03 to 2005-06.

Total time spent in A and E from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge, NHS organisations in London, Q2 2002-03 to 2005-06

	Percentage < four hours			
	Annual			
Organisation	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03 (Q2 to Q4)*
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	98.0	96.2	89.2	69.8
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	98.2	97.4	88.9	80.0
Hammersmith and Fulham Primary Care Trust (PCT)	100.0	100.0	—	—
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	98.2	97.4	88.9	80.0
Hammersmith and Fulham Primary Care Trust (PCT)	100.0	100.0	—	—
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	97.8	95.5	89.9	78.1
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	100.0	100.0	100.0	—
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	97.6	93.0	82.6	79.2
St. Mary's NHS Trust	98.3	96.9	87.7	69.1
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	98.2	93.7	85.2	71.0
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	97.8	95.9	87.1	80.5
Westminster PCT	100.0	100.0	100.0	—
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	95.0	88.5	80.6	71.9
Barnet PCT	99.9	99.7	99.9	—
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	99.5	96.8	94.1	—
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	97.7	96.3	89.8	84.9
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	97.9	95.6	89.3	90.1

Total time spent in A and E from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge, NHS organisations in London, Q2 2002-03 to 2005-06

	Percentage < four hours			
	Annual			
Organisation	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03 (Q2 to Q4)*
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	98.1	95.5	85.4	78.6
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	98.9	95.2	89.0	81.0
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	98.1	93.9	80.9	67.8
Barts and The London NHS Trust	97.6	95.0	87.0	68.7
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	98.1	95.1	87.4	70.1
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	96.6	91.7	80.9	62.4
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	97.2	95.8	83.8	60.1
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	98.3	96.7	91.1	70.9
Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	98.0	96.6	93.7	73.1
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	98.5	96.8	90.1	80.7
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	98.2	96.1	91.7	74.1
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	97.7	95.6	91.3	68.0
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	97.2	94.8	89.1	68.1
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	96.5	93.6	89.2	78.1

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE

Alzheimer's Disease

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will make it her policy to allow general practitioners to prescribe Ebixa on the NHS; [79524]

(2) what recent guidance she has issued to general practitioners on the treatment of Alzheimer's disease in its *(a)* early, *(b)* moderate and *(c)* severe stages; and if she will make a statement. [79525]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not issued any recent guidance to general practitioners on the treatment of Alzheimer's disease in its early, moderate and severe stages and, there are no plans for the Department to issue guidance to general practitioners on prescribing Ebixa on the national health service. Until the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issues revised guidance to the NHS, its original guidance issued in 2001 continues to apply.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the possible impact of prohibiting Ebixa on the treatment of people in the later stages of Alzheimer's disease who have behavioural problems; and if she will make a statement. [79532]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not commissioned and evaluated any recent research on the possible impact of prohibiting Ebixa for treatment of people in the later stages of Alzheimer's disease who have behavioural problems. Until the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issues revised guidance to the national health service, its original guidance issued in 2001 continues to apply.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the possible impact on carers of withdrawing Alzheimer's drug treatments; and if she will make a statement. [79534]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not commissioned and evaluated any recent research on the possible impact on carers of withdrawing Alzheimer's drug treatments. Until the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence issues revised guidance to the national health service, its original guidance issued in 2001 continues to apply.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will review the decision of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to withdraw access to anticholinesterase drugs from patients at the early stages of Alzheimer's disease; and if she will make a statement. [80383]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) appraisal of these drugs has not yet concluded. Until NICE issues revised guidance to the national health service, its original guidance issued in 2001 continues to apply.

Asthma

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to ensure more people with asthma take-up care plans. [79447]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* Meeting the care needs of people with long-term conditions, including better access to care plans, is a key theme of the White Paper, 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say'.

Departmental officials will be seeking to engage with key stakeholders in taking forward White Paper commitments around care planning and reducing emergency bed stays.

Audiology

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the assessment, fitting and follow-up of digital hearing aids is included in *(a)* payment-by-results and *(b)* practice based commissioning; and if she will make a statement. [78641]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The provision of digital hearing aids is not included in payment by results because the entire digital hearing aids service is not part of the reference costs which underpin the tariff. This is due to their treatment as capitalised grouped assets.

As long as the purchase of digital hearing aids in bulk by national health service bodies is deemed to be a capital transaction, they will remain outside the reference costs collections and therefore payment by results.

Practice based commissioning gives practices greater freedom to commission services for their patients. Only core general medical services/personal medical services specialised services, services commissioned regionally and nationally, and national screening programmes are excluded from the potential scope of a practice's indicative budget.

Autism

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to promote early diagnosis of autism. [79398]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The autism research co-ordination group brings together Government officials, professional bodies and voluntary sector organisations to identify gaps in research, including research on diagnosis, and advises policy makers.

The autism spectrum disorders exemplar follows a patient journey from diagnosis to transition into adult services at age 16. This exemplar illustrates some of the key themes of the children, young people and maternity services national service framework. The exemplar is intended to be useful in a number of ways, providing a multi-disciplinary training tool for staff working with children and young people to raise awareness of specific issues, including early identification, diagnosis and intervention.

The promotion of early diagnosis of autism is a matter for professional bodies.

Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings have taken place between the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and its constituent primary health care trusts to discuss its operating framework; and when the planned savings required of each organisation within the SHA were agreed. [79652]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not collect details of meetings between strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs). This is a local matter for Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA and its PCTs.

Child and Adolescence Mental Health Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there are minimum standards for the performance of Child and Adolescence Mental Health Services. [79679]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Improving child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) is one of the priorities for this Government, as emphasised by the public service agreement standard of a comprehensive CAMHS to be in place by December 2006. This commitment to improve CAMHS has been backed by significant additional funding, over £300 million in the last three years.

The CAMHS module of the children's national service framework for England (September 2004) sets the framework for CAMHS for the next 10 years. It sets the standard that all children and young people, from birth to their 18th birthday, who have mental health problems and disorders, will have access to timely, integrated, high quality multidisciplinary mental health services to ensure effective assessment, treatment and support, for them, their parents or carers, and other family members.

Choose and Book

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of patients who have been referred to an inappropriate doctor in secondary care under the choose and book system; and if she will make a statement. [67119]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National data on the number of rejected referrals and the reasons for these such as inappropriate referral are not centrally collected. However, these data are available at an organisational level, for example within general practitioner practices and acute trusts. In future, it is intended that national level data will be collected through the secondary uses service and plans are currently being developed.

Some choose and book referrals, in addition to some non-choose and book referrals, are rejected. Referrals are usually rejected either when referrers have selected inappropriate services or when providers have not given sufficient detail about the services they offer. These rejections are not linked to the information technology system, as choose and book enables providers to describe their services in sufficient detail to allow referrers to identify the appropriate service, and to regularly review and update their descriptions based on feedback.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many appointments on the choose and book system *(a)* require the use of the telephone and *(b)* have the option of using the telephone to book the appointment. [75310]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The option of booking by telephone is available for all appointments booked through the choose and book service.

Where service providers have a patient administration system which is compliant with the choose and book application, services are directly bookable and appointment slots may be booked electronically without requiring the use of the telephone.

About a third of the referrals currently made by general practitioners are being made through the directly bookable services.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the latest figures for the use of the choose and book system are derived *(a)* from the system's generation of a unique booking reference number and *(b)* from the booking of an appointment; and if she will make a statement; [75311]

(2) whether the latest figures for the use of the choose and book system are for those appointments which are made entirely electronically and have not involved the patient or general practitioner in using the telephone; and if she will make a statement. [75312]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In May 2006, about 116,000 referrals were made through the choose and book service, which was an increase of approximately 46,000 on the April 2006 figure. These include referrals to outpatient services and clinical assessment services where bookings were made, but excludes re-bookings.

The Department does not centrally collect data on the generation of unique booking reference numbers.

Entirely electronic bookings may be made in the general practitioner's (GP) surgery or via the Internet, where services are directly bookable. No information is collected on how many bookings to directly bookable services were made by telephone, either from within the GP surgery or later by the patient.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 634W on the choose and book system, what budget had been set for the *(a)* choice and *(b)* choose and book anticipated costs (i) for administrative and other staff, (ii) incurred by consultants and acute trusts, (iii) for other computer software and hardware not directly associated with the NHS Connecting for Health Agency and (iv) for other administration infrastructure for each year the programme was budgeted to operate. [73256]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Local budget setting is a matter for individual primary care trusts, acute trusts and strategic health authorities.

Continuing Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether individuals receiving NHS funded continuing care will be reassessed under the new criteria. [79646]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The consultation on an improved national framework for continuing care was launched on 19 June 2006. We cannot anticipate what the new framework will be until the consultation is completed and we have considered all responses.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people met the eligibility criteria for continuing NHS health care in each of the last six years; and how many met the criteria at the latest date for which figures are available; [79268]

(2) how many people left continuing NHS health care in each of the last six years; [79269]

(3) how many residents in nursing homes were fully funded by the NHS under continuing care criteria in each year since 1997; [79271]

(4) how many people have been granted recompense for being wrongly denied fully-funded national health service continuing care in each of the last 10 years; and what the aggregate cost of that recompense was; [79273]

(5) how many people have contacted the Health Service Ombudsman regarding their failure to receive continuing care funding for a relative in each year since 1997. [79274]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of people newly eligible national health service continuing care, which has been collected by the Department since 2002-03, is shown in table 1.

Table 1: People newly meeting eligibility criteria for continuing care

	Number
2002-03	11,508
2003-04	14,573
2004-05	15,976
2005-06	20,353

Source:
LDPR line 8229

NHS continuing care can be provided in any setting, including a care home or an individual's own home. The Department does not collect information on the settings in which NHS continuing care is received. Information on the total number of people receiving NHS continuing care is shown in table 2.

Table 2: People receiving continuing care

	Number
2002-03	18,439
2003-04	19,984
2004-05	20,842
2005-06	25,008

Source:
LDPR line 8228

Information on the number of people who ceased to require NHS continuing care is not held centrally.

Of the 11,655 requests for investigations received by 31 March 2004, 86.1 per cent. had been investigated, with 1,796 being found eligible for restitution. No later data is available. We expect that the NHS will pay around £180 million in restitution. The Department does not collect data about the number of people who subsequently took cases to the Health Ombudsman. The Health Ombudsman is entirely independent of the Department and questions should be addressed directly to Ann Abraham.

Cost of Care Analysis

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many local authorities have undergone an independent cost of care analysis on which to base local fee negotiations with independent and third sector care providers. [79647]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available centrally.

The principles for contracting for care services set out in building capacity and partnerships in care (BCPC)

are: fairness to service-users, to taxpayers and service providers; and the encouragement of fair competition. The BCPC is available on the Department's website at: www.doh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/05/36/33/04053633.pdf

Dementia (Residential Care)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residential care places are available for individuals with early onset dementia. [77230]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I understand from the chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection, which registers, inspects and regulates care homes, that the information is not collected in the format requested. At 31 March 2006, there were 5,162 care homes registered under the categories of dementia or dementia (elderly), with 192,833 care places.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent posts have been moved from her Department to the private sector in each year since 1997. [79655]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally at the Department.

Diagnostic Treatment (Independent Sector)

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the recent progress with her Department's plans to procure extra capacity in diagnostics from the independent sector. [79045]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Invitations to negotiate have now been issued for all seven of the regional diagnostics schemes of the phase two procurement. Preferred bidders are expected to be appointed by August with services starting next year.

Foundation Trusts

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which foundation trusts have *(a)* opt-in membership arrangements and *(b)* opt-out membership arrangements; in how many cases in each trust there have been contested elections to the governing body; what the turnout was at each; and what the (i) dates and (ii) results of these elections were. [78111]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National health service foundation trusts (NHSFTs) are free to decide their own membership arrangements provided that their constitutions meet the requirements set out in schedule 1 to the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003. I am advised by the chairman of Monitor, whose statutory name is the independent regulator of NHSFTs, that all NHSFT constitutions are publicly available on Monitor's website at www.monitor-nhsf.gov.uk.

Information relating to the elections to the governing bodies of individual NHSFTs can be obtained by contacting the chairmen of the respective trusts.

General Practitioners (Romford)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners per head of population there are in Romford, Essex. [79627]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The table shows the numbers of general medical practitioners per 100,000 head of population for Havering Primary Care Trust at 30 September 2004-05, which are the latest figures available.

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population, for Havering PCT, at 30 September 2004-05

		Number (headcount)	
		2004	2005
5A4	*Havering PCT*		
	All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	118	122
	All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population	52.4	54.2

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes contracted general practitioners, general medical practitioner others and primary medical service others.

Note:

2004 population figures from the 2001 Office for National Statistics (ONS) resident estimates have been used for 2005 organisation calculations, as population figures for 2005 at organisation level are not yet available, these figures are therefore subject to change.

Sources:

The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics 2001 ONS Population Census.

Genetic Testing

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she is taking to monitor performance against the target set in the 2003 Genetics White Paper that anyone taking a genetic test would receive their result within two to eight weeks by 2006; [80063]

(2) what the average waiting time was for results of *(a)* breast cancer and *(b)* genetic tests in each of the last three years. [80071]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Government recognise that some patients have experienced long waits for genetic tests and this will have caused stress and anxiety. This is unacceptable.

So, to improve access and cut waiting times, the genetics White Paper 'Our Inheritance, Our Future—realising the potential of genetics in the NHS', published in June 2003, committed up to £18 million for national health service genetics laboratories in England. This major investment is boosting capacity and supporting modernisation in genetics laboratories, thus helping them meet the rising demand for genetics tests.

To ensure that this investment resulted in real patient benefit, the White Paper set out new standards for genetic test turn around times to be achieved by the end of 2006. These are:

within three days where the result is needed urgently, for example for prenatal diagnosis;

within two weeks where the potential genetic mutation is already known, for example, because another family member has already been tested; and

within eight weeks for unknown mutations in a large gene.

This money was allocated during the last two financial years (2004 to 2006), and laboratories are working hard to get their new facilities up to speed to meet these standards.

Health Service Commissioning

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2006 to question 57167, what responsibility she has for the commissioning of publicly-funded health services from the private sector; if she will make it her policy to collect centrally information relating to the companies which are *(a)* contracted and *(b)* due to be contracted to provide such services; and if she will list the centrally negotiated contracts with (i) United Health and (ii) other private sector providers. [63223]

Andy Burnham: The Department is responsible for ensuring that health care services are of high quality and provide value for money and good outcomes for patients, whether commissioned centrally or locally and whether commissioned from the independent sector or from national health service bodies. The Department has not awarded any contracts for the provision of health care services to United Health. United Health holds one contract with the Department. That is for project management rather than service provision.

Other independent sector providers hold centrally awarded contracts for the provision of health care services. These are:

NHS walk-in centres with a commuter focus
Atos Origin IT Services (UK) Ltd.
Walk-In Health Ltd.
Care UK Plc
NetCare Ltd.
Mobile magnetic resonance imaging
Alliance Medical Ltd.
Pharmacy chlamydia screening pathfinder
Boots The Chemists Ltd.
Treatment centres
Capio UK
InterHealth
Nations Healthcare
Partnership Health Group Ltd.
Mercury Health DTC (1) Ltd.
Netcare Healthcare UK Ltd.
UK Specialist Hospitals
Mobile ophthalmology
Netcare Healthcare UK Ltd.

The Department does not collect centrally information about individual companies providing health care services under contracts which are agreed locally with primary care trusts or NHS trusts and has no plans to do so.

Health Services (Surrey and Sussex)

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contribution the Department made to the two documents recently produced by Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority on the future configuration of local health services. [80732]

Caroline Flint: The Department has made no contribution to the two recent documents produced by Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority on the future configuration of local health services. It is for the local health economy to decide on the configuration of local health services.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research *(a)* the Department and *(b)* the NHS (i) has carried out and (ii) is planning into travelling times for patients to hospitals in the Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority area. [80733]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not collect this information centrally, and has no plans to do so.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions her Department has had with representatives of the Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority in the last 12 months; and whether changes in services provided at Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust have been discussed. [80734]

Caroline Flint: The configuration of local services is a matter for local health economies. The Department's recovery and support unit (RSU) liaises regularly with representatives of Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority (SHA) on performance and strategic matters.

The Secretary of State met with Candy Morris, Chief Executive of Surrey and Sussex SHA, on 22 March 2006 to welcome her to the position and discuss general issues in the region.

Healthcare Facility (Oldchurch Park, Romford)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many nurses will be employed in the new Oldchurch Park Hospital; and how many are employed at the existing Oldchurch Hospital; [79631]

(2) how many of those employed at the Oldchurch and Harold Wood hospitals are expected to be employed in the new healthcare facility being built in Romford. [79657]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on the number of staff currently employed at Oldchurch and Harold Wood hospitals that are expected to be employed in the new healthcare facility being build in Romford is not collected.

Data are not collected on the number of nurses employed at the existing Oldchurch Hospital. The number of nurses employed at Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals National Health Service Trust is 2,447, September 2005 being the latest figures available.

North East London Strategic Health Authority has advised departmental officials that the breakdown of funded establishment for nurses in the new hospital, not including midwives, is:

	Number
Qualified nurses	930
Unqualified nurses	488
Total	1,418

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the total cost of the new hospital at Oldchurch Park, Romford is expected to be; [79632]

(2) when she expects the new hospital being built at Oldchurch Park, Romford to be *(a)* finished and *(b)* opened. [79639]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: North East London Strategic Health Authority has advised departmental officials that the practical completion date for the new hospital being built at Oldchurch Park, Romford will be 15 October 2006. There will then follow a period of deep cleaning. The hospital is expected to be fully operational by December 2006.

The total cost of the new hospital will be £261 million.

HIV/AIDS

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what HIV/AIDS prevention work is being undertaken in *(a)* England, *(b)* Redbridge and *(c)* Waltham Forest; what change is planned over the next 12 months; what high profile publicity work is being undertaken for prevention; what strategies local public health authorities are adopting; whether these are the same in each area; and if she will make a statement. [78934]

Caroline Flint: Nationally, targeted HIV prevention work is being undertaken specifically for gay men and people from African communities living in England. These are the two groups most at risk from HIV in England. This work is managed by the Terrence Higgins Trust and the African HIV Policy network respectively.

Redbridge primary care trust (PCT) has continued to prioritise HIV/AIDS prevention work as part of the overall sexual health strategy and action plan and they commission four agencies to provide targeted HIV/AIDS prevention work with the most affected communities: gay men and black Africans.

Waltham Forest PCT has an ongoing investment in the promotion of sexual health in schools. This is being delivered by the personal, social and health education coordinator, EduAction. They have also been working very closely with the department of sexual health at Whipps Cross University hospital and are at the stage of thinking with the clinical teams of how they can improve the capacity for prevention and promotion of sexual health delivery by primary care teams. They also participate in the sector wide contracts managed by the London specialised commissioning group.

Nationally and locally, HIV prevention plans will continue to target the groups most at risk from HIV. There are no plans for major new high profile HIV publicity work nationally or locally in the next 12 months, above and beyond the targeted work mentioned above and the broader national sexual health campaign planned for later this year.

Strategies for HIV prevention, along with a wider range of issues on HIV are set out in 'Recommended Standards for NHS HIV services' published by The Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health in 2004.

Hospital Building

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many major hospital building projects have been completed since 4 May 1979 and are now fully operational, broken down by *(a)* projects which were given the go-ahead between 4 May 1979 and 30 April 1997 and *(b)* projects which were given the go-ahead on or after 1 May 1997. [76971]

Andy Burnham: A copy of the full list of operational hospital building projects which were given the go ahead between 1 January 1980 and 30 April 1999, and 1 May 1997 to the present day is available in the Library. Data are not held centrally for schemes before 1 January 1980.

This list has been updated since the previous time this information was used to place data on the record, on 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 472-73W. The capital value for all schemes has been updated to 2006-07 prices; previously they were at 1999-2000 prices. This in turn means that the threshold we have used for a major hospital building project increases from £50 million to £58.7 million. Three schemes have also opened since the list was last reviewed (the last three on the list).

Independent Sector Treatment Centres

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what approved independent sector treatment centres there are; and how many elective procedures are expected to be carried out at each one each year. [79275]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) contracts stipulate the expected casemix and volume of healthcare to be completed during the five-year period of the contract. The contracts allow flexibility in the actual casemix in order to meet national health service commissioners' needs. The total volumes currently expected for the agreed wave one ISTC contracts are shown in the following table, although actual volumes may change depending on the casemixes that are referred.

Wave 1 ISTC schemes

Scheme	*Facilities*	*Number of:* *Procedures*[1]	*Diagnostic tests*[1]
Ophthalmic Chain (OC123)	Mobile units	44,737	—
East Cornwall	Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	26,767	—
East Lincolnshire	Boston NHS Treatment Centre	7,263	2,000
West Lincolnshire	Gainsborough NHS Treatment Centre	6,365	—
North Oxford	Horton NHS Treatment Centre	11,197	—

Wave 1 ISTC schemes

Scheme	Facilities	Number of: Procedures[1]	Diagnostic tests[1]
NEYNL	Clifton Park NHS Treatment Centre	9,964	—
Southampton	Capio New Hall NHS Treatment Centre	11,468	—
Northumberland	Cobalt NHS Treatment Centre	10,080	—
TV3500	Blakelands NHS Treatment Centre Horton NHS Treatment Centre Capio Reading NHS Treatment Centre	17,417	—
Kidderminster	Kidderminster NHS Treatment Centre	9,000	—
Cheshire and Merseyside	Cheshire and Merseyside NHS Treatment Centre	24,817	—
Nottingham	Queen's Medical Centre Nottingham	110,683	—
Maidstone Surgi Centre	Maidstone Hospital	55,589	48,993
Outer North East London	King George Hospital	55,615	—
Brighton	Sussex Orthopaedics NHS Treatment Centre	26,451	—
Wycombe	Mid and South Buckingham Diagnostic Centre	—	74,880
Medway	Will Adams NHS Treatment Centre	19,770	—
Portsmouth	St Mary's NHS Treatment Centre	34,155	48,450
Havant	TBC	—	78,600
Bradford	Eccleshill NHS Treatment Centre	27,416	73,750
Burton	Midlands NHS Treatment Centre	64,814	—
Trent and South Yorkshire	Barlborough NHS Treatment Centre	22,000	—
Shepton Mallet	Shepton Mallet NHS Treatment Centre	56,242	—
Greater Manchester	Greater Manchester Surgical Centre	44,863	—
Plymouth	Peninsula NHS Treatment Centre	16,512	—

[1] Current expected total volume over the contract period.

Intermediate Care

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Service Framework for Older People Standard Three on Intermediate Care has been met in respect of intermediate care beds and supported intermediate care places. [80809]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since 1999-2000, the national health service has delivered an extra 18,253 beds and places in intermediate care; 272 per cent. more than the combined target.

Laundry Services

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospitals have contracted out their laundry services; and what plans there are for further such contracting out. [73510]

Andy Burnham: Information is collected centrally on hospital trusts that have outsourced all or part of their provision of laundry services and where figures have been reported, these have been placed in the Library. The information represents the position as reported at 31 March 2005, which is the latest available.

The data were provided by national health service organisations on a voluntary basis and they are incomplete. It is for local trusts to determine the extent to which and service should be contracted out.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she issues to Ministers in her Department from *(a)* this House and *(b)* the House of Lords on responding to requests from hon. Members for meetings; and if she will take steps to increase the accountability of Ministers to hon. Members. [80027]

Ms Hewitt *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Secretary of State for Health makes time available to meet hon. Members of all parties, as does her ministerial team from both the House and the House of Lords. She encourages hon. Members to approach parliamentary private secretaries who will facilitate and organise such meetings as required.

The Secretary of State for Health is pleased to learn that the hon. Member met the Minister of State for Health (Reform) on 26 June, following the postponement of two previous meetings due to diary pressures on both sides.

Ministers are fully accountable to Parliament for their policies, decisions and actions, as set out in the Ministerial Code.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost was of overnight accommodation for *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in her Department staying overnight in (i) mainland Great Britain, (ii) Northern Ireland, (iii) the Republic of Ireland and (iv) other countries in each of the last three years. [69212]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The majority of overnight accommodation is booked via the Department's agent Expotel Hotel Reservations. The costs for the last three years are:

	£
2003-04	1,534,333
2004-05	1,015,621
2005-06	1,620,754

The costs are not routinely broken down by location, or by civil servants and special advisers.

Information on other overnight accommodation is not collected routinely.

National Programme for Information Technology

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on the National Programme for Information Technology, broken down by major cost area; and what the total expenditure on the programme was originally expected to be. [74061]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the table.

Programme area	*Contractor*	*Lifetime contract value (£ million)*	*Expenditure to 31 March 2006 (£ million)*
Spine	BT	620	239.8
N3 broadband network	BT	530	130.5
Choose and book core contract	Atos Origin (SchlumbergerSema)	64.5	27.1
London LSP	BT CCA	996	1.3
North East LSP	Accenture	1,099	51.6
NW/W Mids LSP	CSC	973	119.3
Eastern LSP	Accenture	934	57.9
Southern LSP	Fujitsu	986	26.5
Total		6,202.5	654

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all consultants have been provided with a personal computer under the National Programme for Information Technology. [74063]

Caroline Flint: A target to provide consultants with networked desktop personal computer (PC) access to the NHS net had already been substantially achieved by the end of 2002, before the national programme was established.

Additionally, after the inception of the national programme, during 2003-04, the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency undertook an electronic reverse auction procurement on behalf of the programme to supply some 60,000 PCs, driving down the cost of providing personal computers to the staff of national health service organisations in both the short and longer term.

NHS Facilities

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1477, what new NHS facilities were included in the cost of £32 million quoted by the Prime Minister. [80283]

Caroline Flint: The £32 million quoted is the cost of the Gloucestershire Royal hospital redevelopment scheme at the Gloucestershire Hospitals Foundation Trust, which opened in March 2005.

NHS IT Support

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding her Department provides to health trusts to spend on IT; and whether the funding is drawn from the same allocation as frontline patient services. [75134]

Caroline Flint: National health service trusts are paid for the provision of care services commissioned from them by primary care trusts (PCTs). The great majority of funding allocated to PCTs is not hypothecated for specific purposes. Exceptionally, £84 million was allocated for local implementation of the national programme for information technology (IT) in 2004-05, and a further £84 million in 2005-06.

Each NHS organisation is expected to use its resources in a way that delivers the best possible care for patients and value for money. Spending on modern information technology is vital to getting the best out of NHS staff and equipment, and makes them more effective quicker than any other investment. The NHS already spends about £1.2 billion each year on IT, and the Department has have always made it clear that it expects NHS trusts to follow the recommendations in the 2002 Wanless report to increase this over time. Monitoring progress towards achieving this is part of the Department's regular performance management arrangements for the NHS. It has therefore always been recognised that some national programme implementation costs, for example, on training and local hardware upgrades, will be borne locally over the programme's 10-year life.

Nursing Staff (Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average ratio of trained nursing staff to patients is in hospitals in the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust. [79633]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Figures on staff to patient ratios are not collected centrally.

Older People Framework

Dr. Marrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, which local health care providers in England have not complied with National Senior Framework for Older People Standard Six in establishing an integrated falls service and risk management procedures. [80641]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data collected by the Department indicated that by April 2005 74 per cent. of integrated falls services were in place. A national audit of falls and

bone health services produced by the Royal College of Physicians in January 2006 found that 74 per cent. of trusts in England are part of a co-ordinated, integrated, multi-professional, multi-agency service for falls. Overall, the audit results suggested that most areas have the infrastructure with the potential to identify need and for provision of specialist falls assessment and treatment.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost was of setting up *(a)* Yorkshire Wolds and Coast primary care trust and *(b)* East Yorkshire primary care trust; how much the recent reorganisation of each trust cost; and if she will make a statement; [78991]

(2) how much she expects the reorganisation of primary care trusts to cost; and if she will make a statement. [78992]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The costs of establishing the Yorkshire Wolds and East Yorkshire primary care trusts (PCTs) were met from within the financial allocations to the health authorities and are therefore not identifiable.

Total costs of the reconfiguration of PCTs, announced on 16 May 2006, are dependant on a number of factors, including the number of new organisations, number of people in the new organisations, new pay ranges for very senior managers, as well as changes in estate costs following reconfiguration. For these reasons, it is not possible at present to give definite costs.

Public Health Screening Programmes

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what public health screening programmes were introduced in England in each year since 1979. [78016]

Caroline Flint: The following public health screening programmes have been introduced in England since 1979: congenital hypothyroidism (1981), cervical cancer (1988), breast cancer (1988), Down's syndrome (2001), newborn hearing (2001), sickle cell and thalassaemia (2002), Chlamydia (2002), diabetic retinopathy (2003), cystic fibrosis (2004) and bowel cancer (2006).

Sickness Absence

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate the costs to the NHS resulting annually from sickness absence among health service employees. [77231]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected by the Department.

Social Care IT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her Department's report 'Delivering 21st century IT support for the NHS', what progress has been made on taking forward developments in social care IT. [75052]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Prime responsibility for implementing information technology support for social services lies with individual local authorities. However, with a view to delivering the aim of achieving appropriate integration of health and social care information systems in England by 2010 the Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency has undertaken a number of national initiatives to support local action. These include the establishment in 2005 of the electronic social care record board (ESCRB). The board has responsibility for overseeing national implementation of the electronic social care record and ensuring consistency of its implementation by local authorities with social services responsibilities.

The board engages with the work of the national health service national programme for information technology to enable sharing of information across traditional boundaries. The board is providing advice and guidance, and will establish national standards for the electronic exchange of information between health, education and social care agencies in support of implementation of the electronic social care record, whilst recognising the independence of local authorities. It will ensure appropriate links are made with NHS electronic patient records and children's electronic information systems.

Under the auspices of the ESCRB, a study has been commissioned into the options for national implementation of the electronic single assessment process for older people. This is a prime example of shared activity between health and social care. Consultation has been undertaken with health, social care and supplier representatives, and a report is due later this year.

A variety of information systems and tools are now available to support this process. There have been successful local deployments of such systems by national programme suppliers notably in the programme's North East and Eastern clusters. They are subject to the same strict access controls as apply to national programme-delivered patient healthcare records, requiring the use by social workers of a smartcard with identification and a pass code, which can only be obtained upon verification of identity and through a formal user registration process. These systems have demonstrated the value of the technology and its potential to support the rapid development of integrated multi-agency working across all client groups.

In addition, allocations of the £25 million capital expenditure grant recently paid to local authorities by the Department for improving information management made specific reference to the single assessment process in the expectation that the grant will be used to facilitate integration of social care information in the implementation of the NHS care records service.

Stroud Maternity Unit

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions she has had with the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) on the future of Stroud Maternity Unit; and what plans she has to consult formally with the RCM as part of the ongoing review of maternity services; [79689]

(2) what research her Department has commissioned into the *(a)* financial viability, *(b)* safety and *(c)* efficacy of independent maternity units since 1997. [79690]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ministers have had no discussions with the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) on the future of Stroud maternity unit. On 12 June 2006, the Gloucestershire health community launched a 12-week public consultation on the future of national health service services in the county, including inpatient maternity services. Should the RCM wish to make a formal response to the consultation, it should do so via the consultation co-ordinator at Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Primary Care Trust. Further details can be found online at: www.healthinglouceslershire.nhs.uk.

The Department has not commissioned any research into the financial viability, safety and efficacy of independent (non-NHS) maternity units since 1997. Independent maternity units should meet the standards set out by the Department's "Independent health care: national minimum standards, regulations" document, which was published in February 2002.

The Department commissioned the national perinatal epidemiology unit (NPEU) to undertake a review of evidence about clinical, psychosocial and economic outcomes for women with straightforward pregnancies who plan to give birth in NHS midwifery-led birth centres, both freestanding and those alongside hospital obstetric units, and the outcomes for their babies. The findings, published as the "Report of a structured review of birth centre outcomes, M. Stewart et al, 2004", are available on the NPEU's website at:

www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/birthcentrereview/birthcentrereview_downloads/RevisedVersion7thJuly2005BirthReview2.pdf.

TB Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the process is for a young person visiting a country where tuberculosis is prevalent to obtain a vaccination on the NHS. [78071]

Caroline Flint: The Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine is recommended for those under 35 years who are going to live or work with local people for more than one month in a country where the annual incidence of tuberculosis is 40/100,000 or greater.

The BCG vaccine for this purpose is available free of charge on the national health service and can be obtained from the local chest clinic although it can be available from other sources depending on local arrangements.

Alternatively, the BCG vaccination can be given on a private basis from a travel clinic offering this service.

Waiting Lists (Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are on waiting lists for *(a)* heart, *(b)* lung, *(c)* liver and *(d)* kidney operations in the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust. [79624]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not available in the format requested. However, the table shows the number of patients waiting for in-patient admission for the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust on a provider basis for the quarter ending March 2006.

Quarter ending March 2006 of patients waiting for in-patient admission for the Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust on a provider basis

Specialty	*Patients waiting*
General surgery	1,813
Urology	790
Trauma and orthopaedics	1,647
Ear, nose and throat	1,112
Ophthalmology	1,166
Oral surgery	441
Neurosurgery	77
General medicine	10
Haematology (clinical)	1
Cardiology	389
Dermatology	249
Neurology	28
Rheumatology	3
Paediatrics	3
Gynaecology	1,115
Clinical oncology	1
Grand total	8,845

Source:
Department of Health KH07.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residents of Romford constituency are waiting for operations in hospitals within the Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust. [79637]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of patients waiting for an in-patient admission for the month ending April 2006, on a commissioner basis for Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Havering PCT is 2,873 and 4,490 respectively.

Worthing Hospital

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral statement of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 260-61, on NHS Performance, what progress she has made in looking into the possible closure of Worthing hospital's accident and emergency department; and whether she plans to discuss this with the Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority. [80727]

Caroline Flint: I am informed by officials that Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority (SHA) has instigated a programme, Creating an NHS Fit for the

Future, to ensure it is providing the best and most appropriate care and that it is providing value for money in order to achieve long-term sustainability.

This programme is currently in its discussion phase and events have been arranged to enable as many people as possible to give their views to help shape both the debate and any proposals for change that may arise from it.

Any proposals emerging from the discussion that recommend significant changes to the services provided will be subject to a full public consultation exercise, most likely to take place in the autumn.

No proposals have been made in relation to the future of Worthing hospital's accident and emergency department, so therefore there are no plans to discuss this matter with Surrey and Sussex SHA.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iran

13. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her US counterparts on EU proposals to resolve the dispute over Iran's nuclear programme. [80223]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the oral answer I gave earlier today (UIN 80221), at column 116.

20. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on UK bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. [80231]

Mr. McCartney: Like the rest of the international community, we have serious concerns about Iran's policies in areas such as its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes; attitude towards terrorism; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; approach to the Middle East Peace Process; and role in the region. Progress in our relations with Iran will depend on action by Iran to address international concerns in these areas.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Iranian authorities on recent suppression of demonstrations *(a)* in Azerbaijan Province and *(b)* by women in Tehran. [80272]

Dr. Howells: There were violent demonstrations in the three Azeri populated provinces of Eastern Azerbaijan, Western Azerbaijan and Ardabil at the end of May. Reports indicate that several people died in violent clashes between the Iranian security forces and the demonstrators. Many were arrested, including journalists and students.

On 12 June, the security forces used violence to break up a peaceful women's protest in Tehran. The protest called for an end to legal discrimination against women; for a woman's testimony in court to have equal value to that of a man; and for a woman to be able to choose her employment and where she travels without the prior permission of her husband. Police officers were deployed—some used batons and pepper sprays liberally. According to the Iranian judiciary, 42 women and 28 men were arrested. We understand all except one have now been released. We support the EU's plans to raise the violent actions against the women's protest with the Iranian authorities.

United Nations

14. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on reform of the United Nations. [80224]

Mr. Hoon: The Government have consistently supported reform of the United Nations to make it stronger and more effective. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said in his recent Georgetown speech, we want global institutions—with the UN at the core—to be better able to tackle global challenges. We will continue to work with partners to achieve this important objective.

Palestinian Authority

15. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on recent developments in relations between the UK Government and the Palestinian Authority. [80226]

Mr. Hoon: We continue to work with Palestinian President Abbas to take the peace process forward.

The Palestinian Government must commit to the Quartet's principles of non-violence, recognising Israel, and accepting previous agreements and obligations. Hamas must start implementing these principles.

Following the Hamas led PA's failure to commit to these principles, the UK and other key donors suspended direct budgetary assistance to the PA. We continue to support the Palestinian people, and on 17 June endorsed a "Temporary International Mechanism" to provide direct assistance.

16. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on Israel's unilateral policy on a settlement with the Palestinians; and if she will make a statement. [80227]

Mr. Hoon: Both Palestinian President Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Olmert have committed to negotiations.

My right. hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear that the priority now is negotiations. These are manifestly the best way to move this process forward.

We remain committed to the vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, and the establishment of a just and lasting peace.

Turkey

17. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on negotiations on Turkey's accession to the EU. [80228]

Mr. Hoon: Since opening accession negotiations on 3 October, the Commission has been assessing Turkey's existing legislation against the 35 chapters of the EU "acquis" and has now published its reports on five. We were pleased that on 12 June the EU and Turkey opened and provisionally closed negotiations on the first chapter, Science and Research. As both the EU and Turkey recognise, much remains to be done before accession.

European Constitution

18. **Angela Watkinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the future of the European Constitution. [80229]

Mr. McCartney: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given earlier today, (UIN 80220), by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe at column 128.

23. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the future of the European constitution. [80234]

Mr. Hoon: There is no consensus among member states on how to proceed with the constitutional treaty. The European Council agreed a twin track approach based on delivering concrete results under the current treaties and further consultations between member states. Decisions on how to continue the reform process will be taken by the end of 2008 with no presumption on the process's outcome or end date.

European Court of Justice

19. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with other EU member states on the role of the European Court of Justice. [80230]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any recent discussions with EU colleagues on the role of the European Court of Justice.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her EU counterparts on the role of the European Court of Justice. [80523]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any recent discussions with EU colleagues on the role of the European Court of Justice.

Afghanistan

21. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the human rights situation in Afghanistan. [80232]

Mr. McCartney: The Human Rights situation in Afghanistan is improving, but we remain conscious that more remains to be done. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently funding seven projects aimed at increasing women's rights and legal awareness and has provided $1 million towards the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission this year.

The Commission is proving successful. It has closed approximately 40 "private" prisons and had released some 1,600 illegally detained persons.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of progress in advancing *(a)* good governance, justice and the rule of law and *(b)* reconstruction and development in Afghanistan since the signing of the Afghanistan Compact; and if she will make a statement. [77167]

Margaret Beckett: Following the inauguration of Afghanistan's National Assembly in December 2005, both the lower and upper Houses of the National Assembly have begun work.

In March 2006, in line with the public administrative recommendations in the Afghanistan Compact, President Karzai has rationalised Government Ministries, of which two were abolished, and reshuffled his Cabinet. Newly appointed Cabinet Ministers appeared before Parliament to receive approval. This process, and the parliamentary vote, was broadcast live on television. In addition, the National Assembly has approved the financial year 2006-07 Budget and raised objections to some of the President's nominations for the Supreme Court. These are clear signs that the democratic mechanisms necessary to support governance and the rule of law are becoming more established in Afghanistan.

Law enforcement capability and judicial reform capacity building have continued apace. The German-led Police Reform programme, assisted by the US, is continuing to develop the Afghan National Police (ANP) into a professional, credible and effective civil force. In June 2006, President Karzai acted upon the final recommendations of the Police Reform Commission in the second round of the police reform process, appointing 86 senior officials and streamlining the ANP's senior command. Counter-narcotics police interdiction operations continue with increased resources and personnel. The Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan and the Afghanistan Special Narcotics Force continue to cause disruption to the narcotics trade at a regional level. Working Groups, co-chaired by the Ministry of Justice and international donors, are making progress on law reform, institutional capacity and physical infrastructure, legal education and professional training, legal aid and access to justice, land reform, prisons and juvenile justice. Work continues on criminal and civil procedures, a new penal code, and family, company and anti-terrorism laws.

Technical support to justice institutions has been revitalised with the UN Development Programme's "Strengthening the Justice System of Afghanistan" commencing in February 2006.

Since the launch of the Afghanistan Compact in January 2006, work has continued on long-term reconstruction and development projects throughout Afghanistan. For example, sanitation and waste management programmes in Kabul and provincial cities are in progress. The Afghan Government's National Solidarity programme, supporting small-scale reconstruction and development activities, has now reached over 8.5 million Afghans with more than 4,500 projects completed (88 per cent. of these community projects involve infrastructure such as irrigation, rural roads, electrification and drinking water supply). The Afghanistan Compact sets out clear benchmarks on development issues against which the Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board will measure progress.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance her Department has given to the Afghan Government for *(a)* legislative reform of the public and private sector, *(b)* building the capacity of judicial institutions and personnel, *(c)* promoting human rights and legal awareness and *(d)* rehabilitating judicial infrastructure; and if she will make a statement. [77168]

Margaret Beckett: Together with the World Bank, consultants funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) have worked closely with the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission drafting a new civil service law, which was adopted in late 2005. DFID funded consultants have worked closely with the Ministry of Commerce, and US colleagues on the development of a range of legislation aimed at promoting development of the private sector.

Working with Italy, the partner nation for Reform of the Justice Sector in Afghanistan, and other international partners, the UK is helping Afghanistan establish a functional, accessible, equitable and sustainable justice system. In 2004, DFID made a contribution of £0.5 million to the United Nations Development programme (UNDP) project 'Rebuilding the Justice Sector in Afghanistan'; £0.2 million of this has been rolled over to finance the new UNDP 'Strengthening Justice Sector in Afghanistan Project'. Funds from the joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)/DFID/Ministry of Defence Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) have provided a further £0.5 million to this project, which includes promotion of human rights, strengthening justice sector institutions, rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure and training and capacity building of justice sector personnel. The GCPP also recently provided
$1 million to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission towards their overall core costs for financial year 2006-07.

The FCO's Global Opportunities Fund (GOF) continues to support the promotion of human rights in Afghanistan. Over the past three financial years GOF has provided £240,000 to the Bar Human Rights Committee to deliver human rights legal training; contributed £150,000 to the Women Empowerment Project, implemented by Womankind, focused on promoting women's equal participation in national/provincial government and building gender equality in Afghanistan; and committed £339,000 to the Action Aid projects, Afghan Women Affecting Change and Women's Participation in Governance, aimed at supporting domestic women's rights organisations and women's involvement in local government respectively.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the adequacy of resources in place to achieve a sustained and significant reduction in the production and trafficking of narcotics in Helmand province; and if she will make a statement; [77169]

(2) what assistance her Department has given to the Afghan Government to implement programmes to achieve a sustained annual reduction in the amount of land under poppy and other drug cultivation. [77178]

Margaret Beckett: The UK is spending £270 million over three years in support of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy—including, from 2006, some £25-30 million per annum in Helmand province. Of the total £270 million, approximately 50 per cent. will be channelled into efforts to strengthen and diversify legal rural livelihoods, and much of the remainder devoted to building capacity within the Afghan counter narcotics law enforcement and criminal justice agencies responsible for bringing traffickers to justice. However, UK resources will not, on their own, be sufficient to bring about a sustained reduction in the amount of land under poppy cultivation. As a partner nation for counter narcotics, the UK is therefore working hard to ensure that international assistance is targeted in line with the priorities set out in the National Drug Control Strategy. We have supported the establishment of a Counter Narcotics Trust Fund, to which a number of partners including the US and the EC are now contributing, for this purpose.

Progress is being made: last year saw the conviction of over 150 drug traffickers, and a 21 per cent. reduction in the cultivation of opium poppy. However, sustainable drug elimination strategies take time, particularly when the challenges are as severe as they are in Afghanistan. After last year's decline, this year's cultivation figures are unlikely to decrease further as consolidated progress in areas where governance, security and access to livelihoods have improved is still being outpaced by increased planting in the more lawless south, including Helmand province. Our deployment to Helmand is part of the broader international support for the reconstruction effort, which is vital to the success of the Government of Afghanistan's counter narcotics campaign and to the sustained reduction in the cultivation, production and trafficking of opium poppy.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her assessment is of links between the Taliban and drug smugglers in Helmand province in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [78830]

Margaret Beckett: The Taliban and drug traffickers flourish in the same ungoverned space and they have a confluence of interest in ensuring that central

Government is unable to extend its authority to their areas of operation. There is growing evidence of links. At the tactical level, there are some ad hoc links between the Taliban and traffickers where their specific interests coincide. Recently, there has been evidence that the Taliban are encouraging Afghan farmers to grow opium poppy and in the south, including Helmand, the Taliban have encouraged farmers to resist Government eradication efforts. It is unclear how much the Taliban use drug money to facilitate their operations. There are some signs of contacts at the strategic level. We continue to assess the links closely, particularly as UK presence in the south consolidates. We support Afghan efforts to disrupt any linkages.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to ensure that the Afghan National Police Force is paid *(a)* adequately and *(b)* on time. [80434]

Dr. Howells: One of the key components in the reform of the Afghan National Police is a pay and rank review, which is currently under way. When this is completed it will ensure that the police are paid adequately and on time.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what international research she has examined on the conversion of Afghan poppy production into bio-fuels; and if she will make a statement. [80161]

Dr. Howells: There has been no examination of international research into the conversion of Afghan poppy production into bio-fuels by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary. However, in 2001, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office commissioned an independent study into licit cultivation of opium poppy for pharmaceutical use in India and Turkey. The report concluded that diversion from licit cultivation can only be successful if national authorities have the resources and capacity to put control mechanisms in place to ensure they are the sole purchaser of opiates.

The Government of Afghanistan and Parliament have ruled out licit opium cultivation. The Afghan Minister for Counter Narcotics, Habibullah Qaderi, has said,

> "The poor security situation in the country means there can simply be no guarantee that opium will not be smuggled out of the country for the illicit narcotics trade abroad. Without an effective control mechanism, a lot of opium will still be refined into heroin for illicit markets in the West and elsewhere. We could not accept this".

Sudan

22. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in establishing a UN peacekeeping force for Darfur. [80233]

Mr. McCartney: The UN Security Council and the African Union are agreed that a UN force should replace the AU troops currently in Darfur. A joint AU/UN planning mission has just returned from Darfur. The UN Secretary-General will report shortly to the Security Council. The Government of Sudan have, however, not yet agreed to a UN force. We will continue to press them to do so.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to her counterparts in *(a)* Khartoum and *(b)* N'Djamena regarding the recent violence on the Chad-Sudan border; and if she will make a statement. [78826]

Margaret Beckett: We are aware that Chadian rebels and Darfur militia continue to mount cross-border attacks into Eastern Chad from Darfur, which has led to the displacement of 50,000 Chadians. We are also aware of reports of Darfur rebels continuing to be supported by Chad. We are pressing the Government of Sudan to neutralise and disarm the Janjaweed and expel foreign fighters from Darfur as soon as possible, as required under the Darfur Peace Agreement. We are also urging both Governments to fulfil their obligations under the Tripoli Agreement. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development raised this most recently with the Sudanese Deputy Foreign Minister. Our non-resident ambassador to Chad raised this with their Foreign Minister during his last visit to N'Djamena.

Algeria

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Algeria on the use of torture. [79986]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* We discuss human rights issues with the Government of Algeria regularly. I did so during my visit to Algiers on 7-8 June. We have not entered into, and are not negotiating, a Memorandum of Understanding on the use of torture.

The Government unreservedly condemn the use of torture as a matter of fundamental principle and works hard with its international partners to eradicate this abhorrent practice. The UK abides by its commitments under international law, including the UN convention against torture and the European convention on human rights, and it expects all other countries to comply with their international obligations. We are active in pressing them to deliver on their human rights commitments.

As far as the deportation of individuals who present a threat to our national security is concerned, we act consistently with our human rights obligations, taking into account the provisions of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, its accompanying policy on clemency and the particular circumstances of each case.

Basseo/Project Cost Handling Strategy

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column

1274W, on the Basson/Project Cost handling strategy, how many officials there were from each Government Department; and what the job title was of each one. [79205]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 21 June 2006]*: I am unable to provide any more information than that provided in my answer to my hon. Friend on 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1274W.

Benyam Mohammed

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer given by her predecessor to Q36 of oral evidence taken before the Foreign Affairs Committee on 13 December 2005, what form the misinformation referred to about the case of Benyam Mohammed (al-Habashi) took. [80070]

Dr. Howells: Serious allegations have been made concerning mistreatment of Mr. Al Habashi. As the former Foreign Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) made clear, Mr. Al Habashi was interviewed once by a member of the UK Security Service while he was in detention in Karachi in 2002. The Security Service had no role in his capture or in his transfer from Pakistan. The Intelligence and Security Committee report "Handling of Detainees by UK Intelligence Personnel in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay and Iraq" of March 2005 gave details of the guidance under which such interviews were conducted, and the service officer did not observe any abuse and no instances of abuse were reported to him by Mr. Al Habashi.

The Government, including the intelligence and security agencies, never uses torture for any purpose, including to obtain information. Nor does the Government or its Security and Intelligence Services ever instigate, condone or otherwise support others in the use of torture for any purpose.

British Passports

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British passports have been issued by her Department overseas in each of the last five years, broken down by country; and in how many cases the recipient was issued with a passport for the first time in each case. [79171]

Dr. Howells: The number of British passports that have been issued overseas in each of the last five years is shown as follows. The table also provides a breakdown by issuing country. Data are not available for financial year (FY) 2001-02 as we did not begin to keep records until FY 2002-03. The figures for FY 2005-06 are derived from a source different from that of the previous years and will be adjusted in due course and when global figures are available from the consular annual returns from overseas posts. We are unable to tell in how many cases the recipient was issued with a passport for the first time, as our records do not provide data on the number of first time applicants for passports.

The total number of British passports issued overseas rounded to the nearest thousand is:

FY	*Number*
2002-03	450,000
2003-04	447,000
2004-05	453,000
2005-06	438,000

A breakdown of figures on passport issues by issuing country:

	Passport issues			
Country	*FY 2002-03*	*FY 2003-04*	*FY 2004-05*	*FY 2005-06*
Algeria	63	—	—	—
Angola	103	—	—	26
Argentina	649	712	1,066	902
Australia	53,011	44,138	61,549	66,162
Austria	941	1,074	1,362	1,644
Azerbaijan	126	219	287	334
Bahrain	1,073	999	972	1,233
Bangladesh	790	905	806	1,187
Barbados	2,267	2,614	3,372	2,495
Belarus	7	—	—	—
Belgium	3,612	4,324	4,430	4,181
Belize	130	—	—	—
Bolivia	267	170	204	168
Bosnia and Herzegovina	54	—	—	—
Botswana	576	516	455	442
Brazil	932	1,021	1,228	1,229
Brunei	674	681	576	633
Burma	46	—	—	—
Canada	24,268	27,728	23,263	28,160
Chile	460	498	558	581
China	118,348	109,537	81,386	62,068
Colombia	323	319	432	353
Congo (Democratic Republic)	39	—	—	—
Costa Rica	237	387	730	575
Croatia	89	—	—	—
Cuba	65	61	66	76
Curacao	16	—	—	—
Cyprus	6,070	5,033	6,382	6,219
Czech Republic	554	647	668	860
Denmark	1,721	1,745	1,932	2,084
Dominican Republic	60	61	164	167
Ecuador	212	261	274	222
Egypt	1,098	1,741	1,399	1,287
El Salvador	39	—	—	—
Estonia	61	70	77	93
Ethiopia	115	126	148	149
Fiji	270	—	118	—
Finland	357	449	434	509
France	14,455	18,598	20,624	22,417
Gambia	76	156	196	175
Germany	16,197	15,387	18,145	16,383

Country	Passport issues FY 2002-03	FY 2003-04	FY 2004-05	FY 2005-06
Ghana	519	507	698	639
Greece	2,423	2,388	2,691	2,724
Guatemala	188	—	—	—
Guyana	292	—	170	199
Honduras	95	—	—	—
Hungary	533	—	463	573
Iceland	102	88	90	96
India	3,014	2,400	3,073	2,921
Indonesia	1,034	1,040	1,200	1,181
Iran	310	230	298	336
Ireland	9,582	10,024	10,893	10,813
Israel	3,357	3,062	5,784	5,537
Italy	4,029	4,302	4,994	5,313
Ivory Coast	117	—	—	—
Jamaica	2,451	2,531	2,375	2,487
Japan	1,959	2,176	2,652	2,506
Jerusalem	1,299	978	—	—
Jordan	581	749	826	740
Kazakhstan	77	—	—	—
Kenya	2,273	2,853	4,050	2,361
Kuwait	685	543	792	800
Latvia	37	—	—	—
Lebanon	585	519	622	692
Lesotho	77	—	—	—
Libya	—	303	364	419
Lithuania	29	—	—	—
Luxembourg	722	787	—	—
Macedonia	95	—	—	—
Malawi	569	785	920	676
Malaysia	0	1,482	1,818	1,732
Malta	923	936	842	904
Mauritius	662	486	833	659
Mexico	385	615	1,264	1,193
Mongolia	47	26	28	33
Morocco	241	186	277	241
Mozambique	144	—	—	—
Namibia	177	172	144	167
Nepal	566	162	156	199
Netherlands	6,511	6,274	5,919	6,021
New Zealand	17,495	18,341	21,590	22,604
Nicaragua	41	—	—	—
Nigeria	1,589	1,259	1,881	1,661
Norway	1,684	1,625	1,925	2,069
Oman	776	801	762	780
Pakistan	4,269	3,932	4,726	5,681
Panama	102	—	—	—
Papua New Guinea	94	—	—	—
Paraguay	33	—	—	—
Peru	380	443	597	411
Philippines	1,295	1,300	1,925	1,221
Poland	429	590	566	656
Portugal	1,805	1,985	2,293	2,144
Qatar	701	708	873	972
Romania	167	225	220	192
Russia	479	510	656	783
Saudi Arabia	3,268	2,635	2,482	2,185
Senegal	22	—	—	—
Serbia and Montenegro	100	315	184	223

Country	Passport issues FY 2002-03	FY 2003-04	FY 2004-05	FY 2005-06
Seychelles	291	147	171	129
Sierra Leone	98	116	292	300
Singapore	3,867	4,429	5,149	4,501
Slovakia	74	—	—	—
Slovenia	33	—	—	—
Solomon Islands	17	—	—	—
South Africa	22,781	22,875	17,464	21,750
South Korea	316	263	356	422
Spain	22,772	18,915	19,500	20,645
Sri Lanka	383	372	484	521
Sudan	127	—	—	—
Swaziland	227	—	—	—
Sweden	1,366	1,583	1,867	1,939
Switzerland	—	6,882	7,224	6,100
Syria	231	223	221	215
Tanzania	408	662	665	482
Thailand	3,469	3,265	4,559	5,081
The Bahamas	413	—	—	—
Tonga	19	—	—	—
Trinidad and Tobago	742	1,109	1,345	1,022
Tunisia	136	70	146	188
Turkey	1,289	537	1,255	1,564
Turkmenistan	2	—	—	—
Uganda	280	260	365	343
Ukraine	60	61	107	131
United Arab Emirates	3,719	5,155	6,153	6,810
Uruguay	69	—	—	—
USA	49,649	55,034	52,746	45,178
Vanuatu	27	—	—	—
Venezuela	1,069	519	715	565
Vietnam	339	344	403	441
Yemen	272	179	191	396
Zambia	620	752	791	649
Zimbabwe	2,862	2,356	2,513	1,998
Total	449,897	447,358	452,901	438,128

Bulgaria

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will visit Bulgaria to ascertain whether it is ready to join the EU on 1 January 2007. [80339]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to visit Bulgaria. So far this year, the former Europe Minister my right hon. Friend the Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South (Mr. Alexander), my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East and the former Home Secretary my right hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, South (Mr. Clarke) have visited Bulgaria to assess EU accession preparations. I plan to visit later this year.

Burma

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the value of frozen assets held under the EU Common Position on Burma

was in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* all European Union member states. [78258]

Margaret Beckett: The current reported value of assets frozen by UK authorities on the basis that assets are covered by the EU restrictive measures in place in relation to Burma amounts to £3,576.65.

We do not hold figures for assets frozen by other EU member states.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people on the visa ban list under the EU Common Position on Burma have been *(a)* refused and *(b)* granted entry to Europe. [78259]

Margaret Beckett: The United Kingdom does not keep national records of the number of cases involving application of the travel ban by EU member states.

Chad

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of reports of Janjaweed militias committing atrocities against civilians and refugees in Eastern Chad. [78817]

Margaret Beckett: There are indications that some militia groups are now operating in the border area inside Eastern Chad, while others continue to mount attacks from inside Darfur. We are concerned for the safety and security of the estimated 50,000 Chadians displaced as a result of attacks and violence in the east of the country, and for the 200,000 refugees from Darfur now sheltering in camps in Eastern Chad. The UK provided £5 million to the response in Chad last year and is providing an additional £4 million this year. We continue to monitor the situation closely.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the security situation in eastern Chad; and if she will make a statement. [78827]

Margaret Beckett: We are aware that Chadian rebels and Darfur militia continue to mount cross-border attacks into Eastern Chad from Darfur, which has led to the displacement of 50,000 Chadians. We are concerned by the continuing unrest in Eastern Chad and for the safety and security of both displaced Chadians, and the 200,000 Darfur refugees in camps there. We are also concerned about reports of forced recruitment of young men and teenagers from the refugee camps in Eastern Chad by Darfur rebels.

We continue to call on all sides to show restraint and on the Governments of Chad and Sudan to resolve their differences, fulfil their obligations under the Tripoli Agreement and restore calm to the region without the use of violence.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she will reply to the letter to her predecessor dated 18 April 2006 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mrs. Ahmed. [73854]

Margaret Beckett: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 17 May 2006.

Counter-narcotics Training

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what counter-narcotics training her Department has facilitated for law enforcement agencies in *(a)* Afghanistan, *(b)* Jamaica, *(c)* Turkey, *(d)* Iran, *(e)* Pakistan and *(f)* the Balkans in the last five years. [77172]

Margaret Beckett: Since 2001, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has funded counter-narcotics (CN) training as follows:

	Funding (£)
Jamaica	1,620,000
Turkey	1,406,000
Iran	1,376,000
Pakistan	435,000
Balkans	1,675,000

Afghanistan has been a high priority country for CN assistance since 2002. The UK law enforcement and criminal justice budget for 2006-07 is over £20 million. Within Afghanistan, the UK, as key partner nation, has helped to establish the counter narcotics police of Afghanistan (CNPA)—the lead national drugs law enforcement agency, with its headquarters in Kabul and seven provincial offices—through training, mentoring and equipping the force. The UK also co-ordinates the mentoring of senior officers within the CNPA and has contributed £1.5 million to the Afghan Law and Order Trust Fund which supports salaries and purchases of equipment for the CNPA. Additionally, the UK has assisted the establishment of a Counter Narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force, and is providing mentoring on prosecution and investigation. The UK is also helping to strengthen the borders of Afghanistan through contributions to border management assistance in Tajikistan, Iran and Pakistan.

In Jamaica, the main focus of our training has been to ensure that Jamaican law enforcement agencies become more effective crime fighting forces and in particular are able to dismantle organised drug syndicates, by enhancing their investigation techniques and ability to gather intelligence and evidence. Training has also been provided to the coastguard on interdiction techniques and to deter illegal drug trafficking into and out of Jamaica, as well as customs training at airports.

In Turkey, CN training is delivered through the UK/Turkey Prime Ministers' Action Plan, agreed at the UK/Turkey summit in May 2004. Our CN training assistance to Turkey concentrates on intelligence capability with a view to facilitating joint operational work with UK law enforcement to tackle trafficking in drugs.

In Iran, the UK supports operational engagement to tackle drug traffickers, providing technical advice to Iranian law enforcement agencies, in particular the anti narcotics police, on how Iran can further improve its performance on supply reduction. We are also helping to strengthen border management capability, and improve drug detection work, mainly through contributing to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Iran CN programme.

In Pakistan, the UK is helping to improve Pakistan's CN capacity through law enforcement intelligence and interdiction capability training for the Anti Narcotics Force (the UK's key CN partner), including capacity building at sea and airports. We also assist judicial CN training to help to improve the criminal justice processes to bring drug traffickers to justice.

In the Balkans, our aim is to help law enforcement agencies to be better equipped to fight drug traffickers and other organised crime groups at an international level through strengthened border controls, intelligence capability and drug detection training and equipment.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of her Department. [80087]

Mr. Hoon: The finance director of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is D. R. Todd. He has a BA in Modern History. He was appointed in 2004, after a Whitehall competition, by a selection board including the then Government chief accountant. The Department is in the process of recruiting a qualified professional to succeed Mr. Todd by December 2006, in line with HM Treasury cross-Whitehall recommendations.

EU Air/Sea Patrols

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the status is of EU air and sea patrols deployed in the territorial waters of Mauritania, Senegal and Cape Verde; what the cost of such operations are to the EU; and from what budget they are being funded. [80159]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* There are currently no EU air or sea patrols deployed around Mauritania, Senegal and Cape Verde, although the Spanish authorities have been engaged in bilateral co-operation with Mauritanian authorities using EU funding. Action is being planned to counter the illegal migration route through the territorial waters off West Africa at four levels:

external Relations Commissioner Ferrero Waldner has made a commitment of €2 million for a Rapid Reaction Mechanism, which would include air and naval patrols, although not all this funding will be channelled to action around Mauritania, Senegal and Cape Verde;

Frontex (the EU border agency) has allocated an initial indicative €1.3 million to step up patrols as well as other interdiction activities;

the European Development Fund is also being used bilaterally, for instance in Mauritania, to work on strengthening border security mechanisms and to combat illegal migration;

finally as an interim measure some EU member states are making available hardware, manpower and surveillance capability to step up patrols of the affected areas.

European Union (Transparency)

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will bring forward proposals to increase transparency of decision making in the Council of the European Union. [80456]

Mr. Hoon: "An Overall Policy on Transparency" was agreed at the June European Council. Before considering any further proposals on increasing transparency in the Council of Ministers, the Government will want to see how the Finnish presidency implements the policy in practice, and then take full account of the six month review agreed at the European Council.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with *(a)* other Departments and *(b)* the Prime Minister's office on the exploration for oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters. [79701]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have had discussions on the exploration for oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters with the Department of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Defence, the Department for International Development and the Cabinet Office. The most recent meeting was held on 13 June.

Foreign Affairs Committee

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Foreign Affairs Committee recommendations the Department has *(a)* accepted and *(b)* implemented since 2001-02; and if she will make a statement. [77494]

Margaret Beckett: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold this data in the form sought by the hon. Member and to collate it would incur disproportionate costs. The Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC) produced 59 reports during the period in question. The FCO replies to each FAC report in the form of a Command Paper, in which each of the Committee's recommendations receives a response.

Guantanamo Bay

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's policy is on Guantanamo Bay; and if she will make a statement. [79823]

Mr. McCartney: We have long made it clear that we regard the circumstances under which detainees

continue to be held at the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay as unacceptable. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has said, it should be closed.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action the European Union has agreed to take to encourage the United States Administration to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. [80357]

Mr. Hoon: The EU has made clear its views about the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, including in May when Austrian Foreign Minister Ursula Plassnik, speaking on behalf of the EU, said

"The US government must take the measures to close the camp as soon as possible".

The United States Government are well aware of the EU's concerns. After the EU-US summit in Vienna on 21 June, President Bush acknowledged these concerns and reaffirmed his wish to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

Human Rights

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has received from *(a)* the Council of Europe and *(b)* others recommending the establishment of a commission of inquiry to investigate possible human rights violations that transcend national borders. [78825]

Margaret Beckett: The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe report, published on 7 June, recognised that

"The United Kingdom Parliament has not yet established a formal inquiry into possible British participation in abuses committed by the United States in the course of the 'war on terror', but there have been several noteworthy parliamentary initiatives designed to broaden the public debate and encourage greater openness".

The Amnesty International report 'Partners in Crime: Europe's role in US renditions', published on 15 June, recommended to all Council of Europe member states that they

"Initiate, if implicated in a case of rendition, an independent and impartial inquiry into the practice of rendition".

My right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) the then Foreign Secretary set out in his written ministerial statement of 20 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS the results of the extensive review of official records back to May 1997.

Iraq

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions her Department has had with US counterparts on the recent US Department of Defense investigation into labour trafficking in Iraq; and if she will make a statement. [77175]

Margaret Beckett: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not discussed recent US investigations into people trafficking in Iraq with US counterparts. I note the recommendations about labour trafficking in Iraq, laid out by the US Department of State in their annual report on trafficking in persons. We will raise this and other issues with the Iraqi and US Governments in the usual way.

The Government regularly discuss all forms of human trafficking through the International Labour Organisation, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Council of Europe. The UK is also a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its optional "Palermo Protocol", specifically concerning human trafficking.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the coalition in Iraq is taking *(a)* to ensure Iraqi investigation of abuse allegations and *(b)* to promote public reporting of the investigations; and what the UK's role is in this process. [78818]

Margaret Beckett: The Government take allegations of abuse extremely seriously and raise such allegations with the Iraqi Government at the highest level. We press the Government to investigate fully any allegations and welcome their commitment to make the findings of investigations public.

A joint inspection team comprised of Iraqi and Multi-National Force-Iraq officials has been established, the task of which is to make unannounced inspections at detention facilities and report its findings to the Iraqi authorities.

The Government shall continue to make clear to the Iraqi authorities that all allegations of abuse must be investigated, the abuse ended and those responsible punished. We will continue a close dialogue on this with the newly formed Iraqi Government.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* reports of detainee abuse and *(b)* extrajudicial police actions in Iraq; and if she will make a statement. [78819]

Margaret Beckett: The Government are aware of such allegations and have raised them with the Iraqi Government at the highest level. We have pressed the Iraqi authorities to investigate allegations fully and make findings public. The Iraqi Government have established judicial investigations into allegations made.

The Government are committed with international partners to provide long-term support to Iraq's rule of law institutions, building their capacity to ensure respect for international human rights norms. The Government's work with the Iraqi police, for example, includes the provision of professional training, including in human rights, and a mentoring scheme that helps implement this training.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the role of the UK representative is on the Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility in Iraq. [78821]

Margaret Beckett: The UK representative on the Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility

represents the views of the Government in working with the Iraqis and coalition partners to oversee the process of transferring lead responsibility for security in each Iraqi province from coalition forces to the Iraqi authorities.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria were developed to guide the transfer of security responsibility in Iraq as agreed by the Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility. [78822]

Margaret Beckett: The criteria set out by the Joint Committee to Transfer Security Responsibility are based on four categories:

Assessment of the threat level—including the terrorist/insurgent threat, the cross-border threat and the threat to infrastructure.

Assessment of Iraqi Security Forces' ability to take on the security task—including an assessment of their capacity to maintain the security situation, their ability to conduct counter-insurgency operations and their ability to co-ordinate the security of strategic infrastructure.

Assessment of the capacity of provincial bodies to govern effectively—including an assessment of the capability of the Governor to oversee security operations, Provincial Security Committee to co-ordinate and monitor operations, the intelligence structure to support the police, and the legal operation of detention systems.

Assessment of the posture and support available from coalition forces—including their ability to reinforce the Iraqi armed forces if required and assist in co-ordinating civil construction activities.

Israel

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1806W, on Israel, if she will make strong representations to the Israeli Government concerning its failure to provide a reply in relation to the treatment of the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton within the two weeks stipulated. [77624]

Margaret Beckett: My Department has been in regular contact with the Israeli embassy on this issue. I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 13 June 2006.

Mr. Kent Taylor

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if she will approach the Qatari authorities formally about Mr. Kent Taylor, who has been unable to leave Qatar since 2001; [79551]

(2) when she last raised the case of Mr. Kent Taylor with the Qatari authorities; and if she will make a statement. [79552]

Dr. Howells: We have concerns about the length of time it is taking to resolve this case. Although my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no plans to approach the Qatari authorities about this issue, our ambassador in Doha has raised these concerns with the Qatari authorities, most recently with the Qatari Foreign Minister on 19 June.

NORTHERN IRELAND

A5

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Roads Service has spent on improving the A5 between Derry and Aughnacloy in each of the last five years; how much is planned to be spent in each of the next three years; and what joint plans the Roads Service and the Department for Transport in the Republic of Ireland have to upgrade the A5/N2 Derry to Dublin road. [79977]

David Cairns: The acting chief executive of Roads Service (Mr. Geoff Allister) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Mr. Geoff Allister, dated 27 June 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about how much the Roads Service has spent on improving the A5 between Derry and Aughnacloy in each of the last five years; how much is planned to be spent in each of the next three years; and what joint plans the Roads Service and the Department for Transport in the Republic of Ireland have to upgrade the A5/N2 Derry to Dublin road.

I have been asked to reply as these issues fall within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service.

The table below details Roads Service's expenditure on improving the A5 between Derry and Aughnacloy for the five-year period 2001/02 to 2005/06. I should advise that these figures include capital works and the cost of resurfacing works on this particular route.

Financial year	*Amount (£000)*
2001-02	5,642
2002-03	7,509
2003-04	3,738
2004-05	3,892
2005-06	5,917

With regard to planned expenditure on this route over the next 3 years, I can advise that it is expected that work will commence on the A5 between Ballygawley and Tullyvar (north of Aughnacloy) and Stage 3 of Strabane Bypass. We would also hope to spend over £4m on the A5 on a mix of overtaking lanes and resurfacing schemes. At this stage it is not possible to predict future spend on a year by year basis, as this will depend on the availability of funding during any given year. In addition, the Tullyvar scheme is being improved and upgraded under the Roads Service's Public Private Partnership 2 Project and being delivered using a Design Build Finance and Operate contract.

You also asked about any joint plans Roads Service and the Department for Transport in the Republic of Ireland have to upgrade the A5/N2 Derry to Dublin road. I should first of all advise that Roads Service has good working relations with both the National Roads Authority (NRA) and the Department for Transport in the Republic of Ireland, through the Cross Border Roads Steering Group meetings that are co-chaired by both Chief Executives. Through meetings of this group, information on the programmes of development of the cross border routes in both jurisdictions is shared and compatible strategies for improvement are agreed.

Roads Service's and the NRA's plans for major works at present include proposals to upgrade the existing single carriageway sections of the A5/N2 route between Derry and Ardee, through the construction of widened carriageway to "2 + 1" layouts and thus provide guaranteed overtaking opportunities and improve safety on the route. The relatively low traffic flows on the route do not merit the levels of investment needed to upgrade the route to dual carriageway standard when considered in the context of the need to also upgrade other key routes within the current budget levels.

Caravans

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many new caravan parks have been opened in Northern Ireland in the last three year period, broken down by local authority area; and what estimate he has made of the contribution to local economies from caravaners. [78497]

David Cairns: Table A shows the number of caravan parks by council area that have been granted planning approval in the last three years. Unfortunately, the Planning Service is unable to provide information on the number of caravan parks opened in Northern Ireland as details are not held on the number of approvals that have subsequently been implemented.

Table A: Number of caravan parks granted planning approval between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2006

District council area	Number
Antrim	1
Ards	3
Banbridge	1
Coleraine	2
Down	4
Fermanagh	3
Moyle	2
Newry and Mourne	2
Total	18

In 2005 an estimated £3.6 million was generated from out-of-state visitors (i.e. visitors from overseas and ROI but excluding domestic) to Northern Ireland choosing to stay in the caravan and camping sector. In 2004 domestic holidaymakers spent £11.3 million during holidays staying in static caravans, and £1.3 million during holidays in touring caravans (these data are currently unavailable for 2005). Annual breakdowns are provided in Tables B and C as follows.

Table B: Estimated spend for out-of-state visitors staying in caravans/camping

	Spend (£ million)
2005	3.6
2004	3.3
2003	3.0

Table C: Estimated spend for domestic holidaymakers staying in towed and static caravans

	Spend (£ million)	
	Towed caravans	Static caravans (owned and not owned)
2005	n/a	n/a
2004	1.3	11.3
2003	3.2	13.0

n/a = not available.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total amount paid to victims of crime in Northern Ireland by way of criminal injuries compensation was in each of the last five years. [79999]

Mr. Hain: The Compensation Agency has operational responsibility for the administration of two statutory criminal injury compensation schemes: The Criminal Injuries (Compensation) (Northern Ireland) Order 1988 (the 1988 order scheme) and the Criminal Injuries Compensation (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (the tariff scheme).

The following table shows the overall total amount of criminal injuries compensation paid in the last five years broken down by scheme.

£

	1988 Order	2002 Order (Tariff)	Total
2001-02	50,469,842.36	0.00	50,469,842.36
2002-03	52,113,863.08	75,000.00	52,188,863.08
2003-04	46,625,939.74	3,277,783.99	49,903,723.73
2004-05	33,123,066.77	8,281,290.66	41,404,357.43
2005-06	23,773,880.57	15,207,312.92	38,981,193.49
Totals	206,106,592.52	26,841,387.57	232,947,980.09

Dental Services

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his Department's preferred ratio is of dentists per head of population in Northern Ireland; and what the ratio was in the last period for which figures are available. [80106]

Paul Goggins: There is no target ratio for dentists per head of population. The aim is to ensure an adequate level of dental provision both in terms of availability and accessibility. In Northern Ireland at November 2004 there were 43 general dental practitioners per 100,000 population. This compares to 37 general dental practitioners per 100,000 population in England, Scotland and Wales. Population figures for 2005 are not yet available.

I am satisfied with the current level of dental provision both in terms of availability and accessibility. Nevertheless, I fully recognise that the General Dental Service, through which the vast majority of our primary dental care is delivered, is in need of reorganisation in order to continue to provide a quality service to patients, address the oral health needs of the population and provide a rewarding career for dental professionals.

In order to achieve this, a new 10-year primary dental care strategy will be published shortly.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* laptops and *(b)* mobile phones have been bought by each Department under his authority in each of the last eight years; and what the cost was of each category of equipment in each year. [78743]

Mr. Hanson: Due to the detailed nature of the question the answer is laid out in tabular form. Note that some Departments do not have complete records of laptops purchased over the period in question. A similar situation affects the records of mobile phones purchased, and for some Departments the cost of mobile handsets was subsumed in the cost of service contracts.

OFMDFM

Financial year	Number of laptops purchased	Cost (£)	Number of mobile phones purchased	Cost (£)
1998-99	[1]—	—	1	[2]—
1999-2000	55	94,479	9	[2]—
2000-01	102	173,665	13	[2]—
2001-02	156	260,017	19	[2]—
2002-03	171	283,208	17	[2]—
2003-04	35	46,366	25	[2]—
2004-05	57	74,991	67	[2]—
2005-06	31	36,992	51	[3]—

DARD

Financial year	Number of laptops purchased	Cost (£)	Number of mobile phones purchased	Cost (£)
1998-99	8	14,165	[1]—	—
1999-2000	82	84,794	[1]—	—
2000-01	81	112,750	[1]—	—
2001-02	79	101,664	[1]—	—
2002-03	77	103,614	6	621
2003-04	175	222,708	69	11,253
2004-05	137	177,342	107	8,419
2005-06	124	150,726	169	10,612

DCAL

Financial year	Number of laptops purchased	Cost (£)	Number of mobile phones purchased	Cost (£)
1998-99	[4]—	—	[4]—	—
1999-2000	[1]—	—	[1]—	—
2000-01	[1]—	—	2	55
2001-02	3	4,211	4	203
2002-03	2	2,448	1	190
2003-04	3	3,373	12	911
2004-05	1	855	1	95
2005-06	5	4,310	4	484

DE

Financial year	Number of laptops purchased	Cost (£)	Number of mobile phones purchased	Cost (£)
1998-99	15	22,949	[1]—	—
1999-2000	35	48,538	[1]—	—
2000-01	20	33,455	[1]—	—
2001-02	25	37,110	[1]—	—
2002-03	31	46,548	[1]—	—
2003-04	54	66,534	[1]—	—
2004-05	31	39,434	[1]—	—
2005-06	16	17,054	56	2,688

DEL

Financial year	Number of laptops purchased	Cost (£)	Number of mobile phones purchased	Cost (£)
1998-99	20	24,025	[1]—	—
1999-2000	51	70,980	[1]—	—
2000-01	48	63,139	[1]—	—
2001-02	39	39,269	[1]—	—
2002-03	11	17,555	135	[1]—
2003-04	0	0	129	12,880
2004-05	11	6,041	136	23,114
2005-06	0	0	142	19,092

DETI

Financial year	Number of laptops purchased	Cost (£)	Number of mobile phones purchased	Cost (£)
1998-99	47	64,659	133	4,655
1999-2000	22	29,650	151	5,285
2000-01	60	80,610	44	1,540
2001-02	136	186,740	68	2,380
2002-03	67	85,746	84	2,940
2003-04	45	41,639	96	3,360
2004-05	109	81,045	105	3,675
2005-06	61	36,308	30	1,050

DOE

Financial year	Number of laptops purchased	Cost (£)	Number of mobile phones purchased	Cost (£)
1998-99	[1]—	—	7	[3]—
1999-2000	[1]—	—	8	[3]—
2000-01	[1]—	—	2	[2]—
2001-02	0	0	14	[2]—
2002-03	8	11,887	7	[2]—
2003-04	26	25,812	3	[2]—
2004-05	94	83,030	2	[2]—
2005-06	59	52,925	2	[2]—

DFP

Financial year	Number of laptops purchased	Cost (£)	Number of mobile phones purchased	Cost (£)
1998-99	[1]—	—	[1]—	—
1999-2000	[1]—	—	[1]—	—
2000-01	[1]—	—	[1]—	—
2001-02	[1]—	—	[1]—	—
2002-03	[1]—	—	16	1,400
2003-04	203	262,000	18	3,118
2004-05	134	138,000	31	3,884
2005-06	155	128,000	50	4,097

DHSSPS

Financial year	Number of laptops purchased	Cost (£)	Number of mobile phones purchased	Cost (£)
1998-99	[6]—	—	[5]—	[3]—
1999-2000	[6]—	—	[5]—	[3]—
2000-01	[6]—	—	[5]—	[3]—
2001-02	[6]—	—	[5]—	[3]—
2002-03	[6]—	—	92	[3]—
Pre-2004-05	110	99,500	115	[3]—
2004-05	0	0	151	[3]—
2005-06	72	65,000	147	[3]—

DRD

Financial year	Number of laptops purchased	Cost (£)	Number of mobile phones purchased	Cost (£)
1998-99	[1]—	—	0	[3]—
1999-2000	[1]—	—	11	[3]—
2000-01	[1]—	—	8	[3]—
2001-02	6	6,603	12	[3]—
2002-03	31	44,836	8	[3]—
2003-04	73	88,357	4	[2]—
2004-05	90	83,716	6	[3]—
2005-06	28	20,531	4	[2]—

DSD

Financial year	*Number of laptops purchased*	*Cost (£)*	*Number of mobile phones purchased*	*Cost (£)*
1998-99	[1]—	—	[1]—	—
1999-2000	0	0	[1]—	—
2000-01	0	0	[1]—	—
2001-02	0	0	[1]—	—
2002-03	0	0	66	[2]—
2003-04	1	1,500	88	[2]—
2004-05	10	11,000	111	[2]—
2005-06	52	52,000	128	[2]—

NIO

Financial year	*Number of laptops purchased*	*Cost (£)*	*Number of mobile phones purchased*	*Cost (£)*
1998-99	34	51,000	8	[2]—
1999-2000	68	103,500	1	[2]—
2000-01	35	54,150	3	[2]—
2001-02	31	46,202	3	[2]—
2002-03	55	80,500	7	[2]—
2003-04	51	68,000	2	[2]—
2004-05	38	58,955	5	[2]—
2005-06	58	81,486	3	[2]—

[1] Records not available.
[2] No capital cost.
[3] Prior to 2003 DARD did not purchase mobile phones.
[4] DCAL not in existence.
[5] Not known.
[6] Records not available on an annual basis prior to 2004-05.

Fixed Penalties

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was generated by fixed penalty fines in Northern Ireland for each of the past three years. [77351]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Revenue generated by fixed penalty fines for each of the past three years is set out as follows.

	£
2003-04	3,474,840
2004-05	3,655,710
2005-06	3,842,790

Gastric Bypass Surgery

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are in place to ensure that people in Northern Ireland who require gastric bypass surgery receive the treatment they need. [79978]

Paul Goggins: Arrangements already exist to help patients with weight-loss management at the Royal Group of hospitals and to refer those who are deemed fit for surgery to centres outside Northern Ireland for treatment. Where a consultant believes that referral is appropriate, the relevant health and social services board will fund this on an Extra Contractual Referral (ECR) basis.

Graveyards (Vandalism)

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convictions there have been for vandalism of headstones at graveyards in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [79971]

David Cairns: Court statistics relating to offences against property do not include detail relating to the type of property involved, therefore, convictions for criminal damage of headstones at graveyards cannot be separately identified.

Health Trusts

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated additional cost is of establishing the proposed five new health trusts in Northern Ireland. [79997]

Paul Goggins: The establishment of the five new health and social care trusts, as with the other Review of Public Administration proposals, is intended to result in net savings. The resources released will be used to further improve the provision of front line services to the people of Northern Ireland. It is not possible at this stage to calculate precisely the level of net savings because detailed management arrangements have yet to be determined. At this initial stage, however, it is anticipated that the new Trusts will be expected to save in the order of £20 million per annum in administration costs. This will require a one off investment of approximately £40 million, consisting largely of early leaving payments.

Medical Students

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many medical students from outside the UK and Europe Economic Area in Northern Ireland will be affected by the introduction on 3 April 2006 of the ban on universities recruiting such students where UK/EEA students are available. [80237]

Paul Goggins: No medical students from outside the UK and European Economic Area will be affected by the new immigration rules that were introduced on 3 April 2006. There is no ban on universities recruiting overseas students.

Neighbourhood and Estate Code Polygons

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 798W, on the Valuation and Lands Agency, if he will place in the Library a copy of the technical documentation relating to the neighbourhood and estate code polygons. [78320]

Mr. Hanson: Maps and schedules of estate codes are currently being prepared and will be placed in the Library at the earliest possible date.

Prisoners

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many mobile telephones were found in the possession of prisoners in each prison in each of the last five years in Northern Ireland. [77361]

Paul Goggins: The number of mobile telephones found in the possession of prisoners in each prison in each of the last five years in Northern Ireland, is shown as follows:

	Maghaberry	Magilligan	Hydebank Wood
2002-03	1	0	1
2003-04	1	0	0
2004-05	1	14	0
2005-06	28	9	1
2006-07 (to date)	7	14	1
Total	38	37	3

At present, prisoners found in possession of mobile telephones are subject to internal disciplinary procedures. It is the Government's intention to extend to Northern Ireland provisions in the Offender Management, Sentences and Procedures Bill that will make it a criminal offence to take a mobile telephone into or out of a prison establishment.

Sexual Offences

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many individuals convicted of rape in the Province received a caution in each of the last 10 years. [80029]

Mr. Hanson: Table 1 shows the number of rape offences (including attempts) cleared by means of charge/summons and by way of a caution for the years 1996-97 to 2005-06.

Table 2 shows the number of persons prosecuted and convicted for rape (including attempts) from years 1994 to 2003, the latter being the most up-to-date available at present.

The different collation methods upon which Table 1 and Table 2 are based should be borne in mind, the former being crime/victim-based while the latter is offender-based. It is not possible therefore to relate the two tables.

Table 1: Number of offences of rape (including attempts) cleared by way of charge/summons and caution, 1996-97 to 2005-06

	Offences cleared by:	
	Charge/summons	Caution[1]
1996-97	99	0
1997-98	75	3
1998-99	48	0
1999-2000	71	2
2000-01	42	1
2001-02	53	1
2002-03	46	0
2003-04	82	0
2004-05	67	1
2005-06	64	3

[1] For the years 1996-97 to 1999-2000, caution includes official adult caution and juvenile advice and warning.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI.

Table 2: Number prosecuted and convicted for rape (including attempts) 1994 to 2003

	Prosecuted	Convicted
1994	45	15
1995	78	24
1996	69	15
1997	61	21
1998	48	18
1999	36	8
2000	26	10
2001	34	17
2002	30	10
2003	31	10

Source:
Statistics and Research Branch, NIO.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to improve the conviction rates for sexual assault and rape in the Province. [80032]

Mr. Hanson: I shall shortly be consulting on a reform of sexual offences legislation and shall include a proposal to amend the law to give a statutory definition of 'capacity' in rape cases. This bears on the law on consent and can be an important aspect of a court's consideration of an allegation of rape. In addition the Public Prosecution Service has trained all its prosecutors in the use of 'special measure' provisions which are designed to assist victims and vulnerable or intimidated witnesses to give best evidence. Further training is planned in relation to sexual offence cases. The sexual violence strategy currently being developed for consultation will also make an important contribution to the effectiveness of the immediate support available from the health authorities and the police to victims of rape and sexual assault.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many convictions for sex offences there have been in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; what the average length of prison sentence received was in each year; and what the *(a)* longest and *(b)* shortest sentences given were in each year. [79975]

Mr. Hanson: The following table provides the number convicted of sexual offences, the number sentenced to immediate custody, the average sentence length passed and the minimum and maximum sentence length given in each year.

Data beyond 2003 are not yet available. Data are collated on the principal offence rule, thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number of convictions for sexual offences, the number sentenced to immediate custody and average, minimum and maximum sentence length given in months 1999-2003

	Number convicted[1]	Number sentenced to immediate custody[2]	Average sentence length (months)	Minimum sentence length (months)	Maximum sentence length (months)
1999	90	56	32.6	1.0	144.0
2000	130	69	32.2	3.0	144.0
2001	112	67	43.0	2.0	216.0
2002	84	41	39.6	3.0	144.0
2003	108	56	35.1	4.0	144.0

[1] Figures include convictions for the offences of rape, attempted rape, buggery, gross indecency, unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault, indecent exposure, incest, distributing, taking, copying indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children.
[2] Offences for which offenders were given immediate custody include rape, attempted rape, buggery, gross indecency, unlawful carnal knowledge, indecent assault, indecent exposure, incest, distributing, taking indecent photographs or pseudo photographs of children.
Note:
Figures include persons sentenced to prison, YOC and custody probation.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the merits of establishing in Northern Ireland an assault, rape, counselling, health centre similar to ones in other parts of the UK. [80207]

Paul Goggins: A sexual violence strategy is currently being developed for Northern Ireland. In developing the strategy the option of establishing a sexual assault referral centre (SARC) for Northern Ireland is being explored.

Sexual Violence Strategy

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the consultation on a regional sexual violence strategy is expected to be published. [80030]

Paul Goggins: The development of a regional strategy to address sexual violence in Northern Ireland is being taken forward jointly by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Northern Ireland Office, in conjunction with other Departments and agencies whose responsibilities also have a bearing on matters relating to sexual violence. It is proposed to publish a consultation document by the end of summer 2006. Implementation plans will be agreed with each Department and agency following the consultation process and prior to the strategy being finalised. The implementation plans will be published with the strategy.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the final regional sexual violence strategy to be completed. [80031]

Paul Goggins: The development of a regional strategy to address sexual violence in Northern Ireland is being taken forward jointly by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Northern Ireland Office, in conjunction with other Departments and agencies whose responsibilities also have a bearing on matters relating to sexual violence. It is proposed to publish the final strategy in April 2007.

Special Advisers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on overnight accommodation for special advisers in the Northern Ireland Office in each of the last five years. [77214]

Mr. Hain: The information requested by the hon. Member is not readily available for all of the five years. Prior to financial year 2005-06, payments in respect of special advisers in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) were not separated out from civil servants. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In 2005-06, the NIO restructured the ministerial expenditure codes in order to separately identify Ministers', ministerial support staff and special advisor costs.

The amount spent on overnight accommodation for special advisers in the Northern Ireland Office in the financial year 2005-06 was £1,641.23.

Travellers

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Travellers camps there are in Northern Ireland; what the location is of each; and how many caravans can be accommodated at each camp. [80105]

Mr. Hanson: Responsibility for the provision of Traveller sites rests with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive which currently operates five serviced sites as follows:

Site location	*Number of pitches*
Ballinamullan, Omagh	6
The Glen, Coalisland	16
Ballyarnet, Londonderry	8
Daisy field, Londonderry	6
Glen Road Heights, Belfast	10

In addition a number of transit sites are being provided to cater for the needs of transient Traveller families. These will be situated in Strabane, Belfast, Londonderry, Craigavon and Newry and will provide, in total, approximately 40 pitches.

Waste Management/Recycling

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what controls are in place in Northern Ireland to monitor waste intended for recycling to ensure that it is not re-routed to a landfill site. [79912]

David Cairns: There are two specific sets of controls and a general duty of care which applies to waste producers, carriers and those who treat or dispose of waste. The controls in question are Transfrontier Shipment of Waste and licences/permits, which, once authorised, are also audited by the Department.

Waste producers are subject to a general duty of care to ensure that their material reaches an appropriate authorised facility. They also monitor the contract conditions.

The recycling of controlled waste arising in Northern Ireland is undertaken at facilities that are licensed by the Department. The permits for these approved facilities provide for the recording of the processing of material. District councils make quarterly returns on their recycled material.

The Transfrontier Shipment of Wastes Regulations govern the movement of material from Republic of Ireland to Northern Ireland by a system of prior authorisation using consignment notes. This system will approve the material, which is directed towards a suitable, authorised facility.

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures his Department is taking to increase the percentage of domestic waste being recycled by councils in Northern Ireland. [79538]

David Cairns: The Department has continued to build on the successful "Wake up to Waste" programme, launched in 2000, by supporting district councils on the design, promotion and delivery of local awareness campaigns. The Northern Ireland Landfill Allowances Scheme, introduced on 1 April 2005, sets annual allowances for the amount of waste that can be landfilled by councils and acts as a driver for increased recycling of waste.

The recently published Waste Management Strategy sets new and challenging targets for councils for the recycling and recovery of household waste. The Department is committed to the development of viable end markets for recycled materials, and is working to ensure the timely procurement and establishment of the required facilities, and the introduction of legislation making provision for incentive schemes to encourage the reduction, re-use and recycling of waste.

TREASURY

Company Tax Credit

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of each company tax credit in each year from 2006-07 to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [80594]

Dawn Primarolo: The estimated cost of research and development tax credits, vaccines research relief, land remediation relief and film tax relief are given in the table.

£ million

	Research and development tax credits	*Vaccines research relief*	*Land remediation relief*	*Film tax relief*
2006-07	770	20	30	20
2007-08	800	20	30	110
2008-09	850	20	40	110
2009-10	900	20	40	120
2010-11	960	20	40	120

Note:
Figures are on a receipts basis and rounded to the nearest £10 million.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of (i) his Department and (ii) HM Revenue and Customs. [80075]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

In respect of HM Treasury:

(a) Mary Keegan is Finance Director.

(b) She is an MA (Somerville College, Oxford) and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. She also holds honorary doctorates from the Universities of Manchester and Oxford Brookes, and is an honorary member of both the Association of Corporate Treasurers and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

(c) She was appointed in September 2004. She was previously Chairman of the UK Accounting Standards Board and before that a senior partner in a large accounting firm where she advised major multinational companies on matters of financial reporting, governance and management.

For HM Revenue and Customs:

(a) Stephen Jones is Finance Director.

(b) He is a Scholar (Balliol College Oxford) and holds a BA, 1st Class Honours, Mathematics [1976]. He is a fully trained HM Inspector of Taxes [1980] and a passed finalist of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants [2006].

(c) He has extensive experience as a tax inspector and in a range of senior management positions in the Inland Revenue and subsequently HMRC. He was Director of the Large Business Office in the Inland Revenue from 2000-03. In October 2003 he was appointed as Finance Director of the Inland Revenue, a role which he continued with for HMRC on its formation.

Doorstep Lending

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been taken by the Government to regulate doorstep lending. [79827]

Mr. McCartney: I have been asked to reply.

Home credit providers (or doorstep lenders) are regulated under the Consumer Credit Act (1974). This Act lays down rules covering:

the form and content of credit agreements;

credit advertising;

the method of calculating the Annual Percentage Rate (APR) of the Total Charge for Credit;

the procedures to be adopted in the event of default, termination, or early settlement;

extortionate credit bargains;

the canvassing of loans away from trade premises.

The Act also requires that all traders who make regulated agreements obtain a licence from the Office of Fair Trading.

The Consumer Credit Act (2006) reforms the 1974 Act and (among other things) will provide consumers with tools to challenge unfair lending, and more effective options for resolving disputes. It will also improve the regulation of consumer credit businesses by ensuring fairer practices and through targeted action to drive out rogues. There will also be new regulations covering the post-contractual information given to consumers.

In addition, the Competition Commission is currently conducting a market inquiry into the supply of home credit. Provisional findings and possible remedies were published on 27 April 2006. The statutory deadline for the final report is 19 December 2006.

HM Revenue and Customs

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many searches were carried out by customs officials at border checkpoints in each year since 1997. [80408]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of searches of persons is contained in the Annual Reports for HM Customs and Excise and HM Revenue and Customs. The figures for the year ending 31 March 2006 will be published in the next Annual Report. HM Revenue and Customs do not routinely record the number of other searches they undertake.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officers are deployed at Northern Ireland's ports and airports; how many there were in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [80099]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of HMRC frontline staff regularly deployed at Northern Ireland Ports and Airports was:

	Number
2003-04	124
2004-05	118
2005-06	111

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officials are stationed at each *(a)* port and *(b)* airport in the UK during each 24 hour period. [80837]

Dawn Primarolo: This information cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of customs officials employed in the UK were deployed *(a)* at fixed ports and airports and *(b)* in mobile patrols in each of the last five years. [80840]

Dawn Primarolo: In the last five years the percentage of HM Customs and Excise operational front-line staff regularly deployed to ports and airports was:

As at 1 April each year	*Percentage*
2005	17.3
2004	16.4
2003	16.6
2002	17.5

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to improve the speed of response of the customer support office at the HM Revenue and Customs office in Preston. [76253]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave on 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1272W to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws).

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs officers are located in each office in Wales. [80437]

Dawn Primarolo: At 1 April 2006, HM Revenue and Customs full-time equivalent staff in Wales were located in the following offices:

Building	*Town*	*Staff*
Crown Building	Aberystwyth	39
Ty Glyn	Bangor	95
Government Building	Brecon	29
Tremains House	Bridgend	58
The Podium, Llanishen	Cardiff	23
Portcullis House	Cardiff	341
Government Buildings	Cardiff	2,429
Government Buildings	Carmarthen	52
Ty-Myrddin	Carmarthen	78
2 Coed Pella Road	Colwyn Bay	54
Government Buildings	Haverfordwest	57
Crown Building	Llanelli	40
Government Building	Merthyr Tidfil	74
Crown Building	Newport	131
Try Felin	Pontypool	40
Taff Vale House	Pontypridd	57
Ty Moelwyn	Porthmadog	34
Llys Anwyl	Rhyl	59
Custom House	Swansea	31
Ty Nant	Swansea	287
Dolanog House	Welshpool	38
Plas Gororaf	Wrexham	425
Other locations with less than 20 staff		42
Total		4,515

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many seizures of *(a)* illegal firearms, *(b)* drugs and *(c)* cigarettes have been made in Wales in each of the last five years. [80438]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is given in the table:

	Firearms	*Drugs*	*Cigarettes*
2005-06	2	26	672
2004-05	1	34	643
2003-04	0	27	635
2002-03	0	32	540
2001-02	5	83	1,274

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs staff were located in Wales in each of the past five years; which HM Revenue and Customs offices in Wales closed in each of the past five years; and when each closed. [80439]

Dawn Primarolo: The numbers of HM Revenue and Customs (HM Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue prior to 18 April 2005) full-time equivalent staff in Wales was:

	Number of full-time equivalent staff
1 April 2002	4,530
1 April 2003	4,851
1 April 2004	4,854
1 April 2005	4,652
1 April 2006	4,515

HM Revenue and Customs have closed the following offices in Wales in the previous five years:

Wyndham House Bridgend closed 19 December 2003;

East Lock Newport closed 28 September 2004; and

Crown Buildings Aberystwyth closed 10 December 2005.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs staff are allocated in Wales to work on stopping smuggling of *(a)* tobacco products, *(b)* drugs and *(c)* firearms. [80440]

Dawn Primarolo: There are 59 frontline operational HMRC staff in Wales operating in multi-functional teams focused on the full range of illicit smuggling activity.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what coastal cover is being provided by HM Revenue and Customs in Wales; and how many HM Revenue and Customs officers are allocated to coastal patrols in Wales. [80441]

Dawn Primarolo: Coastal cover is provided by the HMRC Fleet of five revenue cutters. No land based HMRC officers are allocated to coastal patrols.

Income Tax

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the population who paid income tax in 1996-97 are not paying income tax in 2005-06. [80181]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

Inheritance Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost of introducing a marginal rate of inheritance tax of 20 per cent. on estates valued above the zero-rate threshold and at less than £500,000 for the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [80299]

Dawn Primarolo: The impact on receipts of introducing from 2007-08 a marginal rate of 20 per cent. on the band of value between the inheritance tax threshold and £500,000 (indexed for inflation from 2008-09) is estimated to be as follows:

	£ million
	Impact on inheritance tax receipts
2007-08	-355
2008-09	-775
2009-10	-860
2010-11	-925
2011-12	-995

International Finance Facility

John Battle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 353-4W, on sterling stamp duty, what proportion of the Overseas Development Aid (ODA) budget is projected to come annually from the International Finance Facility from the time of its projected introduction until 2013; and what contingency budget plans he has to reach the target of 0.7 per cent. of gross national income as ODA for each year until 2013 if the International Finance Facility is not introduced. [80247]

Ed Balls: The UK has announced a clear timetable to reach 0.7 per cent. ODA/GNI by 2013. With the International Finance Facility (IFF), the UK would reach the equivalent of 0.7 per cent. ODA/GNI sooner. Depending on the size of its contribution to the IFF, the UK could reach the equivalent of the 0.7 per cent. target as early as 2008-09. However, a decision on the size and timing of a UK contribution will not be made until the launch of the IFF.

With the support off other OECD DAC countries, the IFF aims to provide up to $50 billion a year in development assistance between now and 2020 to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The IFF would issue bonds on the international capital markets, leveraging additional frontloaded resources on the basis of long-term pledges from donor governments.

The frontloading principles of the IFF are already being demonstrated in the pilot IFF for Immunisation (IFFIm), which has secured financial contributions from eight countries including the UK. The IFFIm will disburse $4 billion over the next 10 years to scale up efforts to tackle preventable diseases in the world's poorest countries. The World Health Organisation has estimated that these resources will save a total of 10 million lives, including 5 million children before 2015.

Poverty

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures his Department has taken to reduce poverty in Carlisle. [80696]

Mr. Timms: The Treasury has, in partnership with other Government Departments, tackled poverty and promoted economic opportunity through:

Promoting macro-economic stability.

Supporting work for those who can and ensuring that work pays, through the new deals, a national minimum wage and the working tax credit.

Providing financial support for groups at particular risk of poverty, such as child benefit and the child tax credit for families, and the pension credit for pensioners.

Across the UK, these measures have helped lift more than a million people out of poverty since 1997. Tax credits are benefiting more than 550,000 families in the North West region, and in Carlisle, claimant unemployment has fallen by over 50 per cent., youth unemployment has fallen by 70 per cent. and long-term unemployment has fallen by 82 per cent.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures his Department has taken to reduce *(a)* child poverty and *(b)* pensioner poverty since 1997. [80048]

Dawn Primarolo: The Treasury has, in partnership with other Government Departments, tackled poverty and promoted economic opportunity through:

Promoting macroeconomic stability.

Supporting work for those who can and ensuring that work pays, through the new deals, a national minimum wage and the working tax credit.

Providing financial support for groups at particular risk of poverty, such as child benefit and the child tax credit for families, and pension credit for pensioners.

Since 1996-97, the number of children in relative poverty has fallen by 700,000 before housing costs, and 800,000 after housing costs have been taken account of; and the number of children in absolute poverty has fallen by 1.8 million before housing costs, and 2.4 million after housing costs.

And compared with the 1997 system, in 2006-07, as a result of the Government's measures including the pension credit, on average pensioners are £29 per week better off; and the poorest third of pensioners are £40 per week better off. 2.1 million pensioners were lifted out of absolute low income between 1996-97 and 2004-05 after housing costs. Over a million were lifted out of relative low income in the same period. Relative low income poverty fell by half a million between 2002-03 and 2004-05: the years pension credit took effect.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures his Department has taken to reduce poverty in the Vale of Clwyd since 1997. [80047]

Dawn Primarolo: The Treasury has, in partnership with other Government Departments, tackled poverty and promoted economic opportunity through:

Promoting macroeconomic stability.

Supporting work for those who can and ensuring that work pays, through the new deals, a national minimum wage and the working tax credit.

Providing financial support for groups at particular risk of poverty, such as child benefit and the child tax credit for families, and the pension credit for pensioners.

Across the UK, these measures have helped lift more than a million people out of poverty since 1997. Tax credits are benefiting more than 240,000 families in Wales, and in the Vale of Clwyd claimant unemployment has fallen by 44 per cent., youth unemployment has fallen by 65 per cent., and long-term unemployment has fallen by 77 per cent.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to reduce poverty in the Hartlepool constituency since 1997. [80540]

Dawn Primarolo: The Treasury has, in partnership with other Government Departments, tackled poverty and promoted economic opportunity through:

Promoting macroeconomic stability;

Supporting work for those who can and ensuring that work pays, through the new deals, a national minimum wage and the working tax credit;

Providing financial support for groups at particular risk of poverty, such as child benefit and the child tax credit for families, and the pension credit for pensioners.

Across the UK, these measures have helped lift more than a million people out of poverty since 1997. Tax credits are benefiting more than 220,000 families in the north east, and in Hartlepool claimant unemployment has fallen by 45 per cent., youth unemployment has fallen by 71 per cent. and long-term unemployment has fallen by 87 per cent.

Premium Bonds

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was *(a)* invested in Premium Bonds, *(b)* paid out in Premium Bond winnings and *(c)* not claimed by winners each month since January 2000; and how many Premium Bond holders there were in each month. [80072]

Ed Balls: Column *(a)* in the table shows the total amount invested in Premium Bonds since January 2000 on a monthly basis. These figures reflect total held stock rather than net debt financing or sales in that period.

Column *(b)* shows the amount paid out in Premium Bond prizes since January 2000 on a monthly basis.

Column *(c)* shows the total amount not claimed in Premium Bond prizes since January 2000 on an annual basis, as supplying monthly data on Premium Bond prizes would incur a disproportionate cost.

National Savings & Investments is unable to supply the information requested on the precise number of Premium Bond holders, as it monitors holdings, not holders. It is possible that individual holders may be counted multiple times if they have not notified NS&I that they have changed their names or address.

£ million

	(a) Invested in premium bonds	*(b) Paid out in Premium Bond winnings*[1]	*(c) Not claimed by winners*[2]
2000			
January	13,848.0	39.5	19.8
February	13,883.9	39.5	—
March	13,903.8	42.5	—
April	13,948.9	42.5	—
May	14,028.1	45.7	—
June	14,102.2	48.7	—
July	14,184.0	49.0	—
August	14,308.5	49.3	—
September	14,431.6	49.6	—
October	14,618.9	50.0	—
November	14,826.2	50.5	—
December	14,922.8	51.1	—
2001			
January	15,115.1	52.0	—
February	15,252.7	52.1	—
March	15,395.4	52.9	—
April	15,498.1	50.1	19.2
May	15,617.9	50.6	—
June	15,735.8	51.0	—
July	15,857.5	51.3	—
August	16,001.6	48.5	—
September	16,154.9	45.6	—
October	16,408.7	46.1	—
November	16,658.2	46.6	—
December	16,845.5	43.9	—
2002			
January	17,095.7	44.7	—
February	17,210.3	40.2	—
March	17,268.1	33.7	—
April	17,367.7	34.0	20.3
May	17,460.4	34.1	—
June	17,543.6	34.4	—
July	17,669.5	34.5	—
August	17,823.4	34.8	—
September	17,965.0	35.1	—

£ million

	(a) Invested in premium bonds	(b) Paid out in Premium Bond winnings[1]	(c) Not claimed by winners[2]
October	18,175.2	35.4	—
November	18,392.2	35.8	—
December	18,556.1	36.4	—
2003			
January	18,935.7	36.5	—
February	19,370.1	37.4	—
March	19,711.3	38.2	—
April	19,996.2	38.9	22.9
May	20,902.4	37.0	—
June	21,413.6	38.6	—
July	21,954.1	39.6	—
August	22,370.2	40.4	—
September	22,761.0	41.3	—
October	23,148.0	40.1	—
November	23,481.8	40.9	—
December	23,716.0	41.5	—
2004			
January	23,960.9	41.8	—
February	24,112.2	47.2	—
March	24,251.4	47.3	—
April	24,386.2	47.7	23.5
May	24,531.9	52.0	—
June	24,674.9	52.3	—
July	24,973.4	52.6	—
August	25,170.9	57.3	—
September	25,387.3	66.0	—
October	25,630.0	66.7	—
November	25,889.7	67.4	—
December	26,036.6	68.2	—
2005			
January	26,294.0	68.4	—
February	26,456.1	69.1	—
March	26,609.1	69.4	—
April	26,768.5	69.8	24.2
May	26,907.5	70.3	—
June	27,185.0	70.7	—
July	27,586.7	72.6	—
August	28,211.1	68.0	—
September	28,711.0	69.5	—
October	29,247.8	70.8	—
November	29,661.4	72.2	—
December	29,963.8	73.3	—
2006			
January	30,443.2	73.9	—
February	30,780.5	75.1	—
March	31,081.8	75.8	—
April	31,382.1	76.6	25.2
May	31,635.5	76.1	—

[1] This includes any unclaimed prizes.
[2] This is a cumulative figure for the total at each specified date and not the amount of each year's unclaimed prizes.

Special Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role is played by special advisers in answering parliamentary questions asked of his Department. [80652]

John Healey: The 'Code of Conduct for Special Advisers' states that a special adviser may review papers going to the Minister and give assistance on any aspect of departmental business.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many letters about tax credits from hon. Members have been received by *(a)* the tax credits office and *(b)* his Department's Ministers in each month since April 2004. [75792]

Dawn Primarolo: For information up to and including May 2005, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, columns 98-99W.

Details for the further period 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006 were around:

Letters from hon. Members to TCO

Month	Number
2005	
June	800
July	950
August	850
September	800
October	950
November	1,000
December	800
2006	
January	800
February	950
March	1,000
April	700
May	800

In addition to those received by the Tax Credit Office, Treasury Ministers received around 2,100 letters from hon. Members in the same period.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many additional tax credit payments were made in each *(a)* month and *(b)* quarter since April 2003; what the value was; and if he will make a statement. [76472]

Dawn Primarolo: For the number and value of additional tax credits payments in 2003-04 and 2004-05, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 2035W to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field).

It is no longer necessary for HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to issue manual payments in cases of hardship following an in-year adjustment. Instead, a new process allows for an adjustment on the tax credits system to reduce the rate of recovery of an overpayment in-year. Information on the number of payments adjusted in this way is not available.

HMRC's Code of Practice 26 (COP26) 'What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?' explains the circumstances in which additional payments can be made if payments are reduced to recover a previous year's overpayment but the maximum rates of recovery outlined in COP26, are still causing financial difficulties.

Around 250 such payments, with a total value of around £17,500, were made to around 60 claimants in 2005-06.

Monthly and quarterly information is not available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his answer of 19 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1485W, on carers, if he will estimate what the annual cost would be if tax credits were paid to carers allowance recipients on the basis that the 35 hours per week spent caring that qualifies them for caring allowance as an income replacement benefit was considered equivalent to earned income for 35 hours per week of employment. [80400]

Dawn Primarolo: The estimated annual cost if tax credits were paid to carers allowance recipients on the basis that the hours spent caring were equivalent to working for 35 hours per week is around £1 billion. This estimate does not take into account any behavioural changes or any resulting reduction in benefit payments.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents in each ward in Luton, South received *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* tax credit in 2005-06; and what the average value of such credits was. [80508]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, North (Edward Miliband), on 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 246W.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) in what circumstances a parent would be eligible to claim the child care element of working tax credit if the child care professional employed was *(a)* a family member and *(b)* resident in the family home; [80847]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that relatives who care for children in their own home are eligible for working tax credit. [80848]

Dawn Primarolo: Entitlement to the child care element of working tax credit is set out in regulation 14 of the Working Tax Credit (Entitlement and Maximum Rate) Regulation 2002.

The child care element of working tax credit is not payable in respect of child care provided by a relative of a child, wholly or mainly in the child's home. It is only available for the costs of formal child care and is in line with the Government's commitment to promote good quality and safe provision.

VAT

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reduce VAT on all forms of construction to the lower rate. [79867]

Dawn Primarolo: VAT is not chargeable on the construction of new dwellings and certain charitable buildings, or on any approved alterations to certain protected buildings.

Under European VAT agreements a reduced rate of VAT of not less than 5 per cent. is available for certain works of construction, renovation and alteration of housing.

To date the Government have been sparing in their use of reduced rates and only applied these where they offer the best targeted, most efficient support for our objectives. In the area of construction, this has included the application of reduced VAT rates for certain residential conversions, to support the creation of new homes through better use of the existing housing stock, and the renovation of housing that has been empty for more than three years, to help bring vacant homes back into use.

While all taxes are kept under review, there are no current plans to reduce VAT on all other forms of construction.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to reduce VAT on social housing labour costs. [80366]

Dawn Primarolo: VAT is not chargeable on the construction of new dwellings or on any approved alterations to certain protected dwellings. Under European VAT agreements a reduced rate of VAT of not less than 5 per cent. is available for certain works of construction, renovation and alteration of housing.

To date, the Government have been sparing in their use of reduced rates and only applied these where they offer the best targeted, most efficient support for our objectives. In the area of housing, this has included the application of reduced VAT rates for certain residential conversions, to support the creation of new homes through better use of the existing housing stock, and the renovation of housing that has been empty for more than three years, to help bring vacant homes back into use.

While all taxes are kept under review, there are no current plans to reduce VAT on any other social housing labour costs.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 28 June 2006

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Access to Parliament

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Leader of the House if he will take steps to ensure that any future plans for Parliament Square and surrounding roads which involve pedestrianisation take into account the need for speedy access to the Palace of Westminster by hon. Members and Peers. [80527]

Mr. Straw: Yes.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House what the average cost to his Office was of replying to a letter written by *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public in the last period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80507]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 76WS.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Leader of the House what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of the Privy Council Office. [80082]

Mr. Straw: HM Treasury and the National Audit Office have agreed that the Privy Council Office, which is a small Department, need not have a professionally qualified finance director. Financial management falls within the responsibilities of the director of corporate services, with professional support from a chartered accountant. A second qualified accountant (FCCA) is a non-executive member of the Department's Audit and Risk Committee.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Leader of the House if he will make arrangements for the tabling of written parliamentary questions for answer during parliamentary recesses. [79564]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend for Wirral, South (Ben Chapman) on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1836W.

Political Party Funding

Philip Davies: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on the funding of political parties, when Sir Hayden Phillips is expected to make his report. [79520]

Mr. Straw: As set out in the terms of reference published on 20 March 2006, Sir Hayden Phillips is to report to the Government by the end of December 2006 with recommendations for any changes to the current arrangements.

TRANSPORT

Carlisle Northern Development Road

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role the North West regional assembly will play in determining the priority given to the building of the Carlisle northern development road. [80690]

Dr. Ladyman: We asked the regions to advise us on their priorities for major transport schemes within the indicative regional funding allocations that were announced in July 2005. We are currently considering the North West region's advice, which the North West regional assembly were involved in determining, on the priority it attaches to the Carlisle northern development route and other major transport schemes in the North West. We hope to announce our response to the region's advice before the parliamentary summer recess. This scheme is currently assumed to be funded through the private finance initiative (PFI) with only a small element coming from the regional funding allocation. We are currently considering Cumbria's bid for an increase in PFI funding requirement.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of his Department. [80077]

Gillian Merron: The Department's finance director is Ken Beeton.

Mr. Beeton is a chartered accountant and was appointed to his current post in March 2003. He worked previously at the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), where he gained relevant experience in a range of financial and policy posts. Before joining DfES, Mr. Beeton worked in the private sector and gained relevant financial experience in insurance, building societies, manufacturing and the accountancy profession.

East Riding

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding for which his Department is responsible has been allocated to the East Riding of Yorkshire council for each year since 1997-98. [80531]

Gillian Merron: The East Riding of Yorkshire council has been allocated nearly £62 million in funding in the local transport capital settlements since 1997-98.

Table 1 shows the funding allocated to The East Riding of Yorkshire council in the local transport capital settlements since 1997-98. The funding allocation includes: the integrated transport block; road maintenance; and approximately £5 million provided in 2003-04 for the replacement of the Dutch River Bridge.

The integrated transport block allocations are available for local authorities to use on road and public transport improvements, according to their local priorities.

Additionally Table 2 sets out the bus subsidies received by The East Riding of Yorkshire council. Funding for rail and trunk roads has not been included as it is not possible to allocate it across any specific constituency.

Table 1: East Riding of Yorkshire council

	Total funding (£000)
1997-98	1,824
1998-99	856
1999-2000	2,378
2000-01	2,879
2001-02	7,398
2002-03	8,061
2003-04	10,876
2004-05	16,958
2005-06	10,372

Table 2: East Riding of Yorkshire council nature of funding

(£000)

	Rural bus subsidy grant	*Rural bus challenge*	*Total bus subsidy*
1997-98	—	—	—
1998-99	534	—	534
1999-2000	534	423	957
2000-01	534	400	934
2001-02	682	825	1,507
2002-03	781	358	1,139
2003-04	797	—	797
2004-05	821	—	821
2005-06	853	—	853

Foreign-registered Vehicles

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the amount of fines and charges unpaid by the owners of foreign registered vehicles in the UK in each of the past five years. [80827]

Gillian Merron: Information on the amount of fines and charges unpaid by the owners of foreign registered vehicles in the UK in each of the past five years is not collected centrally, and so an estimate could be made only at disproportionate cost.

Parking Act 1989

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the operation of the Parking Act 1989; what recent representations he has received about the operation of this Act; and whether he has plans to amend this Act. [80201]

Gillian Merron: The Parking Act 1989 amended the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to:

(a) allow the use of cashless parking systems in car parks controlled by local authority orders. Originally, such systems had to be type-approved by the Secretary of State but that requirement was repealed by the Deregulation (Parking Equipment) Order 1996;

(b) include provisions on the display of information at off-street parking places; and

(c) modify the offences and proceedings provisions concerning parking places.

We have not received any recent representations about this Act and do not have any current plans to amend it.

Railways

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress First Great Western trains is making in refurbishing class 43 mark III coaches; and if he will make a statement. [80634]

Derek Twigg: First Great Western ('FGW') announced on 5 June 2006 that it had signed two contracts with Bombardier Transportation to the value of £63 million and £85 million for the improvement and overhaul of its High Speed Train fleet. FGW also said that the first of the new-look trains would be in service in November 2006, with all 405 carriages completed by December 2007.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken to limit the environmental impact of the Crossrail project. [78612]

Derek Twigg: We are putting a number of mechanisms in place to control the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of Crossrail:

arrangements within the Crossrail Bill for local planning authorities to approve detailed design and construction arrangements;

policies, commitments and undertakings entered into outside the Bill; and

existing legislation, unless expresely or impliedly disapplied or modified by the Crossrail Bill.

In particular, any nominated undertaker will be contractually bound to comply with controls set out in the 'Environmental Minimum Requirements'—a suite

of documents that is being developed in consultation with local authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The nominated undertaker will also be required to take such opportunities as may be reasonably practicable to reduce significant adverse impacts.

The information paper: 'DO2 Control of Environmental Impacts' sets out our approach. A copy of this paper has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Crossrail Bill supporting documents website at:

http://billdocuments.crossrail.co.uk

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment the Government made of the Superlink proposals; and what criteria were used in deciding on the Crossrail option. [78622]

Derek Twigg: The route and service options considered as part of the development of the Crossrail project were appraised in a manner consistent with the Government's New Approach to Appraisal (NATA). Guidance on applying NATA to projects is provided in the Guidance on the Methodology for Multi-Modal Studies (GOMMMS). The information paper 'A1 Development of the Crossrail Route' outlines the alternative Crossrail route options that were considered and the reasons for selecting the preferred scheme. A copy of the paper has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Crossrail Bill supporting documents website at:

http://billdocuments.crossrail.co.uk

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 20 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1629W, on railways, what progress has been made in his examination of the case for establishing a direct rail service from Shrewsbury to London. [80334]

Derek Twigg: The West Coast Main Line Progress Report, published in May 2006, sets out the latest position regarding a direct rail service from Shrewsbury to London. A copy of the report has been placed in the House Library.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in the development of the Crossrail system; and to what extent the system is to be integrated into the Thames Gateway redevelopment. [79282]

Derek Twigg: The Crossrail Bill—a Bill to provide the powers necessary to build Crossrail—is currently undergoing consideration by a Select Committee in the House of Commons. The overall Bill timetable is a matter for Parliament but we currently expect Royal Assent in 2007.

In parallel with the Bill process, Cross London Rail Links Limited (CLRL) are continuing to develop the Crossrail project and recently appointed Bechtel to act as the project's development manager.

The Crossrail project would provide two stations within the Thames Gateway area, Custom House and Abbey Wood, which would increase capacity in this area and improve links with central and west London. Abbey Wood would also provide a convenient cross platform interchange with the North Kent line.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains were cancelled in each of the past 12 months, broken down by region. [77783]

Derek Twigg: The following table show the number of all trains cancelled, as a percentage, in the year 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, by Network Rail route, listed by rail industry four-weekly business reporting period.

Percentage of cancellations per period by route

National Rail route	*P1*	*P2*	*P3*	*P4*	*P5*	*P6*
Anglia	0.15	0.16	0.17	0.21	0.16	0.15
Kent	0.09	0.08	0.13	0.17	0.13	0.11
London North East	0.63	0.57	0.60	0.67	0.49	0.57
London North West	0.36	0.29	0.32	0.39	0.32	0.29
Scotland	0.35	0.28	0.32	0.30	0.23	0.24
Sussex	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.17	0.09	0.10
Wessex	0.08	0.07	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.10
Western	0.27	0.25	0.27	0.32	0.28	0.28
Total	2.00	1.76	1.96	2.32	1.77	1.83

	P7	*P8*	*P9*	*P10*	*P11*	*P12*	*P13*
Anglia	0.13	0.21	0.22	0.24	0.15	0.11	0.16
Kent	0.12	0.09	0.11	0.13	0.07	0.08	0.08
London North East	0.50	0.56	0.59	0.53	0.52	0.58	0.51
London North West	0.32	0.35	0.27	0.27	0.22	0.58	0.30
Scotland	0.27	0.36	0.35	0.32	0.28	0.24	0.29
Sussex	0.10	0.08	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.07	0.08
Wessex	0.06	0.12	0.16	0.10	0.05	0.07	0.09
Western	0.24	0.30	0.32	0.24	0.23	0.28	0.27
Total	1.74	2.07	2.11	1.91	1.62	1.69	1.78

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it a legal requirement for train operators to provide and maintain toilets on trains, including for disabled people. [79891]

Derek Twigg: The Department has no plans to make provision and maintenance of toilets on trains a legal requirement.

The Rail Vehicle Accessibility Regulations 1998 (RVAR) sets out the accessibility requirements applicable where trains are fitted with toilets.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has *(a)* to increase parking facilities and *(b)* to upgrade station facilities at Warrington Bank Quay. [79944]

Derek Twigg: As part of the current renegotiation of the West Coast Trains franchise, Virgin Rail Group has been asked to develop and implement plans for increased car parking capacity at stations where they are the station facility owner. This includes Warrington Bank Quay station. Virgin Rail Group will be proposing where and when the additional car parking spaces are going to be implemented in their bid submission. Implementation is subject to a positive business case.

The Customer Information System at the station is due to be upgraded this year.

Roads

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost to public funds was of a road fatality in the last period for which figures are available. [80199]

Dr. Ladyman: The values used to estimate the benefits of the prevention of road accidents and casualties are set out in the "Highways Economic Note No. 1: 2004 Valuation of the Benefits of Prevention of Road Accidents and Casualties" which can be found on the DfT website at: http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_rdsafety/documents/divisionhomepage/030763.hcsp

The average values, based on 2004 casualty data, are £1,384,463 for a fatality and £1,573,217 for a fatal accident. These amounts are the values to be used in the appraisal of road traffic schemes. The casualty figure takes account of lost output (which includes any non-wage payments paid by the employer), medical and ambulance costs and human costs based on willingness to pay values representing pain, grief and suffering. The accident figure is higher because it includes non-casualty specific costs such as the costs of policing, insurance and administrative costs and damage to property, and because on average more than one casualty is involved in each accident.

Included within these values are the costs to public funds for medical, ambulance and police costs (emergency services) which in 2004 averaged at £817 per fatal casualty and £7,076 per fatal accident. In addition some element of the lost output cost would be considered as a cost to public funds.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much central Government funding has been allocated to East Riding of Yorkshire council for road improvements in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [80529]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows the funding allocated to The East Riding of Yorkshire council in the local transport capital settlements since 1997-98. The funding allocation includes the integrated transport block, road maintenance block and approximately £5 million provided in 2004-05 for the replacement of the Dutch River Bridge.

The integrated transport block allocations are available for local authorities to use on road and public transport improvements, according to their local priorities.

East Riding of Yorkshire council

	Total funding (£000)
1997-98	1,824
1998-99	856
1999-2000	2,378
2000-01	2,879
2001-02	7,598
2002-03	8,061
2003-04	10,876
2004-05	16,958
2005-06	10,372

In addition central funding support for services, including routine highways services, is provided through revenue support grant. This is not allocated by the Government between individual council services.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to announce *(a)* the regional funding allocation for the South West and *(b)* funding for the upgrade of the A358. [81160]

Dr. Ladyman: We are currently considering the South West region's advice on the priority it attaches to the upgrade of the A358 between Ilminster and Taunton and other major transport schemes in the South West. We hope to announce our response to the region's advice before the parliamentary summer recess.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bovine TB

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the case for the planned badger cull since the publication of his Department's most recent figures for new cases of notified bovine tuberculosis. [78618]

Mr. Bradshaw: We welcome the fact that the number of new bovine TB incidents in Great Britain overall has decreased over the last few months. However, given the cyclical nature of the disease it is too early to draw any conclusions about whether this is a temporary or more sustained reduction and we will continue to monitor the position closely. The reduction is likely to be caused by a complex combination of factors.

In considering whether to cull badgers, we are taking into account all the evidence including the science, and considering how an effective cull might be delivered on the ground. Any policy must form part of a holistic approach to bovine TB that balances cattle and wildlife controls.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the members of the Gamma Interferon Working Group are; and when each was appointed. [78345]

Mr. Bradshaw: Members of the working group were drawn from officials across the Department, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency, the State Veterinary Service, the Welsh Assembly Government and SEERAD. They were appointed in October 2005.

Brixham Fish Market

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 887W, on Brixham Fish Market, what the normal procedures referred to are; and when he expects a decision on the new fish market at Brixham to be made. [80661]

Mr. Bradshaw: In England, Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance grant applications are considered in quarterly competitive tranches. Applications are assessed by an internal panel of representatives from DEFRA, the Marine Fisheries Agency and the Regional Development Agencies. Those applications that appear to the panel to best match the criteria are prioritised for funding within budgetary limits. In this instance, the panel considered the Torbay council application on 25 May. A final decision will be made when an assessment of the potential impact of a possible restriction of scallop dredging in Lyme Bay is completed. I expect this to be within the next few weeks.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will reply to the letter dated 12 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms C. Greenhalgh. [79486]

Mr. Bradshaw: The letter has been transferred to the Cabinet Office as the Department with responsibility for policy on civil contingency planning. Unfortunately, there was a delay in transferring the letter, for which I apologise to my right hon. Friend.

Disposable Nappies

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the time taken for a disposable nappy to decompose. [79267]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Wisard software tool used by the Environment Agency (EA) in their report, "Life Cycle Assessment of Disposable and Reusable Nappies in the UK", assumed a 500 year time boundary for leachate in landfill. The EA therefore concluded that it would take that amount of time for the plastic part of a disposable nappy to decompose. The paper-fluff and faeces should take approximately 100 and 10 years respectively to degrade.

Field Mapping

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of accuracy in field mapping by the Rural Payments Agency; and what measures his Department is undertaking to improve accuracy. [80702]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is responsible for the maintenance of the Rural Land Register (RLR), and information from the RLR is used to support claims to the Single Payment Scheme. The process of digitising land and amending existing land registrations has been amended recently, with activity brought back onto RPA's main computer system. This followed a period when an outsourced provider was used to digitise land during a period of exceptionally high demand.

The digitisation process itself includes a number of quality checks to ensure that the correct land parcel and area are digitised. Where errors are found they are corrected before maps are issued to customers. Further amendments are made where customers identify issues with the maps they receive. RPA is aware of a number of cases where there have been issues with maps sent to customers. The re-establishment of an in-house process will aid the cross check of new and amended land areas to customer details.

Fish Farms

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will make a statement on the outbreak of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia at a fish farm on a tributary of the Ouse in Yorkshire; and what steps his Department is taking to prevent the spread of the disease; [78188]

(2) what plans his Department has to instigate the compulsory slaughter of diseased fish reared on fish farms; [78190]

(3) if his Department will compensate those fish farm owners who have their stock compulsorily slaughtered as a result of disease; and if he will make a statement. [78191]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 903W.

On 19 June, the National Control Centre of CEFAS, Weymouth Laboratory confirmed that viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) has been detected in a sample of grayling taken from the River Nidd below the outlet of the farm infected with the disease, although the infected fish showed no clinical signs of the disease. Further comprehensive sampling and testing is taking place on fish in the river, both below and above the infected farm.

Fish disease experts at CEFAS advise that although there is no scientific evidence that VHS virus infection causes significant outbreaks in wild freshwater fish stocks, any persisting infection in wild stocks could be a source of infection or re-infection for trout farms in the vicinity through VHS virus contamination of the river supply to the farm.

There are no plans at present to carry out compulsory slaughter of fish on farms in the areas of the River Ouse and River Don affected by the current outbreak but the matter will be kept under review. No further cases of VHS have been detected on fish farms.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the locations are of fish farms on which the presence of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia has been detected in the UK. [78189]

Mr. Bradshaw: Viral haemorrhagic septicaemia was confirmed in rainbow trout at Nidderdale Trout Farm, Low Laithe, Summerbridge, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 4BU on 26 May 2006. No further cases

of the disease have been detected so far at any other farm during a comprehensive sampling and testing programme.

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the incidence and spread of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia among farmed fish populations. [78192]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following the confirmation of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia (VHS) in farmed rainbow trout on a fish farm in Yorkshire on 26 May 2006, my Department, through its Executive agency CEFAS, commissioned an epizootiological investigation into the source of the infection. This investigation includes the testing of farmed and wild fish populations which may have had contact with the infected stock, as well as all of the other potential pathways of disease transmission.

The Department has acknowledged the seriousness and potential impact of this most important disease on the UK aquaculture industry, and has previously funded research projects on epidemiology and mathematical modelling of disease outbreaks, the pathogenicity and transmission of different strains of the virus, and studies on the detection of the virus in fish and cell cultures.

Fishing Fleets

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what proportion of the EU fund for the modernisation of fishing fleets he expects to be allocated to British-owned vessels. [80160]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* No decisions have been taken on what will be funded under the new EU fisheries fund (EFF). The UK expects to receive, subject to confirmation, around €112 million from the EU; the overall EU resources available for the fund will be €3,849 million.

The operational programme to implement the EFF will set out priorities for using the fund and we will consult on this later in the year. Modernising the fishing fleet is only part of the range of measures available, and we do not want to fund anything which could increase capacity.

Our over-arching aim is to have a sector which is sustainable and profitable and supports strong local communities, managed effectively as an integral part of coherent policies for the marine environment.

Freshwater Fish

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to introduce a compensation scheme in response to any need for the compulsory slaughter of freshwater fish stocks; and if he will make a statement. [79855]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* My Department has no plans to introduce such a scheme. Under successive Governments, compensation has not been available for the compulsory slaughter of fish due to an outbreak of serious fish diseases; this remains my Department's policy.

Household Waste

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans the Government has to reduce household waste. [79189]

Mr. Bradshaw: The waste minimisation programme run by the Government-funded Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) is working to stem the growth of household waste. This is part of a package of measures to enable the UK to meet the requirements of the landfill directive and move towards sustainable waste management.

As part of the programme, WRAP is working with 13 major retailers to reduce the amount of waste from supermarkets, including looking for ways to redesign packaging as well as support for research and development into waste minimisation. It is also working with local authorities to establish greater participation in home composting through its targeted National Home Composting Programme.

In its recent consultation on the review of its Waste Strategy, the Government identified the importance of waste prevention for reducing waste, including in the household. So far only limited progress is being made to prevent waste, and so more needs to be done. The revised Waste Strategy, due to be published later this year, will identify what further steps should be taken.

The revised Waste Strategy will also outline what can be done to build on recent improvements in household recycling. The consultation on the review proposed target increases for household waste recycling to 40 per cent. by 2010, 45 per cent. by 2015 and 50 per cent. by 2020.

Local authorities received £45 million in 2005-06, £105 million in 2006-07 and £110 million in 2007-08 under the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant to help them develop new and more efficient ways to deliver waste reduction and increase recycling and diversion from landfill.

Landfill Directive

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what percentage of the biodegradable waste required to meet the first EU Landfill Directive has been diverted from landfill in the UK; [78529]

(2) whether local authorities will be financially liable for the UK's compliance in meeting the EU Landfill Directive's targets. [78535]

Mr. Bradshaw: Article 5(2) of the EC Landfill Directive sets three target years (2006, 2009 and 2016) by which member states must reduce the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill in proportion to the amount produced in 1995.

The directive also allows member states which landfilled over 80 per cent. of their municipal waste in 1995 to postpone the targets by up to four years. The Government have informed the European Commission of their intention to make use of this four-year derogation, which means the target years for the UK are 2010, 2013 and 2020.

The UK target for 2010 is to reduce biodegradable municipal waste landfilled to no more than 75 per cent. of that produced in 1995. For England, this equates to 11.2 million tones in 2010. It is estimated that in 2003-04, around 14.7 million tonnes was disposed of in this way, with a provisional estimate of a further reduction to around 13.9 million tonnes in 2004-05 (i.e. 124 per cent. of the 2010 target).

In preparation to the first 2010 target year, the UK have already taken steps to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill. The Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme (LATS), was launched in April 2005, and is one of the Government's key measures to encourage progressive reductions in the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that disposal authorities are able to send to landfill sites.

Should any waste disposal authority have landfilled more waste than it holds allowances for, it can use the sixth month reconciliation period (from March to the end of September), to trade, borrow or bank allowances to manage their liabilities. Any waste disposal authority which has landfilled biodegradable municipal waste in excess of the allowances it holds at the end of the reconciliation period will be liable to a financial penalty of £150 per tonne (according to section 9(2) of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act 2003).

The LATS regulations also provide for supplementary penalties (in addition to any penalties for exceeding allowances) that are proportional to (a) any fines imposed on the UK in respect of obligations under the Landfill Directive and (b) the amount by which an authority exceeds its allowance in a Landfill Directive target year, or subsequent scheme years following Landfill Directive target years.

Due to the nature of a tradable allowances scheme, it is not possible to assess accurately now whether any waste disposal authority is likely to landfill biodegradable municipal waste in excess to that which it holds allowances for until the Environment Agency has completed the reconciliation process for the LATS year 2005-06, expected by the end of September.

Marine Bill

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to bring forward a draft Marine Bill; and if he will make a statement. [78416]

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish a draft Marine Bill; what steps are being taken to ensure that the Marine Bill is introduced and passed at the earliest opportunity; and how the Marine Bill will protect the marine environment of the UK. [78619]

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Government expect to publish the draft Marine Bill. [79057]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA published a consultation document on 29 March 2006 setting out the Government's thinking in a number of key areas to be addressed by a Marine Bill. These include marine spatial planning, nature conservation, licensing reform, and the possibility of setting up a new marine organisation. We had already undertaken initial consultation on some fisheries issues that will also be dealt with in the Bill.

The final scope of our proposals for a Marine Bill, including the strategic direction we should take, will not be decided until we have fully considered the responses to the consultation exercise. The consultation period ended on 23 June 2006. We will publish a summary of the responses within three months.

We will need to take these responses into account before any decision is made on the timing of further consultation on detailed proposals for a draft Bill. Introduction of a Marine Bill will follow later in this Parliament, subject to the availability of parliamentary time. We want to move forward swiftly, but this is a complex area and we must make sure that we take sufficient time to consult effectively and get our proposals right.

The Government's primary purpose for a new Marine Bill is to introduce a stronger framework for the seas, based on marine spatial planning, that balances conservation, energy and resource needs. Together with a planning system for the marine area, we have proposed a number of possible approaches for the reform of marine nature conservation legislation. These include new mechanisms for the conservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity, including protected areas for important species and habitats.

Marine Conservation

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to promote marine conservation. [79399]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government are committed to a Marine Bill which will introduce a new framework, based on marine spatial planning, that balances conservation, energy and resource needs. The aim is to obtain best value from different uses of our valuable marine resources by maintaining and protecting the ecosystems on which they depend. We are developing integrated criteria for the selection of marine protected areas (MPAs), including those for wider nature conservation.

We are also considering how many additional protected areas might be needed to protect marine ecosystems and biodiversity and fulfil the international commitments we have made in this area.

Poultry Industry

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent

discussions he has had within the EU on the provision of financial support to the poultry industry *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* other member states. [79587]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 26 June 2006]*: A number of recent discussions involving the Commission and member states took place, between 7 April 2006 and 21 June 2006. These culminated in the adoption of an amendment to Article 14 of Council Regulations 2777/75 and 2771/75 on the Common Organisation of the Market in Eggs and Poultrymeat, respectively.

The amendment provides legal powers to make special support measures available to member states in the event of significant evaporation of consumer confidence in poultry products as a direct result of avian influenza, causing the market to collapse.

Radon Gas

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice the Government have issued on the account which should be taken of levels of radon gas in decisions on building new schools. [77686]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

Resistance to contaminants, including radon, is covered by requirement C1 (2) of the Building Regulations. This requirement applies to all buildings including schools.

Recycling

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what representations he has received from local authorities on the recycling of televisions and computer monitors containing cathode ray tubes; [78442]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the national operational capacity for the recycling of televisions and computer monitors containing cathode ray tubes; [78440]

(3) how many *(a)* televisions and *(b)* monitors containing cathode ray tubes have been recycled from local authority civic amenity sites since July 2005. [78452]

Mr. Bradshaw: No such representations from local authorities have been received. The majority of inquiries on the recycling of televisions and computer monitors received by DEFRA officials have been referred to the Department of Trade and Industry, who lead on implementation of the waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive.

There are an increasing number of WEEE recovery plants opening in anticipation of the UK's implementation of the WEEE directive that are capable of dealing with waste televisions and computer monitors. These plants are regulated by the Environment Agency under a waste management licence.

Information on the number of televisions and monitors which have been recycled from local authority civic amenity sites is not currently gathered by the Department.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many public recycling bins are available in London; and what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* emptying and *(c)* replacing these bins in 2006-07. [79373]

Mr. Bradshaw: Latest available data show that London has 38 civic amenity sites and 2,715 recycling sites. A recycling site usually consists of more than one bin and, therefore, data are not available for numbers of public recycling bins in London. No estimate has been made centrally regarding costs.

A range of information and statistics on waste and recycling in London is available from Capitalwastefacts (an online fact-file developed by the Greater London Authority and London Remade), which is available at the following address:

http://www.capitalwastefacts.com/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx.

Rubbish Collection (Charging)

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect of variable charging for rubbish collection on levels of fly-tipping. [78244]

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of the introduction of variable charging for household waste. [78538]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have no current plans to introduce charging for household waste. The Government are considering what further steps are needed to tackle household waste as part of the review of the Waste Strategy, which will be published later this year. We are also looking at the spending pressures local authorities face, with regard to waste management, ahead of the comprehensive spending review.

Variable charging is one of a number of tools that could be used to encourage waste minimisation and recycling of household waste. Local authorities already have powers to run incentive schemes or require householders to separate their waste for recycling. Recent research shows that at least half of English local authorities have run, or are running, some form of incentive scheme and some, such as Barnet, require householders to separate their recycling.

Many countries, including some in the European Union, have introduced successful household waste charging schemes, achieving reductions in waste and increases in the separation of waste for recycling. (Evidence from studies of this international experience shows a small increase in fly-tipping incidents when schemes are introduced, but this quickly tails off where schemes are well designed and effective enforcement action is taken.)

Rural Enterprise Scheme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to continue to process all applications for the Rural Enterprise Scheme, Processing and Marketing grant that are received up until 30 June; what the status is of the bid from Perry's Cider of Dowlish Wake, Ilminster; and if he will make a statement. [80008]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* All applications that are received by the closing date of 30 June and which meet the eligibility requirements for the Rural Enterprise Scheme and Processing and Marketing Grant will be processed and given due consideration for funding.

The bids from Perry's Cider of Dowlish Wake, Ilminster are currently undergoing technical assessment and, subject to meeting eligibility requirements, will be considered for funding by the RDS South West Regional Appraisal Panel at their final meeting on 25 and 26 July.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has undertaken into live tests for bovine spongiform encephalopathy; and whether this included studies of prion proteins. [79812]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* Scientific investigation of a live animal test for bovine spongiform encephalopathy has been a priority part of the research programmes funded by DEFRA and other Departments for several years. Information on these projects can be found on the DEFRA and Medical Research Council websites:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/research/project data

http://www.mrc.ac.uk/index/current-research/current-mrc_tse_portfolio.htm

A wide range of possible diagnostic markers of the disease have been studied, with a particular focus on prion proteins.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance he has issued on whether cattle suspected of being infected with a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy must be culled within a specified period under EC Regulation 999/2001. [79813]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* State Veterinary Service (SVS) staff are instructed to slaughter cattle suspected of being affected by bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) at the time of their examination. In a minority of cases, the SVS arrange for live suspects to be transported to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) in Weybridge, subject to an assessment of fitness to travel and journey time considerations. BSE suspects received at the VLA are slaughtered within 72 hours of arrival. However, most BSE suspects are slaughtered on-farm.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Waste and Resources Action Programme's total annual expenditure was for *(a)* projects, *(b)* salaries and *(c)* office premises in each of the last five years. [78532]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is set out in the following table:

£

	Project	*Salary*	*Premises*
2001-02	4,729,000	1,295,000	198,000
2002-03	12,475,000	2,357,000	233,000
2003-04	26,278,000	4,049,000	346,000
2004-05	43,634,000	6,577,000	450,000
2005-06	68,539,000	8,564,000	497,000

Waste Exports

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to tackle the illegal export of waste televisions and computer monitors containing cathode ray tubes. [78439]

Mr. Bradshaw: Waste electrical electronic equipment, such as television sets and computer monitors containing cathode ray tubes, are classified as hazardous waste for the purposes of shipment out of the UK. Under the Waste Shipment Regulation, the export of hazardous waste to non-Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries is prohibited. Exports of this waste to other OECD countries is permitted for recovery operations but such shipments would be subject to prior informed consent procedures.

The illegal shipment of waste abroad for disposal under the guise of recycling is totally unacceptable and the UK Government and competent authorities, such as the Environment Agency, take such matters extremely seriously. The Environment Agency will continue to monitor the scale and destination of waste at major UK ports through ongoing inspections, and will not hesitate to take enforcement action where evidence of illegal activity is found.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Clear Skies Scheme

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the value was of the total funding pot under the Clear Skies scheme. [80772]

Malcolm Wicks: The Clear Skies programme had a £13.25 million budget over three years beginning January 2003.

Housing

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what value the current total funding pot has under Stream 1 of the low carbon buildings programme for householders. [80771]

Malcolm Wicks: The current funding for Stream 1 household applications under the low carbon buildings programme is £6.5 million over three years for the financial years 2006-07 to 2008-09.

Landlords (Retained Deposits)

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many actions have been initiated by trading standards officers against companies which have unfairly retained deposits paid on student accommodation; [75887]

(2) what estimate he has made of the amount of money unlawfully retained by companies from deposits on student accommodation in the past 12 months; [75888]

(3) what steps he is taking to encourage action against companies which unlawfully retain deposits paid by students who have rented student accommodation. [75889]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to ensuring that where tenants pay a deposit to their landlord in good faith it will be returned at the end of the tenancy, providing the tenant does not cause any damage or theft to the property. Provisions contained in Part 6 of the Housing Act 2004 will make it a requirement that any landlord who offers assured shorthold tenancies and wishes to take a monetary deposit must safeguard that deposit with a tenancy deposit scheme (TDS).

The Department does not hold information on the actions of trading standards officers or the level of deposits that may have been withheld by landlords.

Zimbabwe

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his policy is on investment by UK companies in Zimbabwe; and what steps he is taking to improve standards of corporate behaviour in Zimbabwe. [78630]

Mr. McCartney: The EU does not have economic or trade sanctions with Zimbabwe, and therefore we do not place any barriers on investment in Zimbabwe. UK companies will take decisions on investing in Zimbabwe on the basis of their commercial assessment of those investments.

There are no specific initiatives to improve corporate behaviour in Zimbabwe. HMG are however committed to promoting responsible business practice by British companies wherever they operate. We do this through a combination of sector-specific activities, such as;

The extractive industries transparency initiative, which aims to increase transparency over payment by companies to Government and Government linked entities, as well as transparency over revenues by those host country Governments.

The voluntary principles on security and human rights which aims to maintain the safety and security of extractive operations, whilst ensuring that human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected.

HMG also support international organisations active on corporate responsibility such as the UN global compact, which seeks to promote responsible corporate citizenship so that business can be part of the solution to the challenges of globalisation.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burmese Refugees

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what help he has made available to support relief groups in Thailand assisting those people displaced from their homes in Burma. [76022]

Mr. Thomas: There are three types of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Burma. These are (with the latest available numbers, from October 2005):

(i) people in temporary settlements in ceasefire areas administered by ethnic nationalities (340,000);

(ii) villagers who have been evicted by the Burmese Government and moved into designated relocation sites (108,000); and

(iii) civilians hiding from the Burmese Army in areas most affected by armed conflict (92,000).

The recent military offensive against the Karen people has swelled the number of civilians hiding in conflict areas by at least 15,000. DFID's approach to providing emergency assistance to these IDPs has been to use our comparative advantage (the fact that we have a small presence inside the country and a strong network of relationships with ethnic minority and other groups) to reach the IDPs using local community groups inside Burma. This is a complementary approach to the use of relief teams operating cross border from Thailand, and it enables access to IDPs who would not be reached by any other means, and through a mechanism which is much less well supported by other donors. The development of civil society within the country is also a fundamental step in a successful transition to democracy.

The number of IDPs that we can reach from inside the country is limited. Access is difficult, and the small local groups with whom we are working do not currently have the capacity to deliver greater volumes of emergency relief, although we are working to strengthen their ability to do more. Those delivering assistance to IDPs cross border from Thailand face similar challenges. Therefore we recognise the importance of maintaining co-ordination with all donors (both those delivering assistance cross border, and those working inside the country) to ensure that together we manage to reach as many IDPs as possible.

DFID also provides support to IDPs in temporary settlements in ceasefire areas in eastern Burma through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC),

to which we provide £500,000 a year, of which approximately 75 per cent. is attributable to work with displaced people in this area.

In addition, our health, education and rural livelihood projects provide assistance in eastern Burma, and support internally displaced people in temporary settlements and designated relocation sites there, as well as other vulnerable people. For example, in Karen State, our Fund for HIV/AIDS in Burma supports World Vision projects in two townships, Save the Children UK projects in four townships and Care projects in five townships, as well as supporting other national non-governmental organisations (NGOs). DFID-funded rural livelihoods and pre-primary education projects are also about to start in Karen State.

DFID is also providing support to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working among displaced Burmese people in the refugee camps on the Thai side of the Thai-Burma border—as a grant to the Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) of £1.8 million over three years. In addition, the UK contributes approximately the same amount again as its share of the EC's support to the TBBC. The British embassy in Bangkok advocates on behalf of Burmese refugees living in Thailand through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to improve the situation in the refugee camps in Thailand and to bring about a relaxation of the regulations prohibiting freedom of movement and employment outside the camps.

Timber (Papua New Guinea)

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received regarding illegal logging in Papua New Guinea; and if he will make a statement. [78899]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has been informed of the seriousness of illegal logging in Papua New Guinea by my hon. Friend the Member for Kingswood (Roger Berry) and by the British high commissioner. DFID has no programmes in Papua New Guinea through which it can offer assistance. However, DFID has raised this matter with the European Commission which will consider assistance.

DEFENCE

Abuse of Power Reports

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many persons have been subject to disciplinary or administrative procedures as a result of failure to report an incident of abuse of power in the Army in the past 12 months. [79837]

Mr. Ingram: None. The most recent case concerned Corporal Daniel Kenyon who was convicted in February 2005 of failing to report an incident involving the abuse of Iraqi civilians.

Afghanistan

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how long he expects British troops to be based in Afghanistan. [80636]

Des Browne: As announced by the then Secretary of State for Defence my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdrie and Shotts (John Reid) on 26 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1529, the Helmand Task Force is planned to be a three year deployment. It is impossible to predict exactly how long there will be a UK military presence of somekind, as part of wider international support to the Government of Afghanistan, beyond that period.

Cluster Munitions

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with British manufacturers on the decision of the Belgian Government to ban cluster munitions. [79688]

Mr. Ingram: None.

Combined Cadet Force

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made in implementing the plans announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in February 2006 to create branches of the Combined Cadet Force in state schools. [80692]

Mr. Watson: Since the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcement in February 2006, the Ministry of Defence has been working with the Department for Education and Skills and the Treasury to develop plans for a pilot scheme that will further extend Combined Cadet Forces in the state school sector. As was announced on the 27 June 2006 we will be establishing six new pilot schemes in schools across England. Funding arrangements have just been put in place by the Treasury and we are now discussing arrangements with schools who have already expressed an interest in establishing a Combined Cadet Force.

Deepcut (Document Disclosure)

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he wrote to the chief constable of Surrey police regarding the disclosure of documents to the families of *(a)* Sean Benton, *(b)* Cheryl James and *(c)* Geoff Gray; if he will copy the letter to the legal representatives of those families; and if he will place copies in the Library. [79870]

Mr. Ingram: I wrote to the chief constable of the Surrey police regarding Recommendation 33 of the Deepcut Review on 13 June 2006. A copy of the letter will be provided to the legal representatives of the families concerned. A copy of the letter will also be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list those Government Bills sponsored by his Department that are still to be introduced during the 2005-06 session. [78853]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Leader of the House on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1432W.

Iraq

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list contracts in excess of £500,000 his Department has entered into in connection with Iraq since the beginning of 2003; on what date each was entered into; whether the civilian contractor in each contract had military connections; what the nationality of each civilian contractor was in each case; what each contract was for; whether each contract was awarded following competitive bidding; whether work was wholly carried out in Iraq; and what estimate he has made in each case of the comparable cost of similar work carried out in the UK. [61481]

Mr. Ingram: I will place three lists of contracts in the Library of the House. The first shows works contracted by the Multi-National Division (South-East) Civil Secretariat with total value in excess of £500,000, and wholly carried out in Iraq, from 2003, detailing the company, service provided, and date each contract was entered into. Second are those contracts let by the Defence Communications Service Agency for and in support of British operations in Iraq. And third are those contracts placed for movement of freight or personnel by air or surface means, awarded following competition. Two of these contracts (DTMA/CB/0803 and DTMA/CB/0813) were let for air support entirely within Iraq/surrounding area. Two further contracts (DTMA/CB/0703 and DTMA/CB/0720) were let specifically for aeromedical tasks between Cyprus and the UK. The remaining movement contracts were placed for the transport of freight/personnel mainly between the UK/Europe and Iraq/Gulf States in support of Op TELIC. Comparable costing for these is inappropriate. Further details are not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which dates since February 2006 *(a)* he and *(b)* his Ministers have visited British soldiers injured in Iraq; and what locations were visited on each occasion. [80693]

Des Browne: Defence Ministers frequently visit members of the armed forces injured in Iraq. Since February Defence Ministers have visited injured personnel on four occasions as follows:

My predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdrie and Shotts (John Reid), visited the Field Hospital at Shaibah Logistics Base on 18 March 2006.

I too visited the Field Hospital at Shaibah Logistics Base, Iraq on 18 May 2006. The Minister of State for the Armed Forces visited injured personnel as part of his visit on 8-9 May 2006 to 7th Armoured Brigade in Germany.

The Under-Secretary of State for Defence my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) visited the Royal College of Defence Medicine at Selly Oak on 16 June 2006.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average time has elapsed before inquiries into the deaths of British service personnel in Iraq have commenced. [80141]

Des Browne: The information requested is not held centrally and can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost. However, the Service Police initiate an investigation immediately they are notified of the death of any member of the armed forces in Iraq. Wherever possible, it is their policy to issue an Initial Case Report within 24 hours of notification unless prevented by operational circumstances.

Missile Defence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role is of the Missile Defence Centre within his Department; and if he will make a statement. [79950]

Des Browne: The UK Missile Defence Centre was opened by the former Minister of State for Defence Procurement on 18 July 2003. It provides the primary technical interface between the UK and the US Governments in this area of research and development. The centre is jointly resourced by Government and Industry, and will act as a showcase for the specialist expertise and equipment which UK Industry has to offer to the US Missile Defence programme. The MDC also facilitates the exchange of information on the evolving US system, to inform the technical advice provided to policy makers.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions the UK Government has had with the US authorities on acquiring ballistic missile defence *(a)* technology and *(b)* equipment from the US. [79951]

Des Browne: We have had no recent discussions with the US about the acquisition, in the form of purchase or ownership, of ballistic missile defence technology or equipment. We continue to work closely with them on co-operative technology programmes through the UK Missile Defence Centre.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Private Members' Bills were drafted by his Department in each Session since 1997; and which subsequently received Royal Assent. [78852]

Mr. Watson: None.

Royal Military Police

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms of reference were of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary's thematic review of the Royal Military Police Special Investigation Branch; what the target date is for completion; and what arrangements he plans to make for publication. [79880]

Mr. Ingram: The terms of reference for the Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) inspection of the Royal Military Police (RMP) Special Investigations Branch (SIB) are as follows:

(a) To inspect SIB specialist policing functions in the investigation of major and serious crimes, including investigations conducted on operations, and to identify any areas for improvement (in the context of current good practice, where applicable).

(b) To identify any other transferable good practice emerging from inspection.

(c) To alert Deputy Provost Marshal (Investigations) of any issues that may impact upon the conduct of a live investigation.

(d) To deliver a draft report to the Provost Marshal (Army) for his consideration on behalf of the Adjutant-General and Director General Security and Safety.

(e) To deliver a final report for the attention of the same.

The inspection of the RMP SIB started on 1 April 2006 and the HMIC is due to provide a report by 31 July 2006.

The final report will be published, both in hard copy and on the HMIC website.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the merits of bringing the Royal Military Police Special Investigations Branch under the oversight of the Independent Police Complaints Commission. [79881]

Mr. Ingram: The Royal Military Police (RMP) Special Investigations Branch (SIB) has a minimal interface with the general public in comparison to their civilian counterparts. As a result, complaints by third parties unconnected to the armed forces about the conduct of the RMP (SIB) are far less likely to occur. We do not therefore consider it appropriate for the RMP (SIB) to be brought under the oversight of the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

However, a comprehensive redress of complaints system exists for all service personnel, including service police personnel, who wish to complain or express a grievance about any matter related to their service. Improvements were proposed under the Armed Forces Bill which included a redress panel system where panels would include an external, independent member for certain types of complaints, and an external reviewer focusing on process, delay, fairness, and the effectiveness of the procedure, and providing recommendations for improvements where necessary. Further to the Deepcut Review, we plan to extend the role of the external reviewer, renamed the Service Complaints Commissioner, who would have statutory powers to receive a complaint or allegation from a service person, family or other third party, to place it in the hands of the chain of command and to be notified of the outcome. The Commissioner would have direct access to Ministers and would publish an annual report on the complaints process.

These proposed arrangements will now be subject to the full process of parliamentary scrutiny in the context of the remaining stages of the Armed Forces Bill's passage through Parliament.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training is available to members of the Royal Military Police in the conduct of European Convention of Human Rights Article 2—compliant investigations into an overseas death in barracks. [79884]

Mr. Ingram: Members of the Royal Military Police (RMP) Special Investigation Branch (SIB) follow standard police investigative procedures and receive training that conforms to UK Home Office standards, modified to take account of the Military Criminal Justice System. As such, both their training, either basic or continuation, and their investigative techniques, are compliant with the European Convention on Human Rights.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Biodiversity

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department plans to take to monitor the extent to which public bodies which report to her comply, from October, with their duty to conserve biodiversity in exercising their functions, under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [74406]

Mr. Woodward: Under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, all public bodies have a duty to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in the exercising of their functions. There is no statutory obligation on Departments to monitor the extent to which public bodies comply with this duty. However, we understand DEFRA is working with a wide range of partners to develop guidance for public bodies to support the implementation of this duty and will involve all relevant Departments on the development of guidance.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average cost to her Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80469]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of her Department. [80091]

Mr. Lammy: My Department's finance director is Nicholas Holgate. He has a degree in economics and is an associate member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. His relevant experience comprises 18 years' employment in HM Treasury, including three years as head of strategy, finance and purchasing.

Horse Racing

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department is taking to enable the Government to meet their manifesto commitment to end their financial involvement in horse racing. [80844]

Mr. Caborn: The Government's 2005 manifesto commitment with regards to horse racing stated,

"Having passed the necessary legislation the Government remains committed to completing the sale of the Tote to a Racing Trust".

My Department is pursuing a closed sale of the Tote to a consortium of racing interests.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consultation *(a)* has taken place and *(b)* is planned on the extension of the horse racing levy beyond 2009; and with whom. [80845]

Mr. Caborn: No decision has been taken to extend of the Horserace Betting Levy beyond 2009, although the matter is under consideration by my Department following the publication of the phase two report of the Future Funding of Racing Review Group, Chaired by Lord Donoughue of Ashton.

In order to inform this consideration the Review Group subsequently produced a further report (a copy of which has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses) aimed at identifying improvements that could be made to the Levy Board's operation. The group received submissions from:

Arena Leisure Plc
Ascot Racecourse
The Association of British Bookmakers
The British Horseracing Board
Gala Coral Group Plc
GG Media Ltd.
Industry Committee (Horseracing) Ltd.
The Jockey Club
Ladbrokes Plc
The National Association of Bookmakers
The National Trainers Federation
Northern Racing Ltd.
The Racecourse Association
The Racehorse Owners' Association
The Rails Bookmakers' Association
Satellite Information Services Ltd.
Timothy Hale (in support of the RCA)
Watson Bookmakers Ltd.
Weatherbys Ltd.
William Hill Plc

Should the Government decide to extend the levy beyond 2009 further consultation will be carried out.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to her statement of 18 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 29WS, on funding of horse racing, what progress has been made in working with football leagues to develop solutions to the funding difficulties arising from a judgment by the European Court of Justice. [80846]

Mr. Caborn: I have met with representatives of the premier league, football leagues, Scottish football leagues on a number of occasions to discuss the impact of the European Court of Justice's ruling on database rights.

I understand that a deal is now under negotiation between Football Dataco, which licenses football fixture data, and British bookmakers which I am optimistic will provide guaranteed funding for the football leagues in the short to medium term.

Internet Gambling

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received from gambling addiction support and campaign groups on problem gambling on the internet. [80852]

Mr. Caborn: We have received a number of representations from gambling addiction support groups, faith groups and others about problem gambling and the internet.

We are engaged in regular discussions with these bodies via my Department's Gambling Act Implementation Community Liaison Group.

Public Consultations

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1223W, on consultations, what mechanisms are in place to ensure value for money in public consultations. [80758]

Mr. Lammy: In order to ensure that consultation is as effective as possible, my Department follows the Government's code of practice on consultation. By following the code i.e. carrying out comprehensive

consultation and taking on board the views of those likely to be affected and the views of experts, the Government are more likely to meet its policy objectives. Following each formal consultation, the DCMS is obliged, under the code, to give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy in question.

Radio Licences

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will bring forward legislation to allow her Department *(a)* to intervene in and *(b)* to review the decisions taken by Ofcom in connection with the granting of radio licences; and if she will make a statement. [80170]

Mr. Woodward: The Government have no plans to introduce powers to allow them to intervene in Ofcom's licensing decisions, nor do they believe there is a case for a review at this time.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what appeals mechanism is available to radio stations which have their request for a radio licence rejected by Ofcom; and if she will make a statement. [80171]

Mr. Woodward: If an unsuccessful applicant believes that Ofcom has acted unlawfully then they can ask for the decision to be judicially reviewed.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what radio licences have been granted in each county in England and Wales since the enactment of the Communications Act 2003; what applications for such licences have been rejected; what the reason for rejection was in each case; and if she will make a statement. [80172]

Mr. Woodward: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom), as independent regulator for the communications sector. Accordingly my officials have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to respond directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Scottish Bed Tax

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment her Department has made of the likely impact of a bed tax on the Scottish tourism industry. [81144]

Mr. Woodward: The Department has not made such an assessment. As is appropriate in the case of an independent review, my Department will fully assess the potential impact of any recommendations that Sir Michael Lyons makes in his final report on the function, future role and funding of local government once he has made them.

The Public, West Bromwich

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether work has recommenced on The Public arts organisation in West Bromwich. [80623]

Mr. Lammy: Some enabling works on the site of The Public will take place during the summer, but it is anticipated that more significant activity will recommence on the site in early October.

Following the agreement of a rescue package for the arts organisation The Public Charity Ltd., the artistic content and gallery commissions have been reviewed and work on testing the content for the gallery will begin shortly.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the role of the Arts Council is in the tendering process for the future use of The Public in West Bromwich. [80624]

Mr. Lammy: Arts Council England are part of a stakeholder group which currently also includes the other funders, Sandwell metropolitan borough council, Advantage West Midlands and the Government office for the west midlands. The brief for the tendering process was written with the joint agreement of this group. Representatives of Arts Council England were involved in the shortlisting of submissions and were on the interview panel for the shortlisted proposals.

Tourism

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many tourist information centres were *(a)* in operation, *(b)* opened and *(c)* closed in England in each year since 2000; [80273]

(2) how many tourists used information centres in England in each year since 2000; [80274]

(3) how much funding Tourism England committed to supporting tourist information centres in each year since 2000. [80275]

Mr. Woodward: Most tourist information centres (TICs) are controlled by local authorities and not funded or managed centrally. The provision of tourism services by local authorities, including TICs, is a discretionary matter for them.

However, VisitBritain has recently conducted a consultation on a strategy for providing national leadership for the tourist information network in England. The proposals, put forward after extensive discussion with the National TIC Steering Group and regional partners, include a range of actions designed to increase efficiency and service standards; increase revenue opportunities; and ensure integration with the 'Englandnet' business support tool.

It is hoped that these actions will strengthen the TIC brand and allow VisitBritain to market the network in Britain and overseas.

Until March 2006, VisitBritain part-funded One NorthEast and the Yorkshire Tourist Board (YTB) to

conduct co-ordination of the network. Between 2000 and 2003, this work was carried out by the regional tourist boards, led by the English Tourism Council. The costs of this work centrally were as follows:

	£
2000-01	110,000
2001-02	100,000
2002-03	97,070
2003-04	56,500
2004-05	56,500
2005-06	56,500

Unfortunately, detailed annual records of the number of TICs and their visitor numbers are not held centrally. There were approximately 560 TICs in 2000 and there are about 514 now. YTB made a rough estimate in 2002 that around 75 million visits were made to England's TICs. The acquisition of improved data on these matters is an important element of VisitBritain's current proposals.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Finance Director

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of the Electoral Commission. [80078]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not have a specific post of finance director, but that the responsibilities of its Director of Corporate Services, Roger Gough, include Finance, as well as Human Resources, IT, Procurement and Facilities. Mr. Gough has a Diploma in Management. Before becoming Director of Corporate Services at the Electoral Commission, Mr. Gough was a Director of Resources in the magistrates courts service for seven years.

TREASURY

Building Costs (2012 Olympics)

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of possible inflation of building costs in *(a)* London, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England as a result of the construction work associated with the 2012 Olympics. [80132]

Mr. Timms: The Treasury has made no estimate of the possible inflation of building costs as a result of the construction work associated with the 2012 Olympics. As announced in January, the Public Sector Construction Clients' Forum, set up by the Office of Government Commerce, is carrying out a project to examine the construction industry's capacity to deliver planned national capital construction programmes, including the provision of the Olympics infrastructure, in the period 2005 to 2015.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average cost was to his Department of replying to a letter written by *(a)* an hon. Member, *(b)* a Member of the House of Lords, *(c)* a member of the public writing to a Minister at the Department and *(d)* an internal letter written by another Minister, in the last period for which figures are available; and how much of the cost was accounted for by (i) officials time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80169]

John Healey: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to correspondence from Members of both Houses of Parliament. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78ws.

Information relating to costs is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Custom Entry Clearances

Nick Harvey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 5767W, on AK-47s, what UK custom entry clearances have been issued to UK-based companies for the import into the UK from Bosnia of *(a)* military vehicles and *(b)* assault rifles since June 2003. [79909]

Dawn Primarolo: Since June 2003 UK Customs have issued six entry clearances to UK companies in respect of imports of military vehicles from Bosnia that have been recorded under Commodity Code heading 871 00000 which covers military vehicles.

Since June 2003 UK Customs have issued nine entry clearances to UK companies in respect of imports under Commodity Code 9301 9000 (other military weapons, other than revolvers, pistols and arms in heading 9307). Entry clearance is issued on the basis that import licenses had been granted prior to importation.

Death Statistics

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to ensure that the data on deaths that would be released under clause 11 of the Police and Justice Bill cannot directly or indirectly be misused by commercial organisations; how the activities of commercial organisations will be monitored in relation to the use of such data; and what penalties would be available if the data were misused. [80536]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, 28 June 2006:

As Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what steps are to be taken to ensure that data on deaths that would be released under clause 11 of the Police and Justice Bill

cannot directly or indirectly be misused by commercial organisations; how the activities of commercial organisations will be monitored in relation to the use of such data; and what penalties would be available if the data were misused. (80536)

It is the case now that death registration data is in the public domain as soon as any death is registered. The data is, however, difficult to access in bulk in England and Wales and is not accessible using modern technology. The intention of the provision is to reduce the scope for criminal activity arising from the fraudulent use of a dead person's identity, and to do so by making data available more quickly and in a more accessible format than is permitted at present.

It is recognised that provision of the data quickly and in bulk does create a need for additional controls. Any commercial organisation seeking to utilise data on deaths would need to demonstrate clearly that it would be used in such a way as to fulfil the intent of the clause by enabling the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of offences, and no data will be released unless that is the case. A regime is being designed, based on those criteria, to enable rigorous assessment of applications for receipt of the data.

The data will be released subject to strict conditions, and subsequent misuse of it will, lead as a minimum to withdrawal of the supply of data to the organisation concerned; further penalties would depend on the nature of the improper use.

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the most recent death rate from heart disease was in *(a)* Stoke-on-Trent, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England. [80604]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 28 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the most recent death rate from heart disease was in (a) Stoke-on-Trent (b) the West Midlands and (c) England. I am replying in her absence. (80604)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2004 and these are given in the following table.

Death rates[1] from coronary heart disease[2] for Stoke-on-Trent local authority, West Midlands Government Office Region and England[3], by sex, 2004[4]

	Stoke-on-Trent	West Midlands	England
Male	215	157	155
Female	85	73	73

[1] Rates per 100,000 population standardised to the European Standard Population.
[2] The cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The codes used are listed below:
Coronary heart disease—ICD-10120-125
Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause.
[3] Usual residents of these areas.
[4] Deaths registered in 2004.

Invoice Payments

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of bills presented by private organisations to *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs were paid within (i) 10 days, (ii) 20 days, (iii) 30 days, (iv) 60 days and (v) 90 days in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [80642]

John Healey: The Treasury aims to pay all invoices within contractual conditions or 30 days from the receipt of goods or service, whichever is the later. We monitor performance against the 30 day target. Further analysis could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

For the 12 month period ending 31 March 2006, 94.7 per cent. of undisputed Treasury and Debt Management Office invoices and 99.5 per cent. of undisputed Office of Government Commerce invoices were paid within 30 days. HMRC settled 98.8 per cent. of invoices within 30 days of receipt of goods or service.

Improving payment performance continues to be a priority and is reported in the relevant resource accounts.

Long-term Unemployment

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency, *(b)* the Tees Valley sub-region and *(c)* the North East Region were long-term unemployed in each year since 1989. [80539]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 28 June 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question about unemployment. (80539)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of long-term unemployed for the Hartlepool parliamentary constituency, the Tees Valley sub-region and the North East region for each 12 months ending February 1999 to February 2004, from the annual LFS, and for the 12 months to December 2004 from the APS. Data are not available for earlier years.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Changes in the estimates from year to year should be treated with particular caution.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (ISA). Table 2 shows the annual average number of people claiming ISA for more than 12 months resident in the Hartlepool parliamentary constituency, the Tees Valley sub-region and the North East region for the calendar years 1989-2005. Data are not available for the Hartlepool constituency prior to 1996.

Table 1: Number of long-term unemployed[1] in the Hartlepool parliamentary constituency, the Tees Valley sub-region and the North East region

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12 months ending:	Hartlepool	Tees Valley sub-region	North East
February 1999	2	9	33
February 2000	1	11	33
February 2001	1	10	28
February 2002	1	7	24
February 2003	1	6	20
February 2004	1	5	17
December 2004	1	5	15

[1] 12 months and over.
Notes:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates from year to year should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Table 2: Number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months[1] in the Hartlepool parliamentary constituency, the Tees Valley sub-region and the North East region: annual averages: 1989-2005

	Hartlepool	Tees Valley sub-region	North East
1989	n/a	10,815	36,970
1990	n/a	8,465	28,730
1991	n/a	9,815	33,060
1992	n/a	12,830	45,025
1993	n/a	15,580	53,170
1994	n/a	16,000	54,225
1995	n/a	14,570	49,735
1996	1,835	13,415	45,745
1997	1,615	10,435	33,785
1998	1,415	8,420	24,660
1999	1,240	6,750	20,305
2000	855	5,240	16,680
2001	625	4,240	13,365
2002	520	3,195	10,390
2003	350	2,545	7,960
2004	270	2,170	6,445
2005	270	2,000	5,700

n/a = Not available.
[1] Computerised claims only. Data rounded to nearest five for disclosure control.
Source:
Jobcentre plus administrative system.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what records are kept in his Department of Private Members' Bills introduced; and if he will make a statement. [80168]

John Healey: The Treasury complies with the requirements of the Public Records Act 1967 and maintains such records of Private Members' Bills and other parliamentary business as may be required for operational purposes. Information relating to Private Members' Bills is available from published sources and from the House authorities.

Recruitment

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on recruitment, search and selection agencies in each of the last five years. [68335]

John Healey: The Treasury and its agencies do not record recruitment, search and selection agency costs separate from other recruitment expenditure. This information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sickness Absence

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [73036]

John Healey: The information requested in respect of the Treasury is as follows:

	Number of staff		
Spells of sickness absence	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Two	125	165	193
Three	71	71	85
Four	46	47	62
Five or more	43	57	64

Spring Departmental Report

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he plans to publish the HM Revenue and Customs Spring Departmental Report; in which month the Spring Report was published in each of the past five years; and if he will make a statement. [80010]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* The HMRC Spring Departmental Report 2006 will be published on 29 June 2006 (Cm6832).

The following table gives details of the Spring Report publication dates as requested.

HMRC	*Publication June 2005*	*Command number Cm6542*
Inland Revenue	May 2004	Cm6225
	May 2003	Cm5925
	June 2002[1]	Cm5428
	2001	No report published[2]
HM Customs and Excise	May 2004	Cm6224
	May 2003	Cm5924
	June 2002	Cm5427
	April 2001	Cm5117

[1] This was published as Inland Revenue: the Government's Expenditure Plans for 2002-04
[2] Inland Revenue: the Government's Expenditure Plans for 2000-01 to 2001-02 (Cm4117) was published in April 2000.

Tax Credits

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 2222W, on tax credits, what the results of the surveys to assess the effectiveness of tax credits communications were; and if he will place the results of the surveys in the Library. [50584]

Dawn Primarolo: Summaries of the tracking research have been placed in the Library of the House.

Teenage Pregnancy and Life Expectancy

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the most recent *(a)* teenage pregnancy rate and *(b)* life expectancy rate was in (i) Stoke-on-Trent, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England. [80602]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 28 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the most recent *(a)* teenage

pregnancy rate and *(b)* life expectancy rate was in (i) Stoke-on-Trent, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England. I am replying in her absence. (80602)

Available figures are estimates of the number of pregnancies that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or termination.

Teenage conception rates for 2004 (the most recent year for which data are available) are given in Table A. Data for 2004 are provisional.

Figures for life expectancy at birth for English regions and local authorities are published annually by ONS based on three-year rolling averages. The most recent figures, for 2002-04, are included in Table B.

Table A: Teenage pregnancy rate, 2004

Region	*Rate*[1]
Stoke-on-Trent	67.4
West Midlands	45.0
England	41.5

[1] Rates for women aged under 18 are based on the population of women aged 15-17.

Table B: Life expectancy at birth (years) by sex, 2002-04[1]

Region	*Male*	*Female*
Stoke-on-Trent	73.2	78.7
West Midlands	75.9	80.6
England	76.55	80.91

[1] Results are based on deaths registered in 2002-04 and mid-year population estimates for these years.

Tobacco Products (Duty)

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of *(a)* the proportion of tobacco products consumed in the UK on which duty has not been paid due to smuggling and fraud in each year since 1997 and *(b)* the resultant cost to the Exchequer. [80793]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs estimates of the proportion of tobacco products consumed in the UK on which duty has not been paid due to smuggling and fraud are available from 1999-2000.

The proportion of cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco consumed in the UK on which duty has not been paid due to smuggling and fraud and the resultant cost to the Exchequer for 2000-01 to 2003-04 are given in Table 3.3 and Table 3.5 respectively of "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2005", published by HM Revenue and Customs in December 2005 and is available from the House of Commons Library. The proportion of cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco consumed in the UK on which duty has not been paid due to smuggling and fraud for 1999-2000 can be found in Table 3.2 and Table 3.5 respectively of "Measuring indirect tax losses" published in November 2002 by HM Customs and Excise, also available from the House of Commons Library, with the corresponding resultant cost to the Exchequer in Table 3.1 and 3.4 respectively.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City Regions Programme

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the city regions project on *(a)* Herefordshire and *(b)* other low wage economies. [80188]

Mr. Woolas: Cities and city regions are often the economic drivers of economic growth within the wider region. Economic growth within the cities and city regions will often provide knock on benefits to the wider region. We are conscious, however, that no one size fits all and in considering the business case proposals from the core cities we are giving careful thought as to their impact on smaller towns and rural areas outside the city region.

My officials are working with DEFRA who are looking into the impact of city regions on rural areas both within and outside city regions. This research includes a number of case studies, one of which concentrates on the Birmingham city region and its impact on South Shropshire, the rural district with the highest proportion of employees earning less than two-thirds of the English median.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average cost to her Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80471]

Angela E. Smith: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS.

The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Draft Housing Regulations

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will place in the Library copies of the responses to his Department's consultation on Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing Draft Regulations. [62287]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

I have made arrangements for copies of the responses received to the consultation exercise on the draft regulations relating to Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and Selective Licensing to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

EU Directive 2002/91/EC

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* local authorities will be funded under the new burdens procedure for the implementation of articles 7 to 10 to

EU directive 2002/91/EC and *(b)* the polluter pays principle will apply in relation to the implementation of these articles. [78260]

Angela E. Smith: The EU energy performance of buildings directive will impact on a number of areas of local authority responsibility as it will on other property owners. The new burdens requirement does not apply to policies which apply the same rules to local authorities and to private sector bodies, unless these have a disproportionate effect on local government. My officials are engaging with key stakeholders including local authorities on how the directive will be implemented.

A statutory instrument and supporting regulatory impact assessment is scheduled for early 2007 and a decision on whether the new burdens procedure and funding applies will be taken at that point. Consistent with polluter pays principles this regulatory impact assessment will also include the social cost of carbon when assessing the costs and benefits of implementing articles 7 to 10 of the directive.

Fire Service

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deliberate *(a)* vehicle fires and *(b)* fires there were in (i) Southend-on-Sea, (ii) Essex, (iii) Hertfordshire and (iv) England and Wales in each year since 1990. [80251]

Angela E. Smith: The available information covers deliberate primary fires attended by fire and rescue services at the locations listed in (ii), (iii) and (iv) of the question.

Information for Southend-on-Sea is not available centrally.

Deliberate road vehicle primary fires attended by fire and rescue services 1990-91 to 2004-05

	Essex	Hertfordshire	England and Wales
1990-91	682	368	25,433
1991-92	895	484	38,929
1992-93	840	533	44,631
1993-94	544	398	40,889
1994-95	679	422	34,561
1995-96	520	419	39,531
1996-97	610	376	39,315
1997-98	659	450	39,146
1998-99	783	448	46,880
1999-2000	1,123	782	59,580
2000-01	1,595	839	63,678
2001-02	1,696	894	73,695
2002-03	1,609	881	69,413
2003-04	1,463	824	63,535
2004-05	1,000	598	48,028

Deliberate primary fires in other locations attended by fire and rescue services 1990-91 to 2004-05

	Essex	Hertfordshire	England and Wales
1990-91	452	278	23,628
1991-92	485	331	25,826
1992-93	417	349	27,411
1993-94	457	323	30,382
1994-95	656	341	37,807

Deliberate primary fires in other locations attended by fire and rescue services 1990-91 to 2004-05

	Essex	Hertfordshire	England and Wales
1995-96	581	470	38,155
1996-97	479	497	37,908
1997-98	485	360	34,475
1998-99	540	387	31,723
1999-2000	634	424	34,962
2000-01	733	412	33,653
2001-02	788	429	38,092
2002-03	705	353	33,782
2003-04	670	437	36,529
2004-05	527	331	30,139

Notes:
1. Figures are based on the sampled data grossed to fires and rescue service totals.
2. Figures exclude any fires in November 2002 and January-February 2003 strike periods.

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG

Home Information Packs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to what criteria the energy performance certificate within home information packs will have to conform to meet the EU directive on the energy performance of buildings; what standard measurement scale will be used; whether different measurements will be required where there are different types of construction within the same building; and whether the energy performance certificate will be required to include information on *(a)* roof insulation, *(b)* cavity wall insulation, *(c)* hot water tank insulation and *(d)* improvements that could be made. [75419]

Yvette Cooper: The regulations laid before Parliament on 14 June 2006 and made under part 5 of the Housing Act 2004 require that the Energy Performance Certificate within the Home Condition Report complies with the legislation implementing the EU energy performance of buildings directive.

The methodology used to prepare reports will be the reduced data standard assessment procedure (RDSAP) for residential property up to 450 sq m. For larger or more unusual homes, the methodology used will be the simplified building energy method (SBEM).

Home inspectors will collect a standard data set that identifies size, construction, levels of existing insulation, heating and heating controls. It will provide both energy and environmental impact ratings on an A-G grade. It will also give an indication of energy costs, suggestions for measures to cut energy bills and improve the home's performance ratings, and for other measures to reduce CO_2 emissions.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the likely annual cost to vendors of home information packs; and what estimate she has made of the total annual value to purchasers of the packs. [76033]

Yvette Cooper: The regulatory impact assessment published on 14 June 2006 alongside the home

information pack regulations sets out the expected costs and benefits of home information packs. A copy of this document is in the House Library.

Estimates of the cost of the components of HIPs in the current market suggest an average cost of around £600 to £700 plus VAT to compile. Most of this cost is not new and is being met at present by both sellers and buyers. Some providers have already said they would offer HIPs at reduced cost or even free.

HIPs are expected to reduce the abortive and duplicated costs to consumers caused by failed transactions which result from survey or valuation inspection findings.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the annual number of derogations the Government will grant as a result of information for home information packs not being available at the time of sale. [76068]

Yvette Cooper: The legislation does not provide for the Government to make derogations. The home information pack regulations laid on 14 June 2006 allow for cases where despite all reasonable efforts, certain documents are unavailable or cannot be obtained. In such cases, marketing may begin without those documents. Where documents are temporarily unavailable, efforts to obtain the missing information must continue, with documents added to the pack as soon as they are available. The pack must also make clear what information is missing, why, and what steps are being taken to obtain it.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely impact of home condition reports contained in home information packs on the market value of low value properties. [76086]

Yvette Cooper: It is important that sellers and buyers should have reliable information about the condition of properties they are considering up front, particularly as this reduces significantly the risk of transaction failure, wasted costs, duplication and unexpected repair costs once the buyer has moved in. The Home Condition Report will bring transparency to the process and ensure that negotiations regarding sale price reflect the condition of the property.

The Government commissioned research in 2000 and 2003 on the potential implications of home information packs (HIPs) for low value and low demand properties. They also consulted in March 2003 on whether there should be special arrangements in such cases. The findings of the research and consultation showed that buyers, sellers and local property professionals felt that HIPs could help the functioning of the market in those areas, and that exempting particular properties or areas of properties could reduce demand and therefore prices even further.

Local Authority Employees (Assaults)

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* physical and *(b)* verbal assaults there have been on local authority employees in each of the last five years, broken down by (i) employment type and (ii) region. [80866]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not held centrally and cannot be collected without a disproportionate cost.

Local Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by listing officers to local authority chief executives to which reference was made in ODPM council tax letter 1/2005. [70569]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 June 2006.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 20 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1699W, on council tax, when he placed in the Library a copy of the draft letter from the Valuation Office Agency to local authorities on sharing information. [66312]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The draft letter from the Valuation Office Agency to local authorities on sharing information has now been placed in the Library.

Neighbourhood Management Schemes

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she is reviewing the roll-out of neighbourhood management schemes across England; and if she will make a statement. [79233]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* The Government funded Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder programme was established in July 2001 with the creation of 20 Pathfinders with an additional 15 Pathfinders launched in December 2003. Further Government funding for neighbourhood management schemes is included in the neighbourhood element of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund of Local Area Agreements, enabling 84 local authorities covering the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods to develop and extend neighbourhood management schemes if they wish.

In addition to the 35 Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders, and new initiatives being developed under the neighbourhood element, there are already over 200 other neighbourhood management initiatives, usually set up by local authorities or Local Strategic Partnerships and mostly funded by the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

Social Services (Child Removals)

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many children were removed from their parents by social services in each year since 1995. [78338]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

The numbers of children who have been removed from their parents as a result of an Emergency Protection Order (EPO) being issued by the family courts, in response to applications from local authority social/children' services, are shown in the following table. The table shows the number of children who started to be looked after following the making of EPOs during each of the years ending 31 March 1995 to 31 March 2005.

Children who started to be looked after during the years ending 31 March 1995 to 31 March 2005 by legal status on starting[1, 2, 3]

Emergency protection order	*Number*
1995[4]	1,500
1996[4]	1,600
1997[4]	1,500
1998[5]	1,700
1999[5]	1,700
2000[5]	1,700
2001[5]	1,200
2002[5]	1,400
2003[5]	1,300
2004[4]	1,300
2005[4]	1,400

[1] Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.

[2] Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.

[3] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, the data are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive are suppressed and replaced by a hyphen (-). Zero (0) is shown only when the number submitted was zero. As a consequence of our rounding and suppression figures may not sum to the total.

[4] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which before 1997-98 and since 2003-04 covered all looked after children.

[5] Figures are derived from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey between 1997-98 and 2002-03.

Swindon Borough Council

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings officials from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister held with Swindon borough councillors in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005. [80859]

Angela E. Smith: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Delivery Centres

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on progress on the implementation programmes for benefit delivery centres. [76509]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question on the progress of the implementation programmes for Benefit Delivery Centres. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The roll out of the Benefit Delivery Centres is expected to be completed by March 2008.

The move to Benefit Delivery Centres involves the development of detailed implementation plans for each site. These include the steps required to move work from the sites currently processing claims to the new Benefit Delivery Centre to ensure the minimum disruption to performance and customer service.

The first site, in Wellingborough, went live as a Benefit Delivery Centre in April 2006. We are considering the lessons learned from the implementation of that site to inform the main phase of delivery, planned to start in the autumn.

In the interim, to ensure we maintain optimum levels of customer service, we are continuing to deliver benefits from our existing network of offices. Our strategy, in advance of full implementation, is to concentrate work at fewer sites where this is possible. In the last two years we have already reduced the number of processing sites by around 50 per cent. This allows us to move more quickly to the model of Benefit Delivery Centres, which builds upon an improved, more consistent level of customer service.

I hope this is helpful.

Benefits (Peterborough)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average time was taken to rate a claim for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* income support in (i) Peterborough constituency and (ii) the Peterborough city council area in each of the last 10 years. [76621]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 28 June 2006:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question regarding the average time taken to rate a claim for *(a)* Jobseeker's Allowance and *(b)* Income Support in (i) Peterborough constituency and (ii) the Peterborough city council area in each of the last 10 years. This falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Our measure of the time taken to process a claim is the actual average clearance time. Prior to April 2006 the Jobcentre Plus internal key management indicator for processing claims for Income Support (IS) and Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) was 12 working days. Since April 2006, these key management indicators have become official Jobcentre Plus targets; the IS clearance target is 11 days and the JSA clearance target is 12 days.

I am unable to provide information for the last 10 years as our system only holds data from April 2002 when Jobcentre Plus began operations.

For the period April 2002 to March 2005, information is available for the old Peterborough Jobcentre Plus district, which included the constituency of Peterborough and the Peterborough city council area. From April 2005 information is only available for the whole of Cambridgeshire.

The available information is in the following tables.

Claim processing times in Peterborough Jobcentre Plus District

	Benefit	Target in days	Actual average clearance time in days
April 2002 to March 2003	Income Support	12	14.44
	Jobseeker's Allowance	12	12.19
April 2003 to March 2004	Income Support	12	19.65
	Jobseeker's Allowance	12	12.38
April 2004 to March 2005	Income Support	12	16.84
	Jobseeker's Allowance	12	12.45

Claim processing times in Cambridgeshire

	Benefit	Target in days	Actual average clearance time in days
April 2005 to March 2006	Income Support	12	13.99
	Jobseeker's Allowance	12	12.72
April 2006 to May 2006	Income Support	11	17.37
	Jobseeker's Allowance	12	17.47

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Management Information System Programme.

Jobcentre Plus is transforming the service it provides by making it available via the telephone, via the internet and through the personal service offered to people in Jobcentre Plus offices. We are also committed to implementing a major efficiency programme to deliver headcount savings.

On 30 January we launched a national action plan designed to reduce clearance times. The plan focuses on providing delivery units with specific tools and best practice guidance to enable them to improve their performance. Senior operational managers provided a formal assurance at the end of February that they were complying with all elements of the national action plan.

The chief operating officer is monitoring performance very closely and is addressing performance variations in benefit clearance times in specific locations and the actions required to clear backlogs. It should be acknowledged that concentrating on backlogs of work may initially cause average clearance times to rise.

I hope this is helpful.

Carer's Allowance

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will introduce proposals to enable carers to receive carer's allowance after the age of 60. [80384]

Mrs. McGuire: Carer's allowance, formerly known as invalid care allowance, has always been available to carers aged below state pension age. From 1994 it was made available to women aged between 60 and 65, and from 2002 we abolished the upper age limit for making a claim.

People entitled to carer's allowance can have the additional amount for carers, currently £26.35 a week, included in the assessment of their pension credit. This applies both to those in receipt of carer's allowance and those who cannot be paid because they are receiving at least an equivalent amount from a state pension. It is a basic principle of the social security system that only one benefit at a time can be paid for the same purpose. Even though the circumstances which give rise to carer's allowance and state pension are different, they are both designed to provide a degree of replacement for lost or forgone income. We have no plans to change the current arrangements.

As at November 2005, more than 42,500 people aged 60 or over were receiving carer's allowance and more than 181,800 had the additional amount for carers included in their pension credit.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the amount of carer's allowance for which there was eligibility but no claims in each of the last five years. [80446]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* Entitlement to carer's allowance depends on whether the qualifying conditions are satisfied, and this can be reliably established only after a claim has been made. There are no data available from which a reliable estimate might be made of the number of carers who would meet the conditions if they claimed.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support the benefits system provides for those who become carers of vulnerable people after they themselves have passed retirement age; whether this differs from those who become carers before their age of retirement; what plans he has to change the system to improve the treatment of carers who are over retirement age; and if he will make a statement. [66763]

Mrs. McGuire: Carers have equal access to the full range of income maintenance social security benefits, whether they are above or below state pension age. In particular, they are able to apply equally for carer's allowance, which is an income maintenance benefit for people who regularly spend at least 35 hours a week caring for a severely disabled person.

Lower-income people of pension age may receive pension credit in addition to their state pension. Pension credit recipients are guaranteed a weekly income of £114.05 for a single person or £174.05 for a couple. Carers entitled to carer's allowance have the carer's additional amount, currently £26.35 a week, included in the assessment of their pension credit. For both working age and pension age carers entitled to carer's allowance, additional help is available through the carer premium, also set at £26.35 a week, in housing benefit and council tax benefit. This premium is available to working age carers in income support and income-based jobseeker's allowance.

The overlapping benefits rules, which mean that two income maintenance benefits cannot be paid together, also apply equally to carers below state pension age receiving benefits such as incapacity benefit and to pension age carers receiving basic state pension.

We have no plans to change these arrangements.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what aggregate amount was paid to senior civil servants in the Child Support Agency in bonus payments related to performance in 2005-06. [78050]

Mrs. McGuire: Bonus payments to senior civil servants in the Child Support Agency for performance in 2005-06 have still to be decided. Annual bonus payments are normally paid in July.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the criminal offences created in legislation sponsored by his Department since April 2005, broken down by Act. [76901]

Mrs. McGuire: The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (c.13) is the only DWP sponsored primary legislation since April 2005. The criminal offences created in that Act are:

(i) Section (7)(2)(b) adds 'a rail vehicle accessibility compliance certificate' to the list of relevant documents in section 49(1) of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, in respect of which it is already an offence for such a document to be forged, altered etc or for a false statement be made knowingly for the purpose of obtaining such a document. The amendment has yet to be brought into force;

(ii) Section 8(2) inserts a new subsection (5) into section 49 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 Act to make it an offence to falsely pretend to be a person authorised to inspect rail vehicles for conformity with rail vehicle accessibility regulations. The provision has yet to be brought into force;

(iii) Section 9 inserts a new section 21A into the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 (c.44) in relation to badges issued outside Great Britain; subsection (4) of the new section makes it an offence to display a badge purporting to be a recognised badge unless it is a recognised badge and is displayed in accordance with regulations to be made under subsection (3). Subsection (8) makes it an offence to fail without reasonable excuse, to produce a badge when required to do so by a constable or enforcement officer. This provision came into force as regards England on 30 June 2005.

(iv) Section 10(3) inserts a new subsection (2B) into section 16B of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 which makes it an offence for a person knowingly or recklessly to make a false or misleading statement to the effect that publication of a particular advert would not be unlawful by reason of the operation of subsection. (2); For the sake of completeness, the following provisions of Schedule 1 to that Act make amendments to other primary legislation which insert new offences into that legislation:

(v) Schedule 1, Part 2, paragraph 43(3) inserts a new subsection (6A) into section 105 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (c.27). This makes it an offence to leave a vehicle stationary in contravention of any prohibition or restriction, where an immobilisation device could have been fixed to the vehicle if it had not been displaying a current recognised badge (defined by section 21A of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970), where the vehicle was not being used in accordance with regulations under s21A of the 1970 Act and in circumstances where a concession would not be available to a vehicle lawfully displaying a recognised badge. This provision also came into force as regards England on 30 June 2005.

(vi) Schedule 1, Part 2, paragraph 44(3) inserts subsection (1A) into section 117 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (c.27). This makes it an offence for a person to display a badge purporting to be a recognised badge (defined by new section 21A of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970) where they are also breaching a provision of an order relating to parking under the 1984 Act and where the circumstances are such that a concession would be available to someone lawfully displaying a recognised badge. The offence will not be committed provided the badge is a recognised badge and is being displayed in accordance with regulations under section 21A of the 1970 Act. This provision also came into force as regards England on 30 June 2005.

(vii) Schedule 1, Part 2, paragraph 46(3) inserts subsection 2A into section 70 of the Road Traffic Act 1991 (c.40). This creates an offence for cases where an immobilisation device could have been fixed to a vehicle in a designated parking space, had a current recognised badge (defined by section 21A of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970) not been displayed on the vehicle, if the vehicle was not being used in accordance with regulations under that section and the circumstances were such that a disabled person's concession would not be available by virtue of displaying a non-GB badge. This provision also came into force as regards England on 30 June 2005.

(viii) Schedule 1, Part 2, paragraph 48(2) inserts subsection (5A) into section 79 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 (c.18). This states that regulations to be made under that section shall provide that an offence is created where a person is in charge of a vehicle in circumstances where an immobilisation device would have been fixed to the vehicle had a current recognised badge not been displayed on the vehicle and the vehicle is not being used in accordance with regulations under section 21A of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and the circumstances are such that a disabled person's concession would not be available by virtue of displaying a non-GB badge. This provision also came into force as regards England on 30 June 2005.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by his Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77191]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions does not currently keep a separate record of expenditure on alcohol for hospitality purposes. Such expenditure is included within the hospitality account. The Department's current intention is not to subdivide further this analysis of expenditure as it is likely to require significant additional administration and be unlikely to be accurate.

All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles set out in Government Accounting. Accordingly, alcohol is provided only as an exception and only with the specific written authority of a small number of designated senior civil servants.

Departmental Staff

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the *(a)* operation and *(b)* staffing of the Appeals Service from March 2007. [78489]

Vera Baird: My hon. Friend's question to ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the *(a)* operation and *(b)* staffing of the Appeals Service from March 2007 onwards has been referred to the Department for Constitutional Affairs for reply. With effect from 3 April 2006, the Appeals Service, now known as Social Security and Child Support Appeal Tribunal (SSCSA), transferred

from the Department for Work and Pensions and became part of the Tribunals Service, an Agency of the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

The SSCSA continues to meet all of its targets and delivers an efficient service in line with the Tribunals Service 2005-06 Business Plan.

Resource for the SSCSA transferred from DWP to DCA. The staffing of SSCSA will be maintained in line with its workload and the resources available to the Department overall.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled staff his Department has employed in each year since 2000. [79934]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is contained in the table.

The information is representative of the disabled status as voluntarily declared by individual members of staff. Not all staff who are registered disabled declare themselves as such for departmental records, and the true figure may be higher than the figures shown.

These figures represent a snapshot of the Staff in Post on 1 April for each year shown and the proportion of disabled staff. The Department for Work and Pensions was created in July 2001, and figures prior to 2002 were unobtainable.

Table 1: Number and proportion of disabled staff in DWP

	Staff in post	*Staff in post with a declared disability*	*Percentage of staff in post with a declared disability*
2006	127,795	6,429	5.25
2005	134,494	6,896	5.13
2004	142,675	7,094	5.38
2003	139,906	7,485	5.76
2002	138,578	7,941	5.99

Industrial Action (Newcastle)

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the industrial action on the Newcastle Civil Service Estate between the Public and Commercial Services Union and MacLellan. [80555]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions does not have a policy on the industrial action on the Newcastle Civil Service Estate. The dispute is between the Public and Commercial Services Union and MacLellan. The staff involved were formerly part of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential impact of the industrial action between Public and Commercial Services Union and MacLellan on the work of his Department carried out on the Newcastle Civil Service Estate. [80557]

Mrs. McGuire: The industrial action between Public and Commercial Services Union and MacLellan has had minimal impact on the Department for Work and Pensions business in Newcastle. Core business has not been affected and security has not been compromised.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the implementation of the Working Together programme in Jobcentre Plus. [76520]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 28 June 2006:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the implementation of the Working Together programme in Jobcentre Plus. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Working Together programme has been developed in response to the significant challenges our business faces. It provides an opportunity for everyone across Jobcentre Plus to be involved in creating the working environment needed to ensure the continued success of our organisation, and helps to build understanding and commitment to our vision and to new ways of working. It also ensures our managers have the skills, tools and confidence to lead their people through change.

Working Together is currently rolled out in 384 sites, 370 of which are Jobcentres, 8 are Contact Centres, and 6 are Benefit Delivery Centres. Managers receive coaching from Working Together facilitators and people are given the time and resources to help create a better working environment, and work with their managers to implement development plans.

To date, 46 per cent of our staff are participating in the Working Together programme and the remainder will participate in the near future.

Feedback to date from participants of the programme has been very positive and our formal evaluation process starts in July.

Jobseeker Assistance

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements are made by his Department *(a)* to assess and *(b)* to report the incidence of learning disabilities among jobseekers. [76318]

Mrs. McGuire: The Labour Market System (LMS) is the computer system used in Jobcentre Plus, part of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), that holds details of customer personal information, employer vacancies and opportunities provided by suppliers of training and work-based learning activities.

There is a marker on LMS for 'people with a disability'. However that is only used when the customer themselves identify that they have a disability which would be a barrier to work. Not everyone with a disability will identify themselves in this way so any data will only include a proportion of those who have a disability. The marker covers all disabilities but it does not break the figure down by type.

No other specific arrangements have been made to assess or report the incidence of learning disabilities among jobseekers.

Medical Assessments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost is per appeal against a medical assessment decision for benefit entitlement. [76885]

Vera Baird: The hon. Gentleman's question to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions regarding what the average cost is per appeal against a medical assessment decision for benefit entitlement has been referred to the Department for Constitutional Affairs for reply. With effect of 3 April 2006, appeals against social security benefit decisions are now the responsibility of the Tribunals Service, which is an Agency of the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

The information the hon. Gentleman has asked for is not available in the format requested as unit costs are measured over the entire appeal caseload and not broken down specifically by benefit type.

The average unit cost for processing an appeal is £253 and takes into account all Agency costs including overheads.

Pathways to Work

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when he expects to let contracts with private and voluntary sector providers to manage Pathways to Work in new areas; [77935]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that the Pathways to Work procurement process complies with the duties and other provisions established under the Equalities Act 2006. [77936]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are still finalising our plans for a national roll-out of Pathways to Work. In our Green Paper we said the next phase of the roll-out will be delivered primarily through voluntary and private sector providers contracted locally. The private and voluntary sectors have already demonstrated the value of their specialist knowledge and expertise in existing DWP programmes and will continue to provide major benefits. We hope to make an announcement shortly, which will lead to the start of the procurement exercise.

We will ensure that providers comply with the Equalities Act 2006. The accreditation process prior to the award of a contract confirms that providers have robust equality and diversity policies, and the Jobcentre Plus terms and conditions place contractual obligations on providers in respect of the Equalities Act 2006.

Pensioner Benefits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of pensioners entitled to (i) means tested benefits and (ii) pension credit in (A) 2010, (B) 2020, (C) 2030, (D) 2040 and (E) 2050 based on the proposals set out in the Pension White Paper Cm 6841; and if he will make a statement. [75512]

James Purnell *[holding answer 8 June 2006]:* The information is not available in the format requested. The information available is shown in the following table.

The numbers eligible for pension credit in the future are subject to a range of uncertainties and a number of factors including policies on uprating different benefits. Table 1 shows the projected number and proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit under the proposals contained in the White Paper "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system."

Table 1: Projected number and proportion of pensioner households eligible to pension credit for selected years under the White Paper proposals

	Number of pensioner households eligible (£ million)	*Proportion of pensioner households eligible (percentage)*
2010	4.15	44
2020	3.45	41
2030	2.95	31
2040	2.80	27
2050	2.95	29

Notes:

1. Long-run projections of the number and proportion of pensioners eligible for means tested benefits under the White Paper proposals are not available.
2. Projections of the number and proportion of pensioners eligible for pension credit are sensitive to modelling assumptions and to projected changes in the distribution of pensioner incomes.
3. The estimates of proportions shown here are the mid-points of projections taken from two separate micro-simulation models. Modelling of the reform proposals does not include any increase in private saving from the introduction of personal accounts, which would further reduce the numbers eligible for pension credit.
4. Projections of the number of pensioners eligible for pension credit are derived from the projected proportions eligible and projections of the number of pensioner households in Great Britain.
5. These projections assume: continued earnings uprating of the standard guarantee credit; earnings uprating of the savings credit threshold from 2008 to 2014; earnings uprating of the basic state pension from 2012; price uprating of the maximum savings credit from 2015; measures to improve coverage of the basic state pension described in the White Paper.
6. Estimates cover all those aged above women's state pension age in the private household population of Great Britain.
7. Estimates account for equalisation of state pension age between 2010 and 2020. They also account for the proposed further increases in state pension age described in the White Paper. The estimates assume that the minimum age at which people can claim pension credit rises in line with women's state pension age.
8. Estimates are calibrated to the mid-points of the 2004-05 National Statistics range estimates of non-eligibility to pension credit, which adjust 2004-05 family resources survey data to take account of possible biases in reporting. Although the estimates here are not presented as ranges, they are subject to a margin of uncertainty.
9. Estimates of the number of pensioner households eligible are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

Security Guards

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions his Department has had with the Security Industry Association on the licensing of security guards on the civil service estate. [80558]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has not had any discussions with the Security Industry Association regarding the licensing of security guards on this Department's civil service estate.

Working-age Benefits

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the pilot of a revised process for handling new and repeat claims for working-age benefits. [76518]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie dated 28 June 2006:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the pilot of a revised process for handling new and repeat claims for working-age benefits. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The pilot is intended to improve customer service by making the service clearer for both customers and staff and streamlining the new and repeat claims process. The main features of the pilot are:

improved information for customers to ensure that they are directed to the right services;

a free telephone claim line number;

fast-track procedures for people making repeat claims and for people who do not require an immediate work focused interview; and

streamlined arrangements for collecting information to support claims.

The pilot has been running since 27 February 2006 for customers served by Jobcentre Plus offices in Grimsby, Scunthorpe, Barton and Immingham, and was extended to customers in Central London from 24 April. A full evaluation of the pilot will be carried out before any decisions are made to extend the revised process nationally.

I hope this is helpful.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Ambassadors

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 November 2005, *Official Report*, Column 1895W, on ambassadors, how much of the Frais was spent on *(a)* the EU presidency, *(b)* the G8 presidency and *(c)* the visit of HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. [79237]

Mr. Hoon: £6,145 of the Frais of our ambassador in Washington was spent on the visit by their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall in November 2005. The UK's G8 and EU presidencies ran for one year and six months respectively. To provide figures on the amount of Frais spent on both presidencies would require consideration of hundreds of events in 2005 and would incur disproportionate costs.

I would like to take this opportunity to correct the figure of £29,000 previously stated as having been underspent against the ambassador's Frais provision in financial year 2004-05, in the written reply to my hon. Friend by the then Foreign Secretary my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) on 22 November 2005, *Official Report*, Column 1895W. The ambassador's Frais provision was underspent by £27,935 and it was that amount that was carried forward to financial year 2005-06. Taking into account this rollover, there was no increase in the ambassador's total Frais allocation for 2005-06.

Amnesty Law

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice the British high commissioner, Mr. Francois Gordon, gave to Dr. Besigye *(a)* while he was in detention, with particular reference to applying for amnesty under the Amnesty Law which governs the forgiveness of former rebels, and *(b)* after the elections, with particular reference to the acceptance of the results of the elections; and if she will make a statement. [79945]

Mr. McCartney: As chair of the Partners for Democracy and Governance group, the British high commissioner, Mr. Francois Gordon, has met Dr. Besigye on several occasions before and after the February 2006 elections. At these meetings, both parties agreed that the conversations would remain private and confidential.

Ascension Island

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the position of those who have acquired property on Ascension Island. [80214]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 308W. All property on Ascension Island belongs to the Crown. Nevertheless, some parties have entered into arrangements that have no basis in law. We will seek to bring these arrangements into line with legislation that is currently being reviewed. In undertaking this work individual circumstances will be considered sympathetically.

Bermuda Regiment

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many persons conscripted to the Bermuda Regiment have *(a)* declined to serve, *(b)* gone absent without leave for more than one month and *(c)* been (i) charged with and (ii) convicted of (A) desertion, (B) being absent without leave and (C) similar offences; what sentences were imposed in each case; and if she will make a statement. [79264]

Mr. Hoon: Neither my Department nor the Ministry of Defence hold the information requested. Officials

from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have contacted the Bermuda Regiment directly and the Regiment has provided the following information.

For 2006, of the 541 men called up for service in the Bermuda Regiment two were registered as Conscientious Objectors, seven were exempted as 'ministers of a religious denomination', 14 were conditionally deferred to serve in the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, and 94 did not report for medical examination, nor explain their absence in advance. Of these 94 men, 51 are believed to reside in Bermuda, while the whereabouts of the remaining 43 is unknown.

The Bermuda Regiment is a part-time regiment, and the maximum accumulated time put in by any member of the regiment is equivalent, at its maximum, to thirty days in one year. The regiment considers that a man who has been absent without leave for more than three consecutive scheduled or ordered appearances is a long term absentee (LTA). At the time of this parliamentary question the Bermuda Regiment has on its books a total of 65 LTAs.

On the question of desertion the Bermuda Defence Act 1965 makes no provision for such a charge.

Under the Defence Act every soldier who fails to perform military duties is charged internally with unauthorised absence. So far in 2006, 21 such cases have been heard, and all have been found guilty. The commanding officer handed out the following sentences: extra duties (three); monetary fines (four); and re-start the military year (11). The remaining three cases have been referred to the magistrates court, for which there is provision in the Defence Act, where they remain outstanding.

Burma

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information the Government have received about the fatal beating of Burmese democracy activist, Thet Naing Oo. [79253]

Mr. McCartney: We are not able to confirm events surrounding the death of Thet Naing Oo, but believe reports that he was beaten to death by Burmese police officers are broadly accurate. We do not accept the version of events given by the Government media.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Burmese Government on the recent human rights violations in Karen State. [80034]

Margaret Beckett: We condemn the attacks carried out by the Burmese army on civilians in northern and western Karen State.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, raised our concerns on a range of human rights abuses in Burma, including the recent attacks in Karen State, when he summoned the Burmese ambassador on 15 June.

The EU issued a statement on 3 May calling on the Burmese to cease human rights abuses. The statement was sent to the Burmese Ministries of Information and Foreign Affairs.

The statement can be found at the following website: http://www.eu2006.at/en/News/CFSP_Statements/May/0305Myanmar.html?null.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to ensure that Burma is formally discussed at the UN Security Council and a resolution is agreed. [80056]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer my hon. Friend the Minister for Trade gave the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1454W.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 892-93W, on Burma, if she will make a formal written request to the Burmese Government to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. [80345]

Margaret Beckett: In accordance with an agreed common position, EU Ministers believe that it would be inappropriate to visit Burma at this time. Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest since 2003. I shall therefore not be writing to request a meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi. We have repeatedly called for Aung San Suu Kyi to be released, most recently when my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Trade summoned the Burmese ambassador on 15 June.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the last time was that British embassy officials in Rangoon, Burma, were permitted to see Aung San Sui Kyi; and what report on the state of her health was received. [80784]

Mr. McCartney: Our ambassador in Rangoon last met Aung San Suu Kyi on 25 April 2003. Since she was detained on 30 May 2003, the Burmese Government have refused all requests by our ambassador to call on her. United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Ibrahim Gambari was permitted to see Aung San Suu Kyi on 20 May 2006 and commented that she looked well. Aung San Suu Kyi was reported to have fallen ill earlier this month. She was examined by her doctor but was not admitted to hospital. We understand she has now recovered.

Charles Munyaneza

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answers of 6 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 769W, and 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1858W, on Charles Munyaneza, what steps the Government has taken in response to the international arrest warrant issued by the Rwandan Government (ref: RPGR 206/GEN/MJD/RE) in respect of Mr. Charles Munyaneza and submitted to the UK Government in February 2006 for action by the appropriate authorities. [80766]

Joan Ryan: I have been asked to reply. It is a matter of established policy and practice that we do not comment on whether a person may be facing arrest for extradition purposes.

China

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 311W, on China, whether the Government or their representatives and officials had direct contact with Mr. Ching Cheong prior to his arrest on 22 April 2005. [80262]

Mr. McCartney: We can find no record of any direct contact between Mr. Ching Cheong and the Government, their representatives or officials prior to his detention in April 2005.

Extradition Treaty

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with representatives of the United States of America on their ratification of the Extradition Treaty of March 2003; and if she will make a statement. [80121]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions with US representatives about the UK/US Extradition Treaty. However, the then Foreign Secretary my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) wrote to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice about this matter on 20 April. A copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House and a copy sent to my hon. Friend.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government have held with *(a)* the Falkland Islands Government and *(b)* the Argentine Government on exploration for oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters. [79698]

Mr. Hoon: The Government hold regular discussions with the Falkland Islands Government on the exploration for oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters. Most recently these included a meeting between both the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Director General for Defence and Intelligence and the Overseas Territories Department with representatives of the Falkland Islands Government, on 15 June.

There have been no discussions with the Argentine Government on the exploration for oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters since the South West Atlantic Hydro Carbons Commission ceased to meet in July 2000.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what Government policy is on supporting the Falkland Islands in their exploration for gas and oil in their territorial waters. [79699]

Mr. Hoon: The Government are committed to the offshore prospecting policy pursued by the Falkland Islands Government, which is entirely consistent with the United Kingdom's sovereign rights over the Falkland Islands.

Hamas

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her latest assessment is of Hamas's position on meeting the conditions of the international community for donor funding. [80282]

Mr. McCartney: We remain deeply concerned that the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority has not committed to the Quartet's (EU, US, UN and Russia) three principles: to renounce violence, recognise Israel and accept all previous agreements and obligations. Hamas need to start implementing these principles and make clear the path they intend to take now that they face the responsibilities of government.

International Nuclear Fuel Supply Agreement

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1001W, on the International Nuclear Fuel Bank, when she plans to make public the joint US-UK proposals to the International Atomic Energy Agency for a new international nuclear fuel supply agreement; and if she will make a statement. [79851]

Margaret Beckett: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced UK support for the proposal on 26 May during his foreign policy speech at Georgetown University, Washington DC. The UK, alongside France, Germany, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation and the United States, formally presented the initiative to the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors on 12-15 June.

Iraq

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what resources the UK has committed to the promotion of civil society in Iraq; and if she will make a statement. [78820]

Margaret Beckett: The UK has committed over £12 million to programmes that are building civil society capacity in Iraq.

The Department for International Development's (DFID) Political Participation Fund, totalling £7.5 million, supports initiatives which aim to increase opportunities for political representation and participation of poor, vulnerable and marginalised people in the political process. Projects funded so far include voter education and media and monitors training for elections. DFID has also provided 82 grants to civil society organisations. During 2006 the Fund will help to support the constitutional review process and the provincial elections.

DFID's Civil Society Fund (CSF), totalling £5 million, is supporting projects that strengthen the capacity of Iraq civil society organisations. The CSF has supported partnerships between nine international non-governmental organisations and their networks of Iraqi civil society groups. Projects have helped develop women's leadership, provided training for Iraqi trade union leaders, developed child rights, supplied social work training and helped build Iraqi capacity in mine risk education. The civil society organisations receiving support include trade unions, women's groups and humanitarian agencies.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1989W, on the Iraq medal, when she expects to publish the eligibility criteria for the second Iraq medal. [79668]

Margaret Beckett: The eligibility criteria, together with other details of the Iraq Reconstruction Service Medal, will be published when they have been considered by the Committee on the Grant of Honours, Decorations and Medals, and approved by Her Majesty the Queen. I hope that this will be done before the House returns after the summer recess.

Joseph Kony

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the reports that the Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has accepted an invitation from the Lord's Resistance Army leader Joseph Kony to start peace talks; and if she will make a statement. [80287]

Mr. McCartney: President Museveni has indicated a willingness to talk to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) with a view to ending the conflict in northern Uganda. However, we are not aware of any reports that President Museveni has accepted a specific invitation from the LRA to start peace talks. We have seen the media reporting of the meeting between Kony and the Government of Southern Sudan and the reports that they delivered a message from Kony to President Museveni, but the contents of the message have not been shared with us.

The Government of Uganda, along with the Governments of Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo, is obliged to give effect to the International Criminal Court arrest warrants, for the arrest of five LRA Commanders, including Joseph Kony.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance her Department is offering to *(a)* Uganda, *(b)* the southern Sudanese and *(c)* the Democratic Republic of the Congo to arrest the Lord's Resistance Army leader Joseph Kony and his commanders for whom the International Criminal Court has issued an international arrest warrant; and if she will make a statement. [80288]

Mr. McCartney: The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued warrants for the arrest of five Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) Commanders, including Joseph Kony, in October 2005. Responsibility to implement the arrest warrants lies in the first instance with the states on whose territory the five LRA commanders are believed to be, namely, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Sudan. We have not received any requests for assistance in this regard from the Governments of Uganda, the DRC or Sudan.

The UK is a strong supporter of the work of the ICC in its efforts to bring to justice the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity. We continue to urge the Governments of Uganda, the DRC and Sudan to fulfil their commitments to co-operate with the ICC, and to help implement the warrants for the arrest of the five senior LRA commanders, including Kony, as soon as possible.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of reports that South Sudan's Vice President *(a)* recently met the Lord's Resistance Army Chief Joseph Kony, *(b)* gave Mr. Kony $20,000 and *(c)* delivered a message from Mr. Kony to Mr. Museveni; and if she will make a statement. [80285]

Mr. McCartney: We have seen the media reporting of the meeting between Joseph Kony and the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) and are aware of the associated reports that they have provided financial assistance. We have also seen reports that the GoSS delivered a message from Kony to President Museveni, but the contents of the message have not been shared with us.

We continue to urge the Government of Sudan to fulfil their commitment to co-operate with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to help implement the warrants for the arrest of the five senior Lord's Resistance Army commanders, including Kony, as soon as possible. Our ambassador in Khartoum pressed Salva Kiir, President of the Government of Southern Sudan, on the Government's ICC obligations on 10 May 2006. The UK-led UN Security Council delegation, which visited southern Sudan on 8 June 2006, also raised the issue with President Kiir.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Private Members' Bills were drafted by her Department in each Session since 1997; and which of those subsequently received Royal Assent. [77491]

Margaret Beckett: Since 1997 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has assisted in the drafting of one Private Member's Bill, the Commonwealth Bill, in partnership with the hon. Member for Havant (Mr. Willetts). This Bill received Royal Assent in 2002.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has for legislation in the next Session of Parliament; and if she will make a statement. [77493]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 16 June 2006 by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

Madagascar

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1149W, on Madagascar, what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of diplomatic links with Madagascar. [80131]

Mr. McCartney: Once the new non-resident ambassador to and Honorary Consul in Madagascar are accredited, we expect diplomatic links with Madagascar to be adequate to meet our objectives. Our requests for accreditation remain with Malagasy authorities. We await their response.

Palestine

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) when she expects the Quartet aid mechanism to the Palestinians to take effect; and if she will make a statement; [78828]

(2) what representations she has made to her US counterparts regarding the form and implementation of the Quartet aid mechanism to the Palestinians; and if she will make a statement. [78829]

Margaret Beckett: We welcome the agreement on the Temporary International Mechanism reached at the 15 June European Council, and the 17 June Quartet (EU, US, UN and Russia) statement endorsing it. The full text of the statement can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?Pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1150454868713.

The UK has played an important role in establishing the mechanism, holding regular discussions with our EU and Quartet partners, including the US. There are still some technical details to work out, but the European Commission and World Bank are now working to set this up as quickly as possible.

We hope parts of the mechanism will begin to deliver support in July.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in establishing new mechanisms for funding the Palestinian people. [80278]

Mr. McCartney: We welcome the agreement on the Temporary International Mechanism reached at 15 June European Council, and the 17 June Quartet (EU, US, UN and Russia) statement endorsing it. The UK has played an important role in establishing the mechanism, holding regular discussions with our EU and Quartet partners, including the US. There are still some technical details to work out but the European Commission and World Bank are now working to set this up as quickly as possible.

We hope parts of the mechanism will begin to deliver support in July.

A copy of the 17 June Quartet statement can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1150454868713.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of law and order in the West Bank and Gaza. [80279]

Mr. McCartney: We remain concerned by the continuing violence in the West Bank and Gaza. All violence in Israel and the Occupied Territories acts as an obstacle to peace. We call for an end to rocket fire from the Gaza Strip on Israeli civilian targets. We also condemn the incursion into Israel by Palestinian militants on 25 June 2006 in which two Israeli soldiers were killed. We support President Abbas' efforts to restore order, using legally constituted security forces. And we call on the Israeli Government to ensure that any military actions are proportional and ensure that civilians, particularly children, are not harmed.

Project Coast

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information was *(a)* shared between *(b)* supplied to and *(c)* given by those attending the ad hoc meeting held on 13 January 2006 to discuss the Basson/Project Coast handling strategy; what other (i) documents and (ii) knowledge are held by the UK Government about Project Coast; and if she will make a statement. [79315]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer of 27 June 2006]:* Participants at the meeting shared draft answers to the parliamentary questions under consideration and discussed these to ensure that they represented consistent, full and accurate answers. The Government hold information from a variety of sources on its files, including from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa on the files from that period. To identify every document would incur disproportionate costs.

Royal Visit (USA)

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 2246W, on the Royal visit (USA), what contact representatives of the Prince of Wales's United States Foundation had with her Department's staff during their Highnesses' official visit to the US; which official events organised by the Government they attended; whether they accompanied their Royal Highnesses on the journey between Washington DC and New York; and if she will make a statement. [79235]

Margaret Beckett: Before the visit by their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall to the USA, representatives of the Prince of Wales's US Foundation held discussions with a number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff as part of the programme preparations to ensure events ran smoothly. US Foundation representatives attended the reception in Washington hosted by our ambassador, and the New York reception hosted by the consul-general, both held in honour of the Royal Highnesses.

None accompanied the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall on the journey between New York and Washington DC.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 November 2005, *Official Report*, columns 2246-7W, on the Royal visit (USA), what each gift which was not a signed photograph was; to whom each gift was presented; and what total costs were reimbursed by her Department for such gifts. [79236]

Margaret Beckett: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, Column 2152W. The total costs of gifts reimbursed was £3,438.38.

The list of gifts, other than signed photographs, which were presented during the visit to the United States is as follows.

American Hosts

Book of the collected essays of Sir Winston Churchill

Paper Knife

Pen Knife (3)

Purse (1)

Hotel Staff

Wallet (2)

Purse (2)

FCO Personnel

Silver Benny Box

Large 2005 Year Box (3)

Pen knife

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1488W, on the United States (Prince of Wales's visit), whether anyone from the Prince of Wales's United States Foundation accompanied the Prince on his official visit to the US in 2005 at public cost. [79238]

Margaret Beckett: No-one from The Prince of Wales's United States Foundation accompanied His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales on his official visit to the US at public expense.

Somalia

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications of the recent talks between the Somali Government and the Islamic Courts Union militia; and if she will make a statement. [79925]

Mr. McCartney: We welcome any talks destined to resolve Somalia's problems peacefully. We have urged both sides to engage in dialogue and resolve Somalia's conflict through the framework of the transitional charter and the transitional federal institutions.

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the security situation in Somalia. [80320]

Mr. McCartney: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Clwyd, South (Mr. Jones) today (UIN 79925).

South Korea

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she had with the South Korean Foreign Minister concerning South Korea's support for the St. Kitts and Nevis Declaration at the recent International Whaling Commission meeting; and if she will make a statement. [80711]

Mr. McCartney: The Declaration was presented to the meeting on 17 June. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed it with her South Korean counterpart.

UK views on whaling are well known.

Special Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role is played by special advisers in answering parliamentary questions asked of her Department. [80649]

Margaret Beckett: Special advisers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have no formal role in answering parliamentary questions, which are drafted by officials and signed by Ministers. I take advice from my special advisers on a range of issues, which includes the answers to parliamentary questions.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the recent peace treaty in the east of Sudan. [80271]

Mr. McCartney: Preliminary talks between the Government of Sudan and the Eastern Front began in Asmara on 13 June, under Eritrean mediation. A UK representative was present. A Declaration of Principles and an agreement to cease violence was issued on 19 June. Formal talks are scheduled to start in mid-July. We support the parties in this effort and press them to negotiate in good faith in order to reach a mutually acceptable agreement.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army has successfully and peacefully completed its withdrawal from Hamishkoreib. This is a positive and important step. We continue to urge all sides to exercise restraint and not to take action that may inflame the situation.

Uganda

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the invasion of the Ugandan High Court by armed commandos on 16 November 2005; and if she will make a statement. [79946]

Mr. McCartney: Following the presence of armed commandos in the grounds of the High Court on 16 November 2005, we urged the Ugandan

Government to do all they could to restore public confidence in the security services. As EU presidency at the time, the UK issued a statement on 18 November 2005 calling for this and also calling for the Ugandan Government to 'ensure that the security force's responses are strictly proportionate to the threats they face in any given situation'. The full text of the statement can be found at the following website:

http://www.eu2005.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1107293561746&a=KArticle&aid=1131976425734&date=2005-11-18.

On 31 January 2006, the Constitutional Court declared that the deployment of armed commandos had been a deliberate attempt to intimidate and influence the judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of her Department. [80092]

Vera Baird: The information is as follows:

(a) The Director General of Finance at the Department for Constitutional Affairs is Ms. Barbara Moorhouse.

(b) Ms. Moorhouse holds an MA in politics, philosophy and economics from Oxford university and is a chartered management accountant. She is an associate member of the Association of Corporate Treasurers and of the Financial Reporting and Review Panel. From 1996-2002 she was a member of CIMA Council.

(c) Ms. Moorhouse was appointed in March 2005. She has previously held a number of senior financial, strategic and commercial roles in multinational companies.

Post Office Network Services

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what services *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies (i) make available and (ii) have made available in the last five years through the post office network; through how many outlets the service is or was made available; and how many relevant transactions were undertaken in each case in the most recent year for which figures are available. [79203]

Bridget Prentice: Neither DCA nor any of its associated public bodies use, or have used, the services of post office network in the course of their business over the last five years.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Ulster Volunteer Force

6. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information he has received on the Ulster Volunteer Force's intention to enter a ceasefire. [79740]

Paul Goggins: In their latest report the IMC stated that the UVF remains an active, violent and ruthless organisation. The UVF's recent statement that it will make no announcement about future intentions until after 24 November is completely unacceptable.

Housing

8. **Mr. Bailey:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on housing policy in Northern Ireland. [79742]

Mr. Hanson: The Government's objective is to ensure that everyone has access to a decent home in the tenure of their choice at an affordable cost. The policy is progressed within the Government's Regional Development Strategy and other important initiatives such as Neighbourhood Renewal and the Fuel Poverty Strategy.

Northern Ireland Assembly

9. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on recent progress towards devolved Government in the Province. [79744]

Mr. Hain: The Preparation for Government Committee at the Assembly is continuing to work to identify the issues that need to be addressed in preparation for devolved Government. The Government remains committed to doing all it can to support the process.

10. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made towards the permanent re-establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly. [79745]

Mr. Hanson: The Preparation for Government Committee at the Assembly is continuing to work to identify the issues that need to be addressed in preparation for devolved Government. The Government remains committed to doing all it can to support the process.

EU Funding

11. **Daniel Kawczynski:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in increasing EU regional funding for Northern Ireland. [79746]

Mr. Hanson: Recent improved economic performance means that for 2007-13 Northern Ireland will benefit from an allocation of the EU structural funds available to the UK under the EU's competitiveness and employment objective. Northern Ireland will also benefit from special PEACE funding and Territorial Co-operation funding.

The allocations of competitiveness and employment funding to UK regions are still under discussion following a recent UK-wide consultation process that ended on 22 May 2006. We will ensure that Northern Ireland gets a fair share of the resources available to the UK.

Post-primary Education

12. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the future of post-primary education in Northern Ireland. [79747]

Mr. Hain: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave some moments ago to the hon. Member for Blaydon.

Secondary School System

13. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the future of selection in Northern Ireland's secondary school system. [79748]

Mr. Hain: The Draft Education (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, to be debated later today, contains a provision banning academic selection in Northern Ireland after the 2008 Transfer Tests. This will be effective from 25 November if the Northern Ireland Assembly is not restored before that date. If it is restored by 24 November a vote will be required in the Assembly to ban academic selection.

Community Festivals

14. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what Government support is available for new and emerging community festivals in Northern Ireland. [79749]

Mr. Hain: A new Community Festival Fund came into operation on 1 April 2006. The Northern Ireland Events Company administers the fund on the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure's behalf. Approximately £450,000 is available to new or existing festivals that meet the core criteria.

Its main purpose is to improve the capacity of existing, new and emerging community festivals and to make them more sustainable.

Child Sex Abuse

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1598W, on child sex abuse, how offender clusters have been monitored in Northern Ireland over the past 10 years; and how offender clusters will be scanned for in the future. [77207]

Paul Goggins: Further to my answer to the hon. Gentleman of 23 May 2006, the Police Service of Northern Ireland, in line with the National Intelligence Model (NIM), use the Integrated Crime Information System (ICIS) to monitor offender clusters. NIM became available in 2001, prior to this the PSNI identified clusters through local intelligence

Civil Partnerships

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many same-sex couples in Northern Ireland have applied to legalise their relationship, broken down by council area. [78551]

Mr. Hanson: Civil partnership was introduced in Northern Ireland from 5 December 2005 and after that date couples could give notice of civil partnership registration. Up to 15 June 2006 notice has been given for 110 civil partnerships in Northern Ireland of which 70 are in the Belfast registration district, nine in Derry and six in each of Newry and Mourne and North Down districts. None of the remaining registration districts has received five or more notices.

Civil Servants

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Foyle (Mark Durkan) of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 701-2W, on the Northern Ireland Civil Service, which wards were included within Antrim Coast and Glens when calculating the number of Northern Ireland civil service vacancies. [74345]

Mr. Hanson: The correct title for the parliamentary constituency in question is East Antrim constituency, not Antrim Coast and Glens as provisionally recommended by the Boundary Commission. The corresponding wards in East Antrim constituency, to which these figures previously supplied refer, are Killycrot and Central Ward.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civil service posts, expressed as whole time equivalent staff-in-post plus vacancies, there were *(a)* in each Department and agency in Northern Ireland and *(b)* in total at 1 April; and if he will make a statement. [76558]

Mr. Hanson: The number of civil service posts, expressed as whole time equivalent staff-in-post plus vacancies, in each of the 11 Northern Ireland Departments and the NIO, and their agencies at 1 April 2006 are as follows;

Number of civil service posts in Northern Ireland by Department as at 1 April 2006

Department	*Department*	*Agencies*
Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)	2,509	708
Enterprise, Training and Investment (DETI)	607	96
Education (DE)	688	n/a
Regional Development (DRD)	553	4,214
Environment (DOE)	253	2,758
Finance and Personnel (DFP)	1,825	1,098
Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)	892	136
Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL)	220	255
Employment and Learning (DEL)	1,792	n/a
Social Development (DSD)	705	7,161
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM)	416	n/a
Sub Total	10,460	16,426
Northern Ireland Office (NIO)	2,522	2,447
Grand Total	12,982	18,873

Notes:
DARD Agencies: Forest Service and Rivers Agency.
DETI Agencies figure refers to the NDPB Health and Safety Executive for NI which is staffed by civil servants.
DRD Agencies: Roads Service and Water Service.
DOE Agencies: Driver and Vehicle Licensing NI, Driver and Vehicle Testing Agency, Environment and Heritage Service and Planning Service.
DFP Agencies: Land Registers for NI, NI Statistics and Research Agency, Rates Collection Agency and Valuation and Lands Agency.
DHSSPS Agencies figure includes Health Estates (Agency), and the NDPB Mental Health Commission which is staffed by civil servants.
DCAL Agencies: Ordnance Survey NI and Public Record Office NI.
DSD figures include staff working on DWP services (Belfast Benefit Centre, and CSA Eastern Business Unit) which are fully funded by DWP. DSD Agencies: Child Support Agency and Social Security Agency, NIO figures include around 140 Home Civil Service Posts and all temporary staff as time did not allow detailed analysis to exclude HCS staff and temporary staff not blocking permanent posts.
NIO "Department" includes NIO Core, Public Prosecution Service, and Police Service (Admin staff). The NIO Agencies are: NI Prison Service, Youth Justice Agency (Admin staff), Forensic Science for NI, and the Compensation Agency.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the criminal offences created in legislation sponsored by his Department since April 2005, broken down by Act. [76903]

Mr. Hanson: No criminal offences have been created by Acts since April 2005. The offences created by Order in Council since April 2005 will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Expenditure

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the levels of under-capacity and over-capacity are in the accommodation of *(a)* each of the Northern Ireland departmental headquarters and *(b)* each of their out-offices; and what the annual recurring costs are associated with each of (i) the Northern Ireland departmental headquarters buildings and (ii) each of their out-offices. [78559]

Mr. Hanson: It is not possible to determine over or under-capacity in accommodation currently as there is no set space standard. However it is estimated that less than 1.5 per cent. of floor space is vacant. In the longer term, the Workplace 2010 initiative aims to provide a more flexible and modern working environment and will introduce space standards against which over and under capacity can be measured.

Tables setting out the recurring costs for buildings—or parts thereof—that are headquarter buildings and also for out-offices on a departmental basis will be placed in the Library. The figures shown are for 2005-06 and include items such as rent, rates, maintenance, fuel and furniture charges.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cars are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by each department under his authority in Northern Ireland; what models the cars are; what type of petrol each requires; what the fuel efficiency is of each model; and for what purpose each car is used. [78748]

Mr. Hanson: Details of the cars, leased and owned by each department under my authority are listed in the following table.

Cars have been defined as passenger-carrying vehicles for the purpose of this response.

Dept	*Model*	*Owned*	*Leased*	*Fuel type*	*Efficiency*	*Purpose used*
DFP	Vauxhall Omega	6	—	Petrol	23 mpg	Ministerial/SCS business use
	Peugeot 607	4	—	Diesel	34 mpg	As above
	Peugeot 807	1	—	Diesel	25 mpg	As above
	Toyota Prius	2	—	Hybrid (pet/electric	54 mpg	As above
DETI	Peugeot 607	1	—	Diesel	30 mpg	Departmental business/courier
DHSSPS	Volvo S80	1	—	Petrol	23 mpg	Departmental business
	Renault Clio	—	1	Petrol	47 mpg	Used by Director of NI Clinical and Social Care Governance Support Team
DARD	Citroen Synergie	1	—	Diesel	35mpg	Departmental business - Sea Fisheries Inspectorate
	Toyota Landcruiser LC2	1	—	Diesel	36 mpg	Departmental business - Sea Fisheries Inspectorate
DSD	Audi A6 Tdi	1	—	Diesel	38.8 mpg	Departmental business

Dept	Model	Owned	Leased	Fuel type	Efficiency	Purpose used
NIO	Volvo S80	—	3	Petrol	30 mpg	Departmental business
	Vauxhall Omega	1	—	Petrol	27 mg	Departmental business
	Vauxhall Vectra	1	—	Petrol	39 mpg	Departmental business
	Ford Mondeo	1	—	Petrol	39 mpg	Departmental business

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much *(a)* the Department for Social Development and *(b)* the Department for Employment and Learning spent on the women's community sector in each of the last five years, broken down by spending area. [78882]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Social Development has allocated £3,736,249 in total over the last five years to women's organisations as set out in the following tables.

	£
2001-02	192,190
2002-03	342,472
2003-04	447,102
2004-05	969,212
2005-06	1,785,271
Total	3,736,247

	£
EU Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity 2000-06 Measure 3.2 Advice and Information Services	96,318
EU Programme for Building Sustainable Prosperity 2000-06 Measure 3.3 Community Sustainability	116,626
The Social Inclusion/Community Regeneration Executive Programme Fund 2003-04, 2004-05	984,973
Rural Women's Networks Programme 2005-06	293,775
Short Term Funding programme to Women's Organisations Delivering Support and Services to Disadvantaged Communities 2005-06	1,034,412
Belfast Regeneration Office Funding to Women's Sector Organisations	1,002,433
North West Development Office Funding to Women's Sector Organisations	207,710
Total	3,736,247

Departmental Staff

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many employees work in each of the Northern Ireland departments; and how many are employed *(a)* in each of the Northern Ireland departmental headquarters, broken down by location and *(b)* each of the other offices of each Department. [78560]

Mr. Hanson: The total number of employees (permanent and temporary), based on a head count, working in each of the 11 Northern Ireland Departments and NIO, including agencies, and in each of the departmental headquarters location at 1 January 2006 (20 June 2006 for NIO) was as follows;

Department	Location of headquarters	Total headcount at 1 January 2006	Headcount at HQ location at 1 January 2006
DARD	Dundonald House, Belfast. BT4	4,110	1,099
DETI	Netherleigh, Belfast. BT4	747	354
DE	Rathgael House, Bangor.	694	565
DRD	Clarence Court, Belfast. BT2	4,695	633
DOE	Clarence Court, Belfast. BT2	2,785	112
DFP	Rathgael House, Bangor	3,050	312
DHSSPS	Castle Buildings, Belfast. BT4	1,034	654
DCAL	Interpoint, Belfast. BT15	461	171
DEL	Adelaide House, Belfast, BT2	1,845	370
DSD	Lighthouse, Belfast BT	8,187	332
OFMDFM	Castle Buildings, Belfast. BT4	369	41
Sub Total		27,977	4,643
NIO[1] (inc NIPS)	Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 (	3,744 (153)	73(8)
	(Dundonald House, Belfast. BT4)	—	217 (6)
Grand Total		31,721	4,933

[1] Total NIO headcount figures include NI Prison Service (NIPS) and both NICS and Home Civil Service (HCS) staff. The figures in brackets indicate the number of HCS staff included in each of the NIO totals. NIO and NIPS HQ figures are shown separately.

I have placed in the Library a table showing the number of employees (permanent and temporary), based on a head count, working in departmental headquarters and each of the other offices of each Department.

Departmental Travel

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions officials in *(a)* each Department in Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Office have flown by (i) first class and (ii) business class in each of the last three years; and what the total cost was in each case. [75082]

Mr. Hanson: Details of how many occasions officials in *(a)* Northern Ireland Departments and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Office have flown by first class and business class to any destination are set out in the following tables.

(a) The figures in respect of officials in Northern Ireland Departments relate only to those booked through the NICS contracted booking agents during the period and do not include any travel booked through other channels as to obtain this information would be at disproportionate cost.

The current travel contract commenced on 1 October 2004 and details of all flights to any destination booked since that date are set out as follows. There were no first class flights booked during this period.

Table 1

Department	Business class 2004-05[1] Occasions	Business class 2004-05[1] Cost (£)	Business class 2005-06 Occasions	Business class 2005-06 Cost (£)
DFP	300	85,775	539	158,951
DEL	25	7,460	18	14,186
DENI	5	1,469	5	1,316
DSD	220	64,056	379	104,706
DCAL	17	4,017	21	4,960
DHSSPS	205	55,761	381	102,608
DARD	384	115,153	571	185,097
DETI	99	34,218	172	49,090
DRD	231	65,407	443	126,591
DOE	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
OFMDFM	103	40,047	169	62,284

[1] Information relates to the period 1 October 2004 to 31 March 2005
[2] Figures included with DRD

The data provided by the previous NICS travel-booking provider cover the period 1 April 2003 to 31 October 2004 and travel to various destinations. This information is not available by financial year but is aggregated by Department over the period.

Table 2

Department	First class Occasions	First class Cost (£)	Business class Occasions	Business class Cost (£)
DFP	—	—	617	140,979
DEL	—	—	193	88,307
DENI	—	—	93	21,714
DSD[1]	—	—	416	93,130
DCAL	—	—	81	20,442
DHSSPS	—	—	1010	198,423
DARD	—	—	1112	274,238
DETI	2	8,112	362	115,504
DRD	—	—	805	184,594
DOE	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
OFMDFM	—	—	67	13,817

[1] During this period travel bookings in respect of DSD were booked through the Social Security Agency. The figures given represent approximately half of the total bookings during the period, which reflects the normal ratio of flight bookings between DSD:SSA, which was 50:50 during this period
[2] Figures included within DRD

(b) The number of occasions and associated costs for air travel by staff from the Northern Ireland Office over the last financial year is in the following table.

Table 3

	Occasions First Class	Cost First Class (£)	Occasions Business Class	Cost Business Class (£)
2005-06	11	35,340	6,526	1,101,042

Details in relation to previous years are not available.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79065]

Mr. Hanson: The Northern Ireland Civil Service Departments and their Agencies and the Northern Ireland Office and its Agencies have a total of 88 websites. During the last financial year the total cost of maintaining these websites was approximately £1,362,399.

Dissident Republican Paramilitaries

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 723W, on dissident Republican paramilitaries, whether on 11 January he was in possession of any information to the effect that dissident Republican paramilitaries were engaged in a major recruitment drive in Northern Ireland. [69244]

Paul Goggins: In previous answers to this question (27 February, 16 March and 19 April 2006) the hon. Member was advised that the 8th IMC report published on 1 February 2006, indicated evidence that dissident Republican groups were attempting to recruit members. I can advise that the 10th IMC report published on 26 April 2006 repeats this earlier assessment that dissident Republican groups are attempting to recruit members.

Northern Ireland Memorial Fund

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what total amount has been paid out by the Northern Ireland Memorial Fund in each year since it was created; how many people received money from the fund in each year; and how much has been paid out by the fund to people from *(a)* the Unionist community and *(b)* the nationalist/republican community. [65327]

Mr. Hanson: The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund was established in 1999 to provide practical support to those bereaved and injured as a result of the troubles.

The total amounts paid out and the number of people benefiting in each year are as follows:

Year ending	*Amount (£)*	*Number of people*
2000	491,450.04	1,227
2001	898,141.21	2,309
2002	1,971,244.68	3,619
2003	1,781,356.96	3,421
2004	1,056,444.16	2,174
2005	1,252,397.33	2,377
2006 (January to March)	307,439.08	1,201
Total	7,758,473.46	16,328

Applicants are asked to provide details on how they meet the fund criteria in terms of bereavement or injury. The Northern Ireland Memorial Fund does not require details on community background and therefore cannot provide information relating to money paid in respect of either the Unionist or nationalist/republican community.

Prisons

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many escapes from *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions in Northern Ireland there have been in each year since 1990. [78737]

Paul Goggins: The following table sets out the number of prison escapes since 1990. The Maze prison closed in 2000, Maghaberry and Magilligan are male adult prisons and Hydebank Wood is a young offender centre and female prison.

	Maze	*Maghaberry*	*Magilligan*	*Hydebank wood*
1991	—	—	—	1
1995	—	—	1	1
1997	1	—	—	—
2000	—	—	—	1
Total	1	Nil	1	3

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prosecutions there have been for supplying illegal drugs in prisons in Northern Ireland in each year since 1998. [78739]

Mr. Hanson: The court proceedings and sentencing data sources do not include information on the circumstances surrounding the commission of an offence. While the total number of prosecutions for supplying illegal drugs is collated, those which occurred in prisons cannot be separately identified.

Rape

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average length of sentence in Northern Ireland for *(a)* rape and *(b)* serious sexual assault was in each of the last five years, broken down by whether the defendant pleaded guilty. [80028]

Mr. Hanson: Due to a change in the data source for prosecutions and sentencing data, information disaggregated by defendant plea is not available beyond 1999. The 1999 data is provided in the following table.

Table 1 also provides the number sentenced to immediate custody for rape (including attempts) and indecent assault in 2000 to 2003 and the average length of custodial sentence passed for each.

Figures beyond 2003 are not yet available.

Table 1: Number sentenced to immediate custody[1] and the average sentence length in months[2] for rape, attempted rape and indecent assault 1999-2003

		Rape[3]		*Indecent assault[4]*	
	Plea	*Number sentenced to immediate custody*	*Average sentence length (months)*	*Number sentenced to immediate custody*	*Average sentence length (months)*
1999	Guilty	7	89	24	23
	Not guilty	1	72	3	17
2000	n/a	9	95	[5]40	20
2001	n/a	17	96	42	18
2002	n/a	9	79	[5]21	31
2003	n/a	9	92	37	21

[1] Figures include persons sentenced to prison, YOG, and custody probation.
[2] Rounded to nearest whole number.
[3] Includes attempts.
[4] Indecent assault includes indecent assault on female, indecent assault on male, indecent assault on female child and indecent assault on male child.
Note:
Figures are based on principal offence rule.

Rates

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he proposes to freeze rates on industrial property at 25 per cent. for the period 2007-08. [80450]

Mr. Hanson: No. I will, however, reflect on the Assembly resolution.

Recycling

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in encouraging people in Northern Ireland to recycle. [80096]

David Cairns: The Department of the Environment, building on its "Wake up to Waste" programme, has continued to support the design, promotion and delivery of local waste awareness campaigns. This has made a major contribution to the dramatic increase in household waste recycling from 5 per cent. in 1999 to 23.4 per cent. in 2005.

The recently published "Waste Management Strategy" also contains policies and actions aimed at increasing resource efficiency through the promotion of recycling.

Security Expenditure

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the likely impact on security expenditure if the Northern Ireland Assembly is successfully re-established and the paramilitary ceasefire remains permanent; and if he will make a statement. [78515]

Paul Goggins: The safety of the people of Northern Ireland remains the Government's paramount priority; however there is no correlation between the successful re-establishment of the Assembly and the Government's plans for security expenditure in Northern Ireland.

The latest IMC and HCD reports are encouraging. Progress remains dependent on the maintenance of an enabling environment and it is in everyone's interest that Northern Ireland continues to move forward economically, socially and politically.

Politicians elected by the people of Northern Ireland need to take key decisions, which is why we must succeed in getting the Assembly up and running as soon as possible.

Senior Smart Pass

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people aged over 65 years in Northern Ireland have a senior smart pass; and what percentage this is of the total number eligible. [78733]

David Cairns: Since 2002 188,126 senior smart passes have been issued.

There is no record of the number of passes issued to people who have subsequently died and it is therefore not possible to say how many senior smart passes are currently in circulation as a proportion of those eligible.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 16 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 106-7WS, on sustainable development, whether the Planning Service in Northern Ireland plans to change the basis on which planning applications submitted before the date of that statement are assessed. [80236]

David Cairns: The Planning Service has no plans to change the basis on which planning applications submitted on or before 16 March 2006 are assessed.

Those planning applications in the system on or before 16 March 2006 will not be affected by Planning Policy Statement 14 "Sustainable Development in the Countryside" (PPS 14) unless they are still being processed when the draft policy is confirmed. At that stage PPS 14 will be have to be taken into consideration.

Victims Memorial

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made in providing a permanent memorial in Northern Ireland to victims of terrorism. [80747]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are aware of the sensitivities surrounding the issue of memorials in Northern Ireland and the lack of consensus on the issue. However, we do not feel that the time is yet right to consider establishing a permanent memorial. We appreciate that many would like to see some form of permanent memorial to those who have suffered as a result of the troubles.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Private Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the size is of his private office in square feet. [78222]

The Deputy Prime Minister: 802 square feet.

HEALTH

Aircraft Trails

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* reviewed on the impact on health of the trails left by aircraft in the sky; and if she will make a statement. [79516]

Caroline Flint: There has been no research commissioned or reviewed on the impact on health of vapour trails left by aircraft in the sky.

Ambulance Service

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the establishment of cadet training in the ambulance service; and if she will make a statement. [80525]

Ms Rosie Winterton: *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* We have no record of any discussion between the Secretary of State for Health and the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the establishment of cadet training in the ambulance service. However, cadet training does take place in different parts of the health service and cadet schemes have been introduced locally by trusts and strategic health authorities as a means of strengthening and widening access to different professions in the national health service.

Audiology Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation took place with *(a)* charities, *(b)* patient groups and *(c)* NHS trusts prior to the decision to exclude audiology services from the Government's 18-week waiting time target for treatment; and if she will make a statement. [80461]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Department conducted a six-week consultation exercise in autumn 2005 on the "Commissioning an 18-week patient pathway: Proposed principles and definitions: A discussion document". This consultation exercise asked for comments on a wide range of issues, including on delivering shorter waiting times for audiology services. The Department specifically requested feedback on the document from the patients' association, the patients' forum, and the national health service, along with professional bodies. The Department also received feedback from Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

The majority of audiology and adult hearing services are accessed directly from primary care and are outside the scope of the 18-week pathway, which is focused on hospital pathways. Hearing and balance conditions that do need to be referred to a medical consultant will be subject to the 18-week's target. We do not intend to reconsider this principle. However, reducing the time that patients wait for directly accessed services is important and an action plan is being developed to improve access to audiology services outside the 18-week pathway.

Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will establish a departmental inquiry into the use of funds by Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority and how the planned savings expected of its constituent organisations were determined. [79653]

Caroline Flint: The role of the Department is to ensure that strategic health authorities (SHAs) comply with the operating framework guidance published on 26 January 2006. Individual SHAs are responsible for the performance management of their national health service organisations and for ensuring that they achieve financial balance.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were carried out in each NHS surgical centre within Gloucestershire, Avon and Wiltshire strategic health authority area in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by appropriate data field; and how many were carried out on the NHS in the private sector, broken down by appropriate data field. [80016]

Caroline Flint: There are two national health service treatment centres in Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire strategic health authority (SHA); one is located in Weston and the other in Swindon. In 2005-06, the Weston area healthcare trust completed 1,621 first finished consultant episodes (FFCEs), and Marlborough NHS trust completed 4,354 FFCEs. In 2005-06, there were no independent sector treatment centres in this SHA.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1546-47W, on health care (Stroud), which primary care trusts and health trusts in the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority area are placed in which category of turnaround arrangement; and what effect placing in each category has on their expected contribution to that strategic health authority's re-balancing of funding. [79691]

Caroline Flint: The turnaround assessment stage resulted in KPMG rating organisations as:

immediate priority, where there is the need for urgent intervention to drive turnaround;

additional expertise/resource needed to support the turnaround;

drive or focus—maintaining a high priority of actions; and

regular challenge of management, encouraging to share what works and deliver easy wins.

Organisations in the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wilshire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) were placed in the following categories:

Organisation/primary care trust (PCT)	*Category*
Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT	1
West Wiltshire PCT	1
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	1
Cotswold and Vale PCT	2
North Somerset PCT	2
RUH Bath NHS Trust	3
South Wiltshire PCT	3

The categories were produced by KPMG after discussions with the local NHS in December 2005 and February 2006. They assist local management in prioritising turnaround work and do not lead to a specific contribution to the SHA's financial plan.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that NHS trusts and primary care trusts in the Avon, Gloucestershire and

Wiltshire strategic health authority area which do not have deficits are not required to contribute financially to rectifying the deficits of other such trusts in the area. [80015]

Caroline Flint: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 835W.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate she has made of the volume of carbon dioxide emitted by NHS organisations in each year since 1997; [79037]

(2) what estimate she has made of the total cost to the NHS of purchasing energy in each year since 1997. [79046]

Caroline Flint: Record investment in new facilities and capacity to reduce waiting times is reflected in the size of the national health service estate increasing by 14 per cent. in the past five years. Carbon and CO_2 emissions, relative to the size of the estate, have fallen by an average of 0.5 per cent. per year over the same period, demonstrating greater energy efficiency and the use of cleaner fuels. Future shifts towards more local energy efficient healthcare facilities, in line with the recent White Paper "Our health, our care, our say", will ensure that this trend is continued.

Energy costs are principally influenced by changes in utility supplier prices and the quantum of energy consumption. Carbon emissions are mainly influenced by the amount and type of energy used. The information requested is shown in the table.

	Energy cost (£ million)	*Carbon dioxide emissions (million tonnes)*
1997-98	198.58	3.04
1998-99	178.46	3.06
1999-2000	184.46	3.05
2000-01	199.97	3.18
2001-02	246.27	3.45
2002-03	247.84	3.46
2003-04	263.67	3.47
2004-05	312.31	3.40

Cost-benefit Analysis

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the recent White Paper, what cost-benefit analysis her Department has undertaken of the proposal to move the six clinical areas into the community. [79656]

Andy Burnham: A project is under way to look at how care can be made more convenient for patients in the six speciality areas referred to in chapter six of the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say: a future direction for community services". An evaluation of demonstration sites showing how care can be made convenient for patients has been commissioned from the national primary care research and development centre at the university of Manchester and the intention is to publish the results in the summer of 2007.

Healthcare Facility (Oldchurch Park, Romford)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) who will be liable for building maintenance and site costs at the new healthcare facility being built at Oldchurch Park, Romford; [79626]

(2) what steps are being taken to limit the environmental impact of the construction of the new Oldchurch Hospital in Romford. [79641]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: North East London strategic health authority (SHA) has advised departmental officials that Sodexho will be responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the building. Long-term maintenance of the building will be undertaken by a combination of Sodexho and Catalyst. All maintenance and replacement costs of medical equipment will be covered by Siemens. The SHA advises that there will be no maintenance costs from national health service funds.

North East London SHA has advised departmental officials of the following steps that are being taken to limit the environmental impact of the construction of the new Oldchurch Hospital.

Parking

The trust reports that it has provided 1,351 spaces, the maximum the planning authority and the Mayor of London would allow. This was an increase of roughly 250 spaces more than had been allowed under the outline consent. Parking for bicycles is also provided in a number of locations.

Public transport

The new hospital incorporates a new bus station with standing for seven buses. At the onset, Transport for London will operate between two and four services through the new hospital site.

Road access

The new hospital will be accessed from Rom Valley Way via an enhanced traffic light controlled junction, together with a new roundabout, pedestrian pavements and road crossing facilities. The Oldchurch Road has been widened and a traffic control junction provided at Oldchurch Rise. Use of Oldchurch Rise entrance on to the site will be restricted to ambulances and public transport.

Impact on the surrounding area

The trust reports that it is contributing funds under the Section 106 agreement for the London borough of Havering to implement parking restrictions in adjoining roads. This is in addition to contributions towards replacement leisure facilities, public footpaths and cycleway. A children's play area and kickabout pitch for local children was built and handed over before construction commenced.

I understand that the new hospital building is relatively low rise and is positioned centrally on the site, with the public open space wrapping around it, which together with appropriate landscaping thereby minimises the visual impact. The new hospital

incorporates traditional materials such as brick and timber, thereby creating a softer visual statement.

Energy saving

The trust reports that the new hospital is built with the latest Building Control Part L regulations concerning heat loss, which together with use of combined heat and power technology, will create a building substantially more efficient that the buildings to be vacated.

Hearing Aid Council (Amendment) Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the operation of the Hearing Aid Council (Amendment) Act 1989; what recent representations she has received about the operation of this Act; and whether she has plans to amend this Act. [80197]

Mr. McCartney: I have been asked to reply. The Department is happy with the operation of the said Act. As might be expected, there were protests earlier this year when the retention fee for dispensers was increased, but no Act amendment representations have been received. The Hampton report in 2004 suggested for economies of scale that the possibility of merging the duties of the Hearing Aid Council into other bodies should be considered, and the department, in conjunction with the council, continues to explore this.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which Government Bills sponsored by her Department are still to be introduced during the current Session; and when, and into which House, each will be introduced; [77514]

(2) what plans she has for legislation in the next session of Parliament; and if she will make a statement. [77515]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons (Mr. Straw).

Macugen

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place for provision on the NHS of the drug Macugen for age-related macular degeneration in advance of a decision on licensing and National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence appraisal; and if she will make a statement. [80635]

Andy Burnham: The Department has made it clear that patients should not be refused a treatment simply because guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is unavailable. In these circumstances, we expect primary care trusts to take full account of available evidence when reaching decisions on whether to provide the treatment.

Mantoux Skin Test

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking in relation to the use of the Mantoux skin test for tuberculosis within the NHS in advance of the manufacturers of the purified protein derivative utilised in the test applying for a licence for the product. [80314]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 239-40W.

Maternity Units

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the likely impact on the number of home births if Stroud maternity unit closes; [75989]

(2) if she will carry out an evaluation into the closure of Stroud maternity unit, including evidence from service users. [76079]

Caroline Flint: The Government are committed to offering, by 2009, all women the choice of how and where they give birth, including in hospital, a midwifery-led unit and at home.

It is for primary care trusts and national health service trusts to determine the appropriate pattern of service-provision locally, taking into account the needs of local people, evidence of effectiveness and available resources.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings Ministers in her Department have held with hon. Members in each of the last three years, broken down by political party. [80026]

Ms Hewitt: The information requested for the past three years could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, we can provide the number of meetings Ministers have had with hon. Members for the last six months. Since 1 January 2006, Ministers in the Department have met with 191 Labour hon. Members, 37 Conservative hon. Members and six Liberal Democrat hon. Members.

NHS Managers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many managers were employed in the NHS in England on 1 April *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006. [65309]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the same period, the national health service budget has grown from £33 billion in 1996-97 to £77.8 billion in 2005-06; and the number of staff has increased by over 300,000. Managers make up less than 3 per cent. of the NHS work force.

NHS Pension Scheme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the announcement by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry of 18 October 2005 on public service pensions, that all sector scheme negotiations would be completed by March 2006, when she will announce the details of the consultation on the new proposed benefit structure for new entrants for the NHS Pension Scheme; whether the negotiations have been completed; and if she will make a statement. [78008]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Negotiations are continuing between NHS employers, on behalf of the Department and the NHS staff side. Following completion of the negotiations, consultations will take place on the proposals including time scales for implementation of a new pension scheme.

NHS Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many newly qualified *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors have not been able to find relevant employment within six months of qualifying in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [78357]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Obesity

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on promoting the cross-Government campaign to raise public awareness of the health risks of obesity. [67329]

Caroline Flint: At a bilateral meeting on 15 June, my hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Health, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and I discussed further development of the cross-Government campaign to promote every-day activity and to raise public awareness of the health risks of obesity.

Opencast Sites

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment has been made of health effects on people living close to open-cast sites; and whether differences have been observed in health effects during different seasons of the year. [80422]

Caroline Flint: No assessment has been made since 1999 when a statement appertaining to the possible effects of exposure to particles generated by open-cast mining was placed on the committee on medical aspects of air pollution's (COMEAP) website. No assessment of seasonal factors has been made. The COMEAP opinion may be found on the COMEAP's website at:

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/.

Operations

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1117W, on operations, if she will publish the same data for the years 1988-89 to 1996-97 for England only. [74122]

Andy Burnham: The information requested has been placed in the Library. 1989-90 is the earliest year for which data is available. In more recent years as more activity has shifted from in-hospital settings to out-patients and primary care, growth in day cases has slowed and ordinary admissions have started to reduce. This trend is expected to continue.

Patient Transport

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the average ambulance travel times between *(a)* the centre of Littlehampton, *(b)* Rustington and *(c)* Wick and (i) St. Richards hospital in Chichester and (ii) the Royal Sussex County hospital in Brighton. [80626]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally.

PM2.5 Particulates

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment has been made of the health effects of PM2.5 particulates, with particular reference to *(a)* respiratory and *(b)* cardiovascular health. [80420]

Caroline Flint: The committee on the medical effects of air pollutants (COMEAP) has recently published a report on air pollution and cardiovascular disease. This report focuses on particulate matter and, in so far as the available data permit, on particulate matter that is 2.5 micrometres or smaller in size (PM2.5). The comprehensive report can be found on COMEAP's website at www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/. No recent assessment of effects of PM2.5 on the respiratory system has been made. This will be addressed during COMEAP's work on the quantification of effects of air pollutants on health. Work so far has focused on PM2.5 and effects on mortality. It seems that the majority of the effects reported in the literature reflect the effect of particles on the cardiovascular system.

Policy Research Programme

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding is available to the policy research programme within the Department in 2006-07. [80705]

Andy Burnham: The policy research programme budget is currently £32.5 million per annum.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mental health research priorities are within the policy research programme. [80706]

Andy Burnham: Current priorities in mental health for the policy research programme are:

research to support the national suicide strategy;

new roles in the mental health work force;

mental health legislation;

adolescent mental health; and

evaluating the care services improvement partnership.

Primary Care Trusts

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what population is served by each primary care trust. [77519]

Andy Burnham: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1762W, on primary care trusts, what range of work is in hand; and what arrangements Surrey and Sussex strategic health authority have in place to ensure delivery. [79763]

Caroline Flint: The Department is supporting the national health service in delivering the Government's targets on retinopathy screening by supporting local delivery with a United Kingdom national screening committee (NSC) programme, carried out with professional organisations and Diabetes UK, which aims to reduce variability, help the development of a systematic approach where none exists and improve performance and quality. This includes Surrey and Sussex strategic health authority (SHA).

Funds have also been made available to support the purchase of digital cameras and related equipment for diabetic retinopathy screening. The capital funds increase so that the largest sum is available from April 2005—£5 million in 2003-04, £9.6 million in 2004-05 and £12.4 million in 2005-06.

Furthermore, primary care trusts (PCTs) are monitored on their progress towards achieving the target. The target is included within the local delivery agreements between SHA and PCTs, which are reviewed quarterly through a data return to the Department.

Public Health Pilots

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was allocated by her Department to pilot projects targeting public health, including those relating to obesity, in each of the last two years; how much is projected to be allocated during the next 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [68841]

Caroline Flint: The Department has allocated central funding to a range of pilot projects aimed at improving public health. Examples of public health related pilots include HIV and syphilis community testing, early abortion and genito-urinary medicine development pilots, local exercise action pilots, school pedometer pilots and piloting the new healthy start scheme. An exact funding figure is not available, but in excess of £3 million was allocated in 2005-06 and similar funding is expected in the coming 12 months.

Special Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role is played by special advisers in answering parliamentary questions asked of her Department. [80653]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* Special advisers conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Bullying

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures his Department is taking to tackle the bullying of autistic children in schools. [79330]

Jim Knight: This Government makes it clear that all forms of bullying are unacceptable. We have introduced a series of measures to prevent and tackle bullying in our schools as well as providing support for the victims of bullying. We intend to issue guidance for schools and local authorities in the coming months on how to draw up and implement an effective anti-bullying policy, and this will look at how to address the needs of all bullied children including those with autistic spectrum disorders.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many incidents of racist bullying were recorded by *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each of the last five years. [80513]

Jim Knight: We are unable to provide this information as we do not collect these data centrally. However, individual schools are required to record all incidents of racist bullying and local authorities may keep records for their own area.

Cadet Forces

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the expansion of cadet forces in schools; and if he will make a statement. [80660]

Mr. Dhanda: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) is running a pilot project with a small number of state schools to establish new cadet forces (CCF) in these schools. In order to do this the MOD has drawn on an existing list of schools that had already indicated interest. The Department has discussed this list with the MOD.

Funding for this is being provided directly by the Treasury. The Department has therefore not had any discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer around, nor any involvement in the funding of, this pilot project.

Community Sports Facilities

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what cross-departmental discussions have taken place with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on ensuring that the Building Schools for the Future programme delivers effective community sport facilities in new build and refurbished schools. [80597]

Jim Knight: Ministers from this Department meet our Culture Media and Sport counterparts regularly to discuss our joint schools PE and sports strategy, including curriculum matters and the community use of facilities. There is also regular contact between our respective departmental officials, including those from Partnerships for Schools, the delivery body for Building Schools for the Future.

Education Expenditure, Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average expenditure was per pupil in Bristol in the *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2005-06 financial year. [80589]

Jim Knight: The following table gives a breakdown of the available data for City of Bristol *(a)* 1996-97. However, the information requested at *(b)* 2005-06 financial is not yet available. The Department is due to collect the section 52 outturn data relating to the 2005-06 financial year from August 2006.

City of Bristol combined local authority and school based expenditure[1] per pupil[2] per pupil

	£ per pupil
1996-97[3, 4]	2,990
2004-05[4]	4,240

[1] The combined LA and school based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in LA maintained establishments and pupils educated by the LA other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school based expenditure and all elements of central LA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA).
[2] 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the Section 52 form from the DfES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) and the associated restructuring of the Section 52 outturn tables.
[3] Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under fives funded by the LA and being educated in private settings, pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and other LA maintained pupils. The pupil data for pupils attending maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools are taken from the DfES Annual Schools Census. Private voluntary and independent (PVI) under five pupil numbers are taken from the Early Years census but are only included from 1999-2000 onwards. Also included are other LA maintained pupils which includes all pupils attending schools not maintained by the authority for whom the authority is paying full tuition fees, or educated otherwise than in schools and pupil referral units under arrangements made by the authority drawn from the Form 8b submitted to the DfES. Also included as other LA maintained pupils are all pupils attending pupil referral units who are not registered at a maintained mainstream school drawn from the DfES Annual Schools Census. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
[4] Figures prior to 1999-2000 exclude any expenditure on service, strategy and regulation. For Bristol LA this would add roughly £9 to the 1996-97 unit cost.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest £10. Cash terms figures as reported by City of Bristol local authority as at 23 June 2006.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding has been allocated to special needs education provision in the Bristol local education authority area in each year since 2000. [80590]

Jim Knight: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs in Bristol local authority since 2000-01— Cash terms figures as reported Bristol local authority as at 26 June 2006

	£
2000-01	22,602,000
2001-02	28,522,000
2002-03	28,361,000
2003-04	30,917,000
2004-05	30,758,000
2005-06	32,844,000
2006-07	35,097,000

Notes:
1. Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools. Does not include any contribution to combined budgets or fees for pupils at independent schools for pupils without SEN.
2. The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN. From 2004-05 onwards "notional SEN" delegated to nursery schools was reported on Section 52 for the first time and accounts for £0.5 million, £0.6 million and £0.6 million of the 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 totals respectively. In 2005-06 and 2006-07, Bristol LA also budgeted £3.7 million and £5.3 million for SEN transport expenditure but this is not included in the above table as figures are not available prior to 2005-06.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.
4. 2006-07 data is provisional and is therefore subject to change by the local authority.

Source:
The data are drawn from Bristol local authority's Section 52 Budget Statements (tables 1 and 2) submitted to the DfES.

Free School Meals

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of children in *(a)* each local authority which retains grammar schools, *(b)* each grammar school within each such authority and *(c)* other secondary schools within each authority received free school meals on the latest date for which figures are available. [79798]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

GCSE (Foreign Languages)

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in which foreign languages pupils were entered in GCSEs for schools in Tamworth in 2005. [80137]

Jim Knight: Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools in Tamworth constituency were entered in French, German, and Spanish GCSE full courses in 2004/05.

GCSE Results

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average annual change in point scores at GCSE was in *(a)* specialist schools, *(b)* grammar schools, *(c)* academies and *(d)* all secondary schools between 2001 and 2005. [79802]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The information requested is outlined in the following table. Due to a change in the point score system there is a break in the series in 2004.

Before change to the point score system

	2001		2004			
	Number of schools	*Uncapped average point score*	*Number of schools*	*Uncapped average point score*	*Change in average point score 2001-04*	*Average annual change in average point score*
Specialist (as at September 2000)	524	42.0	524	45.3	3.3	1.1
Specialist in a given year	524	42.0	1,429	44.3	[1]—	[1]—
Grammar	164	62.9	164	65.6	2.7	0.9
Academies	n/a	n/a	11	29.4	n/a	n/a
All maintained mainstream secondary schools inc CTC and academies	3,134	39.2	3,110	41.8	2.6	0.9

After change to the point score system

	2004		2005		
	Number of schools	*Uncapped average point score*	*Number of schools*	*Uncapped average point score*	*Change in average point score 2004-05*
Specialist (as at September 2000)	524	369.3	524	379.8	10.5
Specialist in a given year	1,429	361.5	1,931	368.9	[1]—
Grammar	164	499.2	164	507.6	8.4
Academies (as at September 2004)	11	255.6	11	275.6	20.0
Academies in given year	11	255.6	14	282.1	[1]—
All maintained mainstream secondary schools inc CTC and academies	3,110	343.2	3,110	354.0	10.8

[1] Changes in average point score have only been shown were we have compared the same schools over time.

Notes:
1. Some grammar schools are specialist.
2. There were no academies in 2001.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what powers the Learning and Skills Council has *(a)* to open new post-16 facilities and *(b)* to withdraw funding from existing post-16 facilities (i) with and (ii) without the agreement of the local education authority for the area; and what (A) informal and (B) formal consultation is required before such proposals are (1) made and (2) implemented. [80864]

Bill Rammell: The LSC has powers to propose new school sixth forms and 16-19 schools under section 113A of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 as inserted by section 72 of the Education Act 2002, as part of local 16-19 reorganisation, where it can demonstrate that the proposals will improve participation, raise standards or broaden the range of provision or following recommendations in an Ofsted area inspection report. The LSC also has powers to propose new Further Education Colleges under section 51 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. In both circumstances the legislation requires the LSC to consult formally and widely, including with the local authority. Reorganisation proposals made by the LSC are decided by the Secretary of State.

The Learning and Skills Act 2000 places a duty on the LSC to make best use of resources (Section 2), gives the LSC the powers to secure the provision of funds to providers of post-16 education and training (Section 5) and impose conditions (Section 6). These powers cover the provision of funding to FE corporations and other providers of post-16 education and training.

Section 7 of the Act gives the LSC the power to make a grant to a local authority to be applied as part of the authority's local schools budget and with a view to the grant being used for the purpose of or connected with the provision by schools of post-16 education.

The LSC has discretion whether to provide, increase, reduce or withdraw funding. However the LSC must exercise its powers reasonably and this means it would normally be expected to consult with the recipient of any funding before withdrawing funding and take into account any representations they wish to make. The LSC must also take into account all relevant matters in reaching any decisions including the need to fulfil its statutory duties to secure proper or reasonable provision.

Missing Children

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will take steps to collect and publish information on the support services available to children who run away or go missing from care or home in each children's services area. [80003]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* Each local authority, through their children's services authority arrangements, is required by the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme to set up an accessible children's services directory, including information on services for vulnerable young people such as those who run away or go missing. Local authorities must also produce a Children and Young People Plan setting out how services, including those for vulnerable young people, will operate. Such services are for local authorities to determine, in partnership with the relevant stakeholders in their area, according to local need.

Many local authorities have already placed their service directories on their existing website, while others have created new sites, giving them easy-to-find titles appropriate to local community circumstances (e.g. Help4me.info in Cheshire and Merseyside).

In 2005 the Department commissioned research by the National Family and Parenting Institute to look at how local authorities were linking up their directories. From those who took part, we have compiled a list of local authority children's services web links. These are available on the Every Child Matters website. However, my Department has no other current plans to collect and publish information nationally on what specific services operate in every area.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made in giving teachers more support online on how they can help prevent running away; and if he will ensure that the schools pack produced following the Social Exclusion Unit report on running away is available online. [80004]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The schools pack referred to was developed by Shelter and Connexions, and launched by the Department in 2004. It is available via the teachernet website (teachernet.gov.uk) and Shelter's own website. Shelter also produced a pack for personal social and health education (PSHE) teachers: "Talk before you walk", which is available via their website.

Opportunity exists within the current PSHE and citizenship frameworks for schools to explore issues to do with recognising and managing risks involved in running away. The Department is however not prescriptive with schools about what issues they must explore, what resources they must use, or how they should access them, to achieve the learning objectives set out within those frameworks.

DfES has also run six development projects to test out community-based responses. When we disseminate the lessons learnt so far from these later this year, this will include information, materials and support models from work with schools in the pilot areas.

New School Buildings (Energy Efficiency)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are taken to ensure that the new builds under Building Schools for the Future use energy efficient methods. [79697]

Jim Knight: All new buildings must comply with the latest 2006 edition of Part L of the Building Regulations "The Conservation of Fuel and Power". Approved Document L (ADL) in support of Part L of the Building Regulations was published in March 2006 and has considerably increased the energy efficiency

required of all new buildings including schools compared with the 2002 edition. In addition the new Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method "BREEAM Schools" which all new build schools are required to complete gives credits for improving the energy efficiency beyond the requirements of ADL. DfES expects all major new build and refurbishment school projects to achieve a very good or excellent rating on "BREEAM Schools".

New Technologies

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of the Department's budget was spent on researching new technologies in the last period for which figures are available. [76810]

Phil Hope: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1882-86W.

Parent School Advisers

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress is being made in establishing the pilot areas for parent school advisers; and if he will make a statement. [80551]

Jim Knight: 20 local authorities have accepted an invitation to run pilots for parent support advisers in schools. There will be 600 advisers in primary and secondary schools, and recruitment will start this summer. They will take a preventive role, supporting children and families where there are early signs that additional help is needed. They will build on the best that schools are already doing to raise standards by enhancing home-school relationships.

Pupil Attainment

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what information his Department collects on pupil attainment and social class. [79800]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Department for Education and Skills collects the following information on pupil attainment.

1. Results for the foundation stage profile.

2. Results at key stages 1, 2 and 3.

3. Results at GCSE and equivalent qualifications approved for use pre-16 4. Results at GSE/VCE A/AS levels and equivalent qualifications approved for use post-16.

The Department does not collect details of the social class of pupils. However, one commonly used measure of low socio-economic status is eligibility for free school meals (FSM). Pupil attainment figures broken down by FSM eligibility are calculated by the Department.

Attainment figures have also been available since 2004 by ACORN (A Classification of Residential Neighbourhoods). The ACORN classification combines geography with demographics and lifestyle information to categorise UK postcodes into five categories. This classification describes people according to the neighbourhood in which they live, and works on the premise that people living in the same neighbourhood will have similar purchasing habits and attitudinal characteristics.

The Department also uses the Indices of Deprivation 2004 and the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index developed by the Social Disadvantage Research Centre of the University of Oxford on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to identify deprived areas and highlight variations between areas.

Pupil-Teacher Ratio

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average pupil-teacher ratio is in *(a)* secondary schools, *(b)* specialist schools, *(c)* academies and *(d)* grammar schools in England. [79799]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The following table shows the pupil to teacher ratio in maintained secondary schools, special schools, academies and grammar schools in England, January 2006.

Pupil teacher ratios[1] in maintained secondary schools, specialist schools, academies and grammar schools in England, January 2006[2]

	Pupil teacher ratio
Local authority maintained secondary schools	16.6
Specialist schools	16.4
Academies	14.5
Grammar schools	16.4

[1] The pupil teacher ratio is the full-time equivalent number of pupils divided by the full-time equivalent number of qualified teachers. Dually registered pupils are excluded.
[2] Provisional.
Source:.
Annual Schools Census

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of staff at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority who will *(a)* relocate and *(b)* resign when it relocates; and if he will make a statement. [78339]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Board of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, as it considers the plans for the relocation of the organisation, in response to the review by Sir Michael Lyons on relocating public sector jobs outside London and the south-east.

The QCA Board agreed in principle to relocate by March 2010 at its March 2006 meeting, and in May agreed the criteria it will use in considering possible locations. Decisions on its preferred location are

expected at the September meeting of the QCA Board, after which recommendations and a business case will go to the Secretary of State, although the final decision is for the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on the advice of the Office of Government Commerce.

School Attendance

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children living in England attend schools in Wales, broken down by *(a)* type of school, *(b)* sex and *(c)* age. [79582]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* The Department only collects information on pupils who attend schools in England and therefore we are unable to supply information requested. This is a matter for the Welsh Assembly.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children living in Wales attend schools in England, broken down by *(a)* type of school, *(b)* age and *(c)* sex. [79583]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* The numbers of pupils residing in Wales who attend maintained schools in England has been provided in the following tables .

(a) By type of school

	Number of pupils
Nursery	8
Primary[1]	608
Secondary[1]	1,227
Special[2]	111
Total	1,954

(b) By age

Age[3]	*Number of pupils*
2	3
3	16
4	80
5	79
6	91
7	85
8	99
9	95
10	81
11	212
12	189
12	199
14	230
15	217
16	133
17	124
18	15
19	6

(c) By gender

	Number of pupils
Female	922
Male	1,032
Total	1,954

Sources:

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes special schools and non-maintained special schools.

[3] Age of pupils calculated at start of the academic year.

School Closures

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school closures there were in each local education authority in each year since 2000; and what percentage this represented of the total number of schools in each area. [79553]

Jim Knight: The number of schools closed by local authority during the calendar years 2000 to 2006 are as follow:

School closures and percentage of school stock by local authority by year

Local authority	*Stock as at 2006*	*2000*	*% of stock 2000*	*2001*	*% of stock 2001*	*2002*	*% of stock 2002*	*2003*	*% of stock 2003*
Barking and Dagenham	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnet	112	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Barnsley	96	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	77	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	210	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Bexley	76	0	0	3	4	1	1	6	8
Birmingham	403	10	2	3	1	4	1	16	4
Blackburn with Darwen	75	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Blackpool	38	0	0	2	5	1	3	0	0
Bolton	119	0	0	0	0	6	5	5	4
Bournemouth	37	1	3	0	0	0	0	2	5
Bracknell Forest	36	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0
Bradford	195	73	37	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brent	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Brighton and Hove	87	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Bristol City of	149	8	5	0	0	3	2	1	1

School closures and percentage of school stock by local authority by year

Local authority	Stock as at 2006	2000	% of stock 2000	2001	% of stock 2001	2002	% of stock 2002	2003	% of stock 2003
Bromley	95	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2
Buckinghamshire	221	3	1	5	2	7	3	1	0
Bury	78	1	1	0	0	1	1	8	10
Calderdale	100	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0
Cambridgeshire	240	2	1	2	1	4	2	4	2
Camden	51	2	4	0	0	1	2	0	0
Cheshire	326	5	2	0	0	0	0	6	2
City of London	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	272	0	0	2	1	3	1	2	1
Coventry	105	0	0	1	1	6	6	2	2
Croydon	120	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Cumbria	329	2	1	4	1	9	3	2	1
Darlington	39	6	15	0	0	0	0	4	10
Derby	100	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	1
Derbyshire	413	0	0	2	0	4	1	2	0
Devon	357	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
Doncaster	120	0	0	4	3	5	4	8	7
Dorset	171	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Dudley	105	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Durham	291	0	0	0	0	7	2	2	1
Ealing	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
East Riding of Yorkshire	155	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	1
East Sussex	183	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enfield	84	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex	556	13	2	11	2	5	1	7	1
Gateshead	87	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	292	6	2	4	1	0	0	0	0
Greenwich	82	2	2	5	6	2	2	0	0
Hackney	66	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	5
Halton	64	0	0	8	13	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	48	0	0	0	0	2	4	2	4
Hampshire	507	1	0	6	1	0	0	0	0
Haringey	77	8	10	0	0	3	4	0	0
Harrow	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hartlepool	37	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
Havering	83	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	1
Herefordshire	97	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Hertfordshire	505	4	1	12	2	3	1	5	1
Hillingdon	83	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Hounslow	74	0	0	9	12	0	0	0	0
Isle of Wight	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Isles of Scilly	1	0	0	0	0	5	500	0	0
Islington	57	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	576	1	0	2	0	3	1	5	1
Kingston upon Hull City of	95	0	0	4	4	2	2	1	1
Kingston upon Thames	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirklees	186	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knowsley	70	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Lambeth	75	2	3	5	7	3	4	2	3
Lancashire	600	2	0	6	1	12	2	0	0
Leeds	265	0	0	1	0	5	2	0	0
Leicester	101	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	281	1	0	2	1	0	0	1	0
Lewisham	85	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Lincolnshire	354	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Liverpool	172	3	2	11	6	14	8	12	7
Luton	75	2	3	3	4	0	0	4	5
Manchester	161	7	4	6	4	2	1	4	2
Medway	105	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2

School closures and percentage of school stock by local authority by year

Local authority	Stock as at 2006	2000	% of stock 2000	2001	% of stock 2001	2002	% of stock 2002	2003	% of stock 2003
Merton	51	0	0	0	0	14	27	0	0
Middlesbrough	51	0	0	0	0	6	12	8	16
Milton Keynes	105	4	4	2	2	0	0	1	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	93	0	0	4	4	4	4	0	0
Newham	89	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Norfolk	440	4	1	3	1	0	0	2	0
North East Lincolnshire	74	2	3	2	3	0	0	2	3
North Lincolnshire	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
North Somerset	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
North Tyneside	72	3	4	4	6	4	6	0	0
North Yorkshire	378	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	318	2	1	3	1	4	1	2	1
Northumberland	198	2	1	0	0	0	0	4	2
Nottingham	114	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3
Nottinghamshire	346	4	1	37	11	6	2	7	2
Oldham	109	0	0	3	3	6	6	3	3
Oxfordshire	279	1	0	3	1	3	1	14	5
Peterborough	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plymouth	95	2	2	0	0	3	3	0	0
Poole	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portsmouth	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading	49	1	2	2	4	1	2	0	0
Redbridge	68	1	1	10	15	0	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	58	2	3	3	5	0	0	4	7
Richmond upon Thames	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochdale	91	0	0	6	7	0	0	0	0
Rotherham	123	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2
Rutland	20	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0
Salford	98	13	13	4	4	0	0	0	0
Sandwell	115	3	3	2	2	2	2	0	0
Sefton	106	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Sheffield	171	3	2	0	0	8	5	5	3
Shropshire	165	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Slough	43	2	5	2	5	0	0	0	0
Solihull	81	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Somerset	262	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
South Gloucestershire	112	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
South Tyneside	67	3	4	0	0	2	3	7	10
Southampton	78	6	8	0	0	0	0	4	5
Southend-on-Sea	49	0	0	2	4	0	0	4	8
Southwark	91	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
St. Helens	68	2	3	0	0	2	3	0	0
Staffordshire	380	2	1	0	0	2	1	1	0
Stockport	115	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees	75	0	0	2	3	3	4	0	0
Stoke-on-Trent	95	4	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
Suffolk	333	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Sunderland	111	0	0	5	5	7	6	1	1
Surrey	375	1	0	7	2	3	1	3	1
Sutton	57	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	4
Swindon	77	10	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tameside	94	0	0	0	0	4	4	3	3
Telford and Wrekin	77	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	53	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6
Torbay	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets	90	0	0	2	2	4	4	2	2
Trafford	91	0	0	2	2	4	4	0	0
Wakefield	145	1	1	5	3	2	1	4	3
Walsall	118	4	3	0	0	0	0	3	3
Waltham Forest	79	0	0	0	0	2	3	7	9

School closures and percentage of school stock by local authority by year

Local authority	Stock as at 2006	2000	% of stock 2000	2001	% of stock 2001	2002	% of stock 2002	2003	% of stock 2003
Wandsworth	70	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warrington	84	1	1	2	2	7	8	0	0
Warwickshire	241	2	1	5	2	0	0	1	0
West Berkshire	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	286	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Westminster	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wigan	130	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Wiltshire	240	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	1
Windsor and Maidenhead	63	1	2	0	0	1	2	0	0
Wirral	125	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Wokingham	62	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	2
Wolverhampton	105	6	6	1	1	5	5	0	0
Worcestershire	249	2	1	12	5	0	0	1	0
York	66	5	8	3	5	5	8	0	0
Total Stock/Change	21,360	290	1	302	1	274	1	254	1

Local authority	2004	% of stock 2004	2005	% of stock 2005	2006	% of stock 2006	Total	% of stock total
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnet	5	4	3	3	0	0	9	8
Barnsley	0	0	7	7	0	0	13	14
Bath and North East Somerset	0	0	6	8	0	0	8	10
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Bexley	3	4	0	0	0	0	13	17
Birmingham	16	4	6	1	0	0	55	14
Blackburn with Darwen	2	3	2	3	0	0	5	7
Blackpool	0	0	4	11	0	0	7	18
Bolton	2	2	0	0	0	0	13	11
Bournemouth	1	3	0	0	0	0	4	11
Bracknell Forest	2	6	2	6	0	0	6	17
Bradford	0	0	3	2	0	0	76	39
Brent	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Brighton and Hove	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	4
Bristol City of	1	1	2	1	0	0	15	10
Bromley	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	4
Buckinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	7
Bury	2	3	0	0	0	0	12	15
Calderdale	3	3	0	0	0	0	6	6
Cambridgeshire	2	1	0	0	0	0	14	6
Camden	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6
Cheshire	5	2	7	2	0	0	23	7
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	1	0	4	1	0	0	12	4
Coventry	1	1	2	2	0	0	12	11
Croydon	2	2	2	2	0	0	8	7
Cumbria	4	1	6	2	0	0	27	8
Darlington	5	13	4	10	0	0	19	49
Derby	4	4	0	0	0	0	9	9
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	2
Devon	2	1	8	2	0	0	14	4
Doncaster	1	1	1	1	0	0	19	16
Dorset	3	2	4	2	0	0	9	5
Dudley	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Durham	2	1	0	0	0	0	11	4
Ealing	1	1	1	1	0	0	4	5
East Riding of Yorkshire	1	1	2	1	0	0	7	5
East Sussex	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Enfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Essex	3	1	1	0	0	0	40	7

Local authority	2004	% of stock 2004	2005	% of stock 2005	2006	% of stock 2006	Total	% of stock total
Gateshead	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Gloucestershire	0	0	4	1	0	0	14	5
Greenwich	2	2	2	2	0	0	13	16
Hackney	0	0	3	5	0	0	10	15
Halton	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	13
Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8
Hampshire	4	1	2	0	0	0	13	3
Haringey	5	6	0	0	0	0	16	21
Harrow	0	0	2	3	0	0	2	3
Hartlepool	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Havering	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5
Herefordshire	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2
Hertfordshire	3	1	14	3	0	0	41	8
Hillingdon	1	1	3	4	0	0	5	6
Hounslow	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	12
Isle of Wight	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	500
Islington	3	5	0	0	0	0	5	9
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	2	0	7	1	2	0	22	4
Kingston upon Hull City of	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	7
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirklees	0	0	2	1	0	0	2	1
Knowsley	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lambeth	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	16
Lancashire	6	1	5	1	0	0	31	5
Leeds	22	8	9	3	0	0	37	14
Leicester	3	3	2	2	0	0	7	7
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
Lewisham	0	0	2	2	0	0	4	5
Lincolnshire	2	1	2	1	0	0	6	2
Liverpool	8	5	1	1	0	0	49	28
Luton	2	3	0	0	0	0	11	15
Manchester	1	1	1	1	0	0	21	13
Medway	0	0	4	4	0	0	9	9
Merton	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	27
Middlesbrough	0	0	1	2	0	0	15	29
Milton Keynes	3	3	0	0	0	0	10	10
Newcastle upon Tyne	1	1	3	3	0	0	12	13
Newham	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	2
North East Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	8
North Lincolnshire	2	2	0	0	0	0	4	5
North Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
North Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	15
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Northamptonshire	18	6	9	3	0	0	38	12
Northumberland	2	1	5	3	2	1	15	8
Nottingham	2	2	9	8	0	0	20	18
Nottinghamshire	5	1	6	2	1	0	66	19
Oldham	2	2	0	0	0	0	14	13
Oxfordshire	0	0	1	0	0	0	22	8
Peterborough	3	4	0	0	0	0	3	4
Plymouth	0	0	4	4	0	0	9	9
Poole	2	5	0	0	0	0	2	5
Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading	1	2	0	0	0	0	5	10
Redbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	16
Redcar and Cleveland	2	3	4	7	0	0	15	26
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochdale	2	2	2	2	0	0	10	11

Local authority	2004	% of stock 2004	2005	% of stock 2005	2006	% of stock 2006	Total	% of stock total
Rotherham	1	1	2	2	0	0	7	6
Rutland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Salford	1	1	5	5	0	0	23	23
Sandwell	0	0	4	3	0	0	11	10
Sefton	2	2	13	12	0	0	18	17
Sheffield	0	0	0	0	2	1	18	11
Shropshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Slough	3	7	0	0	0	0	7	16
Solihull	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Somerset	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
South Gloucestershire	3	3	0	0	0	0	5	4
South Tyneside	2	3	0	0	0	0	14	21
Southampton	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	13
Southend-on-Sea	2	4	4	8	0	0	12	24
Southwark	0	0	2	2	0	0	4	4
St. Helens	4	6	0	0	0	0	8	12
Staffordshire	6	2	7	2	0	0	18	5
Stockport	3	3	9	8	0	0	16	14
Stockton-on-Tees	2	3	2	3	2	3	11	15
Stoke-on-Trent	7	7	3	3	0	0	28	29
Suffolk	3	1	2	1	0	0	8	2
Sunderland	6	5	0	0	0	0	19	17
Surrey	7	2	2	1	0	0	23	6
Sutton	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
Swindon	2	3	0	0	0	0	12	16
Tameside	0	0	1	1	0	0	8	9
Telford and Wrekin	4	5	6	8	0	0	12	16
Thurrock	2	4	4	8	0	0	9	17
Torbay	0	0	2	5	0	0	2	5
Tower Hamlets	0	0	1	1	0	0	9	10
Trafford	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7
Wakefield	1	1	2	1	0	0	15	10
Walsall	0	0	6	5	0	0	13	11
Waltham Forest	2	3	0	0	0	0	11	14
Wandsworth	2	3	0	0	0	0	4	6
Warrington	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	12
Warwickshire	2	1	2	1	0	0	12	5
West Berkshire	0	0	4	5	0	0	4	5
West Sussex	14	5	0	0	0	0	17	6
Westminster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wigan	4	3	2	2	0	0	7	5
Wiltshire	4	2	9	4	2	1	20	8
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Wirral	0	0	2	2	0	0	3	2
Wokingham	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	6
Wolverhampton	3	3	0	0	0	0	15	14
Worcestershire	2	1	2	1	0	0	19	8
York	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	20
Total [illegible] Change	279	1	287	1	13	0	1,699	8

[illegible] amalgamated their five schools into one school (the Five Islands school) hence the 500 per cent. change in school stock in this [illegible]

[illegible]
Source:
DfES.

The aforementioned figures include schools that closed as a result of the amalgamation or merger of two or more schools; schools that have closed but reopened as voluntary schools with a religious character; and schools that have closed in local authorities that have moved from a three-tier to a two-tier system.

School Fires

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many *(a)* fatal and *(b)* non-fatal injuries resulted from school fires in each year of the last 10 years; [79593]

(2) how many fires there were in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each (i) region and (ii) local education authority in each of the last 10 years; and how many were started deliberately. [79571]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* The Department does not collect these statistics, but does have some figures from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The latest figures we have for England and Wales cover 2000-04.

	Number of fires
2000	1,275
2001	1,529
2002	1,332
2003	1,313
2004	1,291

The available data cannot differentiate between primary and secondary schools, or between the public and independent sectors. For all the years covered, 61 per cent. of the school fires were considered to be the result of deliberate fire setting.

There have been no fatalities due to school fires in the last 10 years, but school fires resulted in 46 non-fatal casualties in 2002 and 40 in 2003—the latest figures we have from DCLG. Of the 86 people injured in those two years, 54 were over 18 years old, 29 were aged 11-17, two aged between five and 10, and the age of one casualty is unknown.

Schools Budget

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total school budget was of each local authority for 2004-05; and what proportion was delegated to schools in each authority. [80622]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The available information is contained within the following table:

Total schools' budget[1] and total money delegated to schools[2] by local authority during 2004-05

		Of which: total amount delegated to schools[2, 3]	
Local authority name	*Total schools' budget[1, 3] (£)*	*£*	*Percentage of total schools' budget*
England	28,378,783,000	24,868,617,000	87.6
City of London	1,774,000	1,086,000	61.2
Barking and Dagenham	123,004,000	108,570,000	88.3
Barnet	193,853,000	169,651,000	87.5
Barnsley	122,407,000	106,284,000	86.8
Bath and North East Somerset	89,939,000	79,637,000	88.5
Bedfordshire	220,493,000	196,784,000	89.2
Bexley	147,088,000	125,173,000	85.1
Birmingham	719,706,000	649,951,000	90.3
Blackburn and Darwen	99,047,000	86,362,000	87.2
Blackpool	78,383,000	64,179,000	81.9
Bolton	161,789,000	142,577,000	88.1
Bournemouth	73,623,000	62,620,000	85.1
Bracknell Forest	53,416,000	45,651,000	85.5
Bradford	321,379,000	288,876,000	89.9
Brent	170,198,000	149,828,000	88.0
Brighton and Hove	111,176,000	97,577,000	87.8
Bromley	176,580,000	149,825,000	84.8
Buckinghamshire	281,438,000	236,238,000	83.9
Bury	95,743,000	85,180,000	89.0
Calderdale	123,431,000	108,797,000	88.1
Cambridgeshire	262,579,000	234,709,000	89.4
Camden	124,477,000	102,110,000	82.0
Cheshire	368,484,000	313,811,000	85.2
City of Bristol	188,930,000	166,433,000	88.1
City of Kingston-Upon-Hull	148,425,000	134,289,000	90.5
Cornwall	260,961,000	222,983,000	85.4
Coventry	187,619,000	163,766,000	87.3
Croydon	197,796,000	175,920,000	88.9
Cumbria	264,240,000	236,477,000	89.5
Darlington	53,392,000	47,335,000	88.7
Derby	138,473,000	122,847,000	88.7

Total schools' budget[1] and total money delegated to schools[2] by local authority during 2004-05

Local authority name	*Total schools' budget[1,3] (£)*	*Of which: total amount delegated to schools[2, 3] £*	*Percentage of total schools' budget*
Derbyshire	396,328,000	347,043,000	87.6
Devon	319,856,000	286,441,000	89.6
Doncaster	183,562,000	160,760,000	87.6
Dorset	203,620,000	172,780,000	84.9
Dudley	176,846,000	152,012,000	86.0
Durham	271,183,000	249,392,000	92.0
Ealing	178,586,000	153,917,000	86.2
East Riding of Yorkshire	171,632,000	151,756,000	88.4
East Sussex	246,171,000	214,771,000	87.2
Enfield	201,876,000	177,635,000	88.0
Essex	741,672,000	650,563,000	87.7
Gateshead	108,190,000	93,570,000	86.5
Gloucestershire	304,192,000	263,475,000	86.6
Greenwich	170,630,000	152,318,000	89.3
Hackney	146,186,000	108,723,000	74.4
Halton	77,128,000	65,644,000	85.1
Hammersmith and Fulham	91,668,000	77,091,000	84.1
Hampshire	620,454,000	543,123,000	87.5
Haringey	156,798,000	135,020,000	86.1
Harrow	112,364,000	98,715,000	87.9
Hartlepool	58,050,000	52,058,000	89.7
Havering	138,314,000	125,975,000	91.1
Herefordshire	80,212,000	70,012,000	87.3
Hertfordshire	638,721,000	565,727,000	88.6
Hillingdon	161,115,000	143,737,000	89.2
Hounslow	151,235,000	133,537,000	88.3
Isle of Wight	74,792,000	62,892,000	84.1
Isles of Scilly	2,022,000	1,907,000	94.3
Islington	117,088,000	100,520,000	85.9
Kensington and Chelsea	60,596,000	51,062,000	84.3
Kent	803,297,000	707,384,000	88.1
Kingston upon Thames	80,147,000	71,892,000	89.7
Kirklees	238,729,000	206,598,000	86.5
Knowsley	101,282,000	85,826,000	84.7
Lambeth	144,579,000	126,129,000	87.2
Lancashire	645,308,000	552,860,000	85.7
Leeds	413,736,000	367,784,000	88.9
Leicester	179,114,000	157,165,000	87.7
Leicestershire	333,829,000	286,604,000	85.9
Lewisham	176,890,000	141,393,000	79.9
Lincolnshire	357,592,000	323,724,000	90.5
Liverpool	303,016,000	264,917,000	87.4
Luton	123,522,000	111,606,000	90.4
Manchester	266,455,000	235,250,000	88.3
Medway	169,590,000	149,702,000	88.3
Merton	85,299,000	77,484,000	90.8
Middlesbrough	78,826,000	66,421,000	84.3
Milton Keynes	134,580,000	116,287,000	86.4
Newcastle upon Tyne	144,583,000	125,337,000	86.7
Newham	224,595,000	191,640,000	85.3
Norfolk	399,955,000	355,580,000	88.9
North East Lincolnshire	97,278,000	82,443,000	84.8
North Lincolnshire	86,422,000	75,551,000	87.4
North Somerset	96,186,000	82,754,000	86.0
North Tyneside	104,510,000	96,067,000	91.9
North Yorkshire	299,938,000	271,182,000	90.4
Northamptonshire	364,536,000	323,799,000	88.8
Northumberland	178,247,000	154,693,000	86.8
Nottingham City	157,053,000	139,450,000	88.8

Total schools' budget[1] and total money delegated to schools[2] by local authority during 2004-05

Local authority name	*Total schools' budget[1,3] (£)*	*Of which: total amount delegated to schools[2, 3] £*	*Percentage of total schools' budget*
Nottinghamshire	407,872,000	357,373,000	87.6
Oldham	147,627,000	130,998,000	88.7
Oxfordshire	300,641,000	262,193,000	87.2
Peterborough	106,083,000	95,723,000	90.2
Plymouth	146,123,000	126,955,000	86.9
Poole	66,250,000	57,570,000	86.9
Portsmouth	95,693,000	83,445,000	87.2
Reading	64,392,000	55,911,000	86.8
Redbridge	165,256,000	148,930,000	90.1
Redcar and Cleveland	84,823,000	75,818,000	89.4
Richmond upon Thames	75,485,000	66,223,000	87.7
Rochdale	134,690,000	116,045,000	86.2
Rotherham	163,381,000	147,320,000	90.2
Rutland	17,092,000	15,870,000	92.9
Salford	130,416,000	109,446,000	83.9
Sandwell	177,150,000	167,081,000	94.3
Sefton	169,695,000	148,475,000	87.5
Sheffield	312,947,000	235,272,000	75.2
Shropshire	139,316,000	116,257,000	83.4
Slough	79,322,000	72,061,000	90.8
Solihull	121,135,000	104,826,000	86.5
Somerset	245,938,000	220,787,000	89.8
South Gloucestershire	134,374,000	116,988,000	87.1
South Tyneside	90,805,000	79,260,000	87.3
Southampton	114,036,000	100,997,000	88.6
Southend	100,684,000	88,181,000	87.6
Southwark	173,295,000	152,210,000	87.8
St. Helens	108,344,000	92,974,000	85.8
Staffordshire	446,754,000	388,557,000	87.0
Stockport	139,217,000	118,696,000	85.3
Stockton-on-Tees	108,756,000	95,774,000	88.1
Stoke on Trent	132,948,000	120,582,000	90.7
Suffolk	351,431,000	313,212,000	89.1
Sunderland	164,841,000	153,409,000	93.1
Surrey	504,842,000	437,813,000	86.7
Sutton	117,990,000	102,825,000	87.1
Swindon	96,118,000	86,102,000	89.6
Tameside	131,368,000	111,668,000	85.0
Telford and Wrekin	97,532,000	80,382,000	82.4
Thurrock	84,592,000	75,899,000	89.7
Torbay	70,790,000	60,739,000	85.8
Tower Hamlets	203,348,000	183,673,000	90.3
Trafford	123,355,000	105,053,000	85.2
Wakefield	169,380,000	155,690,000	91.9
Walsall	170,012,000	149,109,000	87.7
Waltham Forest	151,830,000	139,267,000	91.7
Wandsworth	133,648,000	123,108,000	92.1
Warrington	106,064,000	95,511,000	90.1
Warwickshire	274,447,000	237,407,000	86.5
West Berkshire	89,846,000	78,913,000	87.8
West Sussex	368,614,000	330,195,000	89.6
Westminster	96,001,000	83,280,000	86.7
Wigan	183,453,000	160,517,000	87.5
Wiltshire	220,358,000	191,432,000	86.9
Windsor and Maidenhead	72,973,000	63,281,000	86.7
Wirral	195,055,000	169,917,000	87.1
Wokingham	81,444,000	71,057,000	87.2
Wolverhampton	145,683,000	136,367,000	93.6

Total schools' budget[1] and total money delegated to schools[2] by local authority during 2004-05

Local authority name	*Total schools' budget[1,3] (£)*	*Of which: total amount delegated to schools[2, 3] £*	*Percentage of total schools' budget*
Worcestershire	277,741,000	245,661,000	88.4
York	85,465,000	73,109,000	85.5

[1] Total schools' budget is drawn from local authorities Section 52 Budget Statements submitted to the DfES. This is calculated as the gross elements of any grants plus the net elements of the remainder of the budget.
[2] The total amount delegated to schools includes the individual schools' budget as well as any school standards grants, devolved standards fund allocation, excellence in cities grant, additional targeted transitional grant, advance of transitional grant and support for schools in financial difficulty.
[3] Cash figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000 and, therefore, may not sum due to rounding. Figures as reported by local authorities as at 23 June 2006.

Special Needs Standards

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much *(a)* the Government and *(b)* local authorities have spent commissioning Edison to help local authorities to meet special needs standards; [79167]

(2) what role Edison is playing in helping local authorities to meet special needs standards; and if he will make a statement. [79168]

Jim Knight: The Department has not commissioned Edison Schools UK, nor has it made an assessment of the role Edison is playing, to help local authorities meet their duties in regard to special educational needs (SEN). Local authorities have duties to identify, assess and arrange suitable provision for children with SEN and to keep their arrangements for special educational provision under review. Local authorities can buy in consultancy advice to help them with their special needs duties, as can schools, including special schools. The Department does not record how much local authorities have spent commissioning Edison nor what, if any, of this has been spent on SEN consultancy. Through programmed annual performance assessments and periodic joint area reviews of children's services, Ofsted and other inspectorates inspect how local authorities meet their duties, including any arrangements they make with private or voluntary sector organisations.

Specialist Schools

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of pupils at each specialist school which selects a proportion of its pupils by aptitude for its specialist subjects is so selected at each school. [79801]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Department does not collect this data. However all schools including specialist schools are bound by the limitations set within the School Admissions Code of Practice. Relatively few such schools select in this way. When the Department last collected such data in summer 2001, only 45 schools or 6.5 per cent. of those that were specialist at the time did so.

Swimming Pools

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding is available for swimming pools through the Building Schools for the Future programme; and whether there are plans to extend this provision. [80596]

Jim Knight: Funding for Building Schools for the Future is allocated formulaically, based on pupil numbers and our area guidelines for secondary schools, published in 'Building Bulletin 98'. Within 'Building Bulletin 98' swimming pools are considered to be a 'supplementary area'—in other words they are not part of the core school facilities which we fund.

While Building Schools for the Future funding allocations do not include money for new swimming pools, we do allow existing pools to be refurbished within the programme. It is for each local authority to decide how to make the best use of its overall Building Schools for the Future funding allocation across the schools in a particular project and the scope of works at each school. A decision could be taken locally to put some of the available funding towards a swimming pool instead of the second of the two PE spaces allowed for in our guidelines, but only if the resulting provision satisfies the school's PE curriculum as well or better than the standard provision.

There is also the option of exploring other sources of funding to supplement that from Building Schools for the Future. In order to help facilitate that locally the Department has produced guidance on joining-up funding in the context of Building Schools for the Future.

Teachers

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers are teaching classes in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* biology, *(d)* physics, *(e)* chemistry, *(f)* French, *(g)* German, *(h)* history and *(i)* geography in secondary schools in England who have no higher qualification than an A-level in the subject. [80037]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of teachers teaching by subject and qualification is collected in periodic staffing surveys the last of which was conducted in November 2002.

The following tables provide the available information.

D8 Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentage

	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other Qual.	No Qual.	Total teachers (Thousand)
Mathematics	42 ± 3	15 ± 2	9 ± 2	7 ± 1	2 ± 1	24 ± 2	28.2
English	51 ± 3	15 ± 2	7 ± 1	6 ± 1	1 ± 1	20 ± 2	29.4
Combined/General science	62 ± 3	12 ± 2	10 ± 2	4 ± 1	1 ± 1	11 ± 2	28.3
Biology[4]	71 ± 5	7 ± 3	11 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± 1	7 ± 3	5.6
Chemistry[4]	72 ± 5	6 ± 3	12 ± 4	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	7 ± 3	5.2
Physics[4]	63 ± 6	11 ± 4	15 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 3	4.7
Other sciences[4]	10 ± 6	4 ± 4	5 ± 4	- ± -	- ± -	80 ± 8	1.6
French	54 ± 3	7 ± 2	10 ± 2	3 ± 1	2 ± 1	23 ± 3	16.0
German	47 ± 5	6 ± 3	13 ± 4	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	30 ± 5	6.9
Spanish	37 ± 7	8 ± 4	19 ± 6	- ± -	3 ± 2	33 ± 7	3.6
Other modern languages	18 ± 8	- ± -	9 ± 7	- ± -	3 ± 4	71 ±10	1.4
Design and technology[5]	26 ± 3	20 ± 3	7 ± 2	21 ± 3	2 ± 1	24 ± 3	20.9
ICT[5, 6]	13 ± 2	6 ± 1	8 ± 2	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	69 ± 3	18.9
Other/Combined technology[5]	30± 10	13 ± 8	16 ± 7	18 ± 9	2 ± 3	20 ± 9	1.6
Business studies	30 ± 5	11 ± 4	9 ± 3	4 ± 2	3 ± 2	43 ± 5	6.5
Classics	33 ± 7	- ± -	2 ± 4	2 ± -	- ± -	63 ± 7	1.0
History	57 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 2	- ± -	23 ± 3	13.7
Religious education	22 ± 3	8 ± 2	8 ± 2	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	57 ± 4	14.2
Geography	53 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	5 ± 2	1 ± 1	25 ± 3	13.7
Other social studies	35 ± 5	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	2 ± 1	- ± 1	54 ± 6	4.9
Combined arts/humanities/ social studies	5 ± 3	4 ± 2	7 ± 3	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	83 ± 5	5.3
Music	59 ± 5	15 ± 4	5 ± 2	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	13 ± 4	6.3
Drama	25 ± 4	10 ± 3	12 ± 3	6 ± 2	2 ± 1	45 ± 5	8.1
Art and design	54 ± 4	10 ± 3	7 ± 2	9 ± 3	1 ± 1	20 ± 4	9.3
Physical education	25 ± 3	31 ± 3	6 ± 2	13 ± 2	2 ± 1	22 ± 2	21.4
Careers education	2 ± 2	1 ± 2	3 ± 3	4 ± 4	3 ± 4	87 ± 7	1.5
PSHE[6]	1 ± -	1 ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	61.4
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	95 ± 2	7.1
Citizenship	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	94 ± 2	9.0
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.8
Total[2, 7]	33 ± -	10 ± -	7 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	44 ± -	388.4

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:
Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

D9 Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Proportion of subject periods taught to year groups 7-13 holding a post A-level qualification[1] in that subject[2], England

Percentage

	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other Qual.	No Qual.	Total teachers (Thousand)
Mathematics	52 ± 1	17 ± -	10 ± -	8 ± -	1 ± -	12 ± -	630
English	62 ± 1	15 ± -	6 ± -	6 ± -	1± -	9 ± -	650

D9 Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Proportion of subject periods taught to year groups 7-13 holding a post A level qualification[1] in that subject [2], England

Percentage

	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other Qual.	No Qual.	Total teachers (Thousand)
Combined/General science	65 ± 1	13 ± -	10 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	6 ± -	610
Biology[4]	76 ± 1	6 ± 1	10 ± 1	3 ± 1	- ± -	5 ± 1	60
Chemistry[4]	80 ± 1	5 ± 1	8 ± 1	1 ± -	2 ± -	5 ± 1	50
Physics[4]	73 ± 2	9 ± 1	9 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± -	6 ± 1	50
Other Sciences[5]	11 ± 2	3 ± 1	4 ± 1	- ± -	- ± -	82 ± 2	20
French	61 ± 1	8 ± -	10 ± -	4 ± -	3 ± -	15 ± 1	300
German	59 ± 1	8 ± 1	13 ± 1	1 ± -	3 ± -	16 ± 1	110
Spanish	43 ± 2	13 ± 1	22 ± 2	- ± -	4 ± 1	18 ± 2	50
Other modern languages	27 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 2	- ± -	1 ± 1	63 ± 2	20
Design and technology[5]	30 ± 1	25 ± 1	7 ± -	23 ± 1	2 ± -	13 ± -	480
ICT[5, 6]	22 ± 1	11 ± 1	11 ± 1	3 ± -	4 ± -	49 ± 1	210
Other/Combined technology[5]	37 ± 3	11 ± 2	12 ± 2	28 ± 3	6 ± 1	6 ± 2	20
Business studies	35 ± 1	11 ± 1	12 ± 1	6 ± 1	4 ± 1	33 ± 1	90
Classics	71 ± 2	- ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	26 ± 2	10
History	70 ± 1	10 ± 1	6 ± -	6 ± -	- ± -	8 ± -	250
Religious education	44 ± 1	12 ± 1	11 ± 1	6 ± 1	3 ± -	24 ± 1	190
Geography	69 ± 1	10 ± 1	7 ± -	5 ± 1	1 ± -	9 ± 1	240
Other social studies	54 ± 2	7 ± 1	3 ± -	1 ± -	- ± -	35 ± 2	60
Combined arts/humanities/ social studies	6 ± 1	10 ± 1	11 ± 1	- ± -	3 ± 1	70 ± 2	50
Music	66 ± 1	18 ± 1	4 ± -	7 ± 1	2 ± -	4 ± -	140
Drama	43 ± 1	14 ± 1	11 ± 1	9 ± 1	2 ± -	22 ± 1	120
Art and design	65 ± 1	11 ± 1	7 ± -	8 ± 1	1 ± -	8 ± 1	210
Physical education	35 ± 1	37 ± 1	5 ± -	15 ± 1	2 ± -	6 ± -	420
Careers education	3 ± 1	5 ± 2	7 ± 2	13 ± 4	4 ± 2	68 ± 5	10
PSHE[6]	2 ± -	2 ± -	2 ± -	2 ± -	1 ± -	92 ± 1	150
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	20
Citizenship	2 ± 1	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	- ± -	- ± -	93 ± 2	20
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	220
Total[2, 7]	51 ± -	15 ± -	8 ± -	8 ± -	2 ± -	17 ± -	5,460

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:
Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

Research by the National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) conducted during 2005 and published by the Department in January 2006 indicated that 92 per cent. of all teachers teaching science were science specialists with 44 per cent. holding a biology specialism, 25 per cent. holding a chemistry specialism, 19 per cent. a physics specialism and 5 per cent. a specialism in another science. An estimated 2 per cent. of teachers teaching science did not hold a post A-level qualification in science. In addition, the research estimated that 76 per cent. of teachers teaching maths were maths specialists. An estimated 14 per cent. held no post A-level qualification in maths. For both maths and science, the research suggested that specialists deliver a greater proportion of the curriculum time than their relative size within the work force would suggest. For example, although only 10 per cent. of teachers teaching science at Key Stage 4 hold a degree

in physics, they deliver 43 per cent. of the curriculum time for GCSE physics with the rest supplied mainly by those with a chemistry degree or those with an initial teacher training specialism in science. ("Mathematics and Science in Schools: The Deployment of Teachers and Support Staff to Deliver the Curriculum"; Moor et al; DfES; 2006). For further information please see the research report at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR708.pdf

Temporary Mobile Classrooms

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each London borough are using temporary mobile classrooms. [80514]

Jim Knight: Data supplied to the Department by local education authorities in recent months show the following numbers of primary and secondary schools in each London borough using temporary mobile classrooms:

London borough	*Primary*	*Secondary*
Barking and Dagenham	9	2
Barnet	30	10
Bexley	16	9
Brent	30	5
Bromley	10	1
Croydon	43	10
Ealing	30	6
Enfield	24	7
Greenwich	9	3
Hackney	8	1
Haringey	5	1
Harrow	47	8
Havering	6	4
Hillingdon	4	1
Hounslow	28	14
Islington	5	—
Kensington and Chelsea	3	—
Kingston upon Thames	—	1
Lambeth	21	3
Lewisham	14	—
Merton	4	—
Newham	26	7
Redbridge	5	2
Richmond upon Thames	16	4
Southwark	7	1
Sutton	27	13
Tower Hamlets	4	5
Waltham Forest	9	3
Wandsworth	7	1
Westminster	1	1

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £5.8 billion this year and will rise further to over £6.3 billion by 2007-08. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. The bulk of schools capital is now allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local priorities, including the replacement of decayed temporary accommodation, on which we have set a high priority. Given the high levels of funding, authorities have the opportunity to replace temporary classrooms where they are considered to be unsuitable.

Modern, high quality mobile or demountable classrooms provide a good environment for teaching and learning where there is short-term need. They might, for instance, be needed to cope with a short-term increase in pupil numbers, or where extensive remodelling or rebuilding of permanent accommodation means providing temporary accommodation on the school site, rather than transporting children elsewhere.

Unauthorised Absence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of half days were missed due to unauthorised absence from maintained mainstream schools in *(a)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency, *(b)* Suffolk and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [79388]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* The percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence in maintained mainstream schools in *(a)* Bury St. Edmunds constituency, *(b)* Suffolk and *(c)* England in each year since 1997/98 is shown as follows.

Percentage of half days missed in maintained primary schools[1] due to unauthorised absence[2, 3]

	Bury St. Edmunds constituency	*Suffolk local authority*	*England*
1997/98	0.1	0.2	0.5
1998/99	0.1	0.2	0.5
1999/2000	0.1	0.2	0.5
2000/01	0.1	0.2	0.5
2001/02	0.2	0.26	0.45
2002/03	0.2	0.25	0.43
2003/04	0.2	0.27	0.41
2004/05	0.2	0.31	0.43

Percentage of half days missed in maintained secondary schools[1] due to unauthorised absence[2,3]

	Bury St. Edmunds constituency	*Suffolk local authority*	*England*
1997/98	0.3	0.5	1.1
1998/99	0.2	0.5	1.1
1999/2000	0.3	0.6	1.0
2000/01	0.3	0.6	1.1
2001/02	0.4	0.89	1.09
2002/03	0.7	1.08	1.07
2003/04	0.8	1.32	1.13
2004/05	0.8	1.29	1.23

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Due to local government reorganisation, regional figures are not available prior to 1998.

[3] Local authority figures are only available to 1 decimal place prior to 2000. Constituency level figures are only provided to 1 decimal place.

Note:

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of schoolchildren took unauthorised absence from school in *(a)* Torbay and *(b)* England in 2005-06. [79554]

Jim Knight: Figures for unauthorised absence from schools in 2005/06 are not yet available. The percentage of pupils who missed at least one session due to unauthorised absence in primary and secondary schools in *(a)* Torbay local authority and *(b)* England in 2004/05 are shown as follows.

Percentage of pupils in primary schools[1] who missed at least one session due to unauthorised absence in 2004/05

	Torbay local authority	England
Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	8,757	3,565,048
Number of pupils who missed at least one session due to unauthorised absence	1,235	583,859
Percentage of pupils who missed at least one session due to unauthorised absence	14	16

Percentage of pupils in secondary schools[1] who missed at least one session due to unauthorised absence in 2004/05

	Torbay local authority	England
Number of day pupils of compulsory school age	7,868	3,037,013
Number of pupils who missed at least one session due to unauthorised absence	3,078	774,347
Percentage of pupils who missed at least one session due to unauthorised absence	39	25

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

Note:
Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Testing

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which procedures animals may be subject over the course of a two-year carcinogenicity study; and what the severity is of each procedure. [80442]

Joan Ryan: Under project licence authorities issued under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, a two year carcinogenicity study would involve a series of regulated procedures forming a single protocol. The regulated procedures in the series would entail the administration of the test substance by one of a number of routes, for example, orally, by injection, through inhalation, or applied to the skin. Each route would be expected to produce only mild, momentary discomfort. Occasional blood samples may also be taken in some cases. The licence authorities require that animals will be humanely killed before any tumours produced during the observation period cause serious adverse effects. Overall the protocol would be expected to be of mild or moderate severity.

The International Conference on Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Registration of Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) publish International guidelines for the conduct of carcinogenicity studies for pharmaceuticals and chemicals, respectively, to which studies conducted in the United Kingdom are expected comply.

Cash Delivery Crime

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures *(a)* have been introduced since 1997 and *(b)* are planned to combat violent crime against cash delivery personnel in (i) rural and (ii) urban areas. [80398]

Mr. Coaker: Since 1997 the security industry and the police have introduced a number of measures to combat cash-in-transit (CIT) attacks. This includes disseminating good practice, increased use of technology to protect CIT deliveries and close working between the industry and the police to share intelligence relating to cash-in-transit robberies.

Earlier this year the then Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety, my right hon. Friend the Member for Salford (Hazel Blears) met with representatives of the GMB Union, Group Four Security and the BSIA to identify the next steps to address the problem issue of cash-in-transit robberies.

Officials have continued to meet with the representatives as recently as 22 June, and are developing a programme to address a number of issues around CIT attacks. This includes engaging other Government departments on how to implement environmental crime reduction measures, developing good practice guidance in conjunction with ACPO, and examining delivery procedures that expose CIT personnel to the risk of attack. This work will include sending out a strong deterrent message to perpetrators of such crimes.

This is in addition to the continued work to tackle violent crime involving guns and other weapons.

CCTV

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the use of closed circuit television footage in *(a)* deterring and *(b)* prosecuting offenders who commit assaults on the street. [71630]

Mr. McNulty: CCTV can be an important tool in the fight against crime and disorder. However, evidence shows that its potential has not been fully realised and that a national strategy is needed. The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers are undertaking a review of CCTV, to determine how it may be used more effectively in reducing and detecting crime and terrorism. The review's findings will be known in the autumn.

On the subject of deterrence, some work has already been done. In the recent Home Office evaluation of CCTV (Gill, M., and Spriggs, A. (2005) Assessing the Impact of CCTV. Home Office Research Study 292. London: Home Office, www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hors292.pdf), it appears that the likelihood of certain types of offence being committed was affected by the presence of cameras. It is the offences where the offender does a quick target 'risk assessment' that tend to be affected by the presence of CCTV.

The Home Office has no figures available on the extent of, or success of the use of CCTV in the context of the prosecution of offenders who commit offences.

Child Trafficking

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations he has received on child trafficking in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [76364]

Mr. Coaker: The consultation exercise on proposals for a UK action plan on human trafficking, which ran from January-April this year, received 180 responses. 65 of these raised issues around child trafficking. A summary of the consultation responses was published on 21 June. The responses will contribute towards the development of the UK action plan on human trafficking which will include actions specific to child trafficking.

Additionally, the cross Government ministerial group on human trafficking is working in partnership with non-Government organisations (NGOs) in tackling human trafficking. A separate stakeholder child trafficking forum, led by the Home Office meets regularly, providing an opportunity for Government officials and NGO representatives to discuss key issues.

Clear-up Rates

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what was the number of crimes notified to the police but not cleared up in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2004. [80177]

Mr. McNulty: There were 3,340,094 undetected crimes in England and Wales in 1997 and 4,245,654 in 2004. The two figures are not comparable because of changes to the detections counting rules implemented in April 1999.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will obtain a reply to the letter of 24 April 2006 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton to Mr. K. Sheehan of the UK Passport Service with regard to Mrs. C. Lim; and what the reason is for the delay in replying hitherto. [80695]

John Reid: The letter of 24 April was received in Kevin Sheehan's office on 25 April. Unfortunately, due to an administrative error, the letter has been mislaid. Mr. Sheehan has personally contacted the office of my right hon. Friend to apologise for the delay and has obtained a copy of the letter. A reply will be sent on 29 June.

Crime Statistics

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment has been made of the impact on public perception and fear of crime of listing separately as public order offences in crime statistics multiple alcohol-related offences committed at night. [55504]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has not made an assessment of the impact on public perceptions of the recording or reporting of particular crimes.

The British Crime Survey routinely provides information on crimes where the offender was perceived to be under the influence of alcohol, and separately also provides information on people's worry about crime, including violent crime. The BCS does not measure people's perceptions of alcohol-related violence specifically, but does measure people's perceptions of antisocial behaviour including people being drunk or rowdy in public places. This information is routinely published in the annual volume and quarterly updates for 'Crime in England and Wales'.

According to the 2004-05 BCS 16 per cent. of people were very worried about violent crime, and 22 per cent. of the people said that people being drunk or rowdy in public places was a fairly or very big problem in their local area. Based on the 2004-05 BCS victims believed the offender or offenders to be under the influence of alcohol in about half of all violent incidents (48 per cent.). This information is available in the Library, and via Home Office website http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/crimeew0405.html

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of reported crime in the Humberside Police Authority area resulted in a conviction in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [80453]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available. Recorded crime data are based on offences and court proceedings data are based on offenders. The two data series are therefore not directly comparable.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what penalty clauses exist in the contract with Capita for the operation of the Criminal Records Bureau; and if he will list occasions on which such clauses have been invoked. [75297]

Joan Ryan: Capita do not operate the Criminal Records Bureau. The disclosure service operates as a contract between the Criminal Records Bureau and Capita Business Services based upon a public private partnership agreement. Under this agreement, Capita are required to perform contractually specified Services

and to develop, deliver and maintain the technical infrastructure of the disclosure service. This is to enable the Home Office to discharge its responsibilities under part V of the Police Act 1997 and other supporting legislation including the Protection of Children Act, 1999, to make available to approved organisations information regarding the criminal or related background of individuals.

Other services carried out by the Criminal Records Bureau that are not undertaken by Capita are carried out by civil servants and include the sensitive matching of an applicant's personal details to records held on the Police National Computer (PNC) and other lists held by the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills.

A contract schedule sets out the service levels for Capita to meet. A further schedule sets out the service credits that apply should Capita fail to meet the agreed service levels. There is provision within this contract for liquidated damages to be charged in the event of late delivery to agreed changes in the service.

In each year since financial year 2001-02, the following payments have been received from Capita for service credits and liquidated damages:

	£
2001-02	555,000
2002-03	1,718,000
2003-04	1,528,000
2004-05	53,000
2005-06	92,000

The hon. Member will appreciate that with a contract of this size and complexity, the CRB would not be able to list and explain the context of each occasion when service credits and liquidated damages have occurred without employing disproportionate resources.

However, as an illustration, between August 2001 and November 2001, liquidated damages were applied due to the delays in launching the disclosure service and some of the associated services. Subsequent service credits were also applied in 2003 for operational delays within the disclosure process. These payments relate to the early years of the service.

The contract was originally estimated at £400 million to run over 10 years. In each year since financial year 2001-02, CRB have paid Capita the following as service payments:

	£ million
2001-02	12.1
2002-03	33.5
2003-04	58.5
2004-05	44.1
2005-06	47

There have been no performance related-payments made in any of the above financial years.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have received an incorrect assessment from the Criminal Records Bureau in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [77484]

Joan Ryan: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has issued 8.9 million disclosures since its launch in March 2002 to 31 March 2006. In that time, there have been 2,273 occasions where disclosure applicant details were matched by the CRB to a person with the same or very similar details who has a criminal record and, where the details had been challenged by the applicant, their dispute was subsequently upheld. The following table illustrates the breakdown, in each financial year.

		Upheld disputes	
Financial year	Number of disclosures issued	Number	Percentage
2002-03	1,441,704	256	0.017
2003-04	2,287,109	623	0.027
2004-05	2,434,290	761	0.031
2005-06	2,772,929	633	0.022
Total	8,936,032	2,273	0.025

These cases are clearly regrettable, but represent a very small proportion of cases—0.025 per cent. of the total number of disclosures issued.

CRB staff use searching and matching techniques and arrangements approved by police forces. As with the police, when making their decision they must bear in mind that the source of much of the information recorded on the police national computer (PNC) database is provided by the individual concerned at the time of his or her arrest. CRB have to consider that the individual may deliberately choose to give or, in the heat of the moment, may be confused and give incomplete or incorrect information. The CRB is acutely aware of the human consequences of making an incorrect matching decision and does not do so lightly.

There may also be occasions when a person's identity has been stolen or their personal details used when someone else is in contact with the police. It is for these reasons that the CRB must err on the side of caution when an individual has the same or very similar personal details to those of someone who has a criminal record. This is because it is better to be safe than run the risk of letting an inappropriate person through.

When a disclosure is disputed the only safe way to resolve the situation is by asking the applicant to have his or her fingerprints taken at a local police station to help either confirm or overturn the original matching decision. There have been instances where the fingerprinting procedure has confirmed that an individual who has challenged the accuracy or the validity of the conviction information has been subsequently proved to be the owner of that conviction record.

The CRB will always apologise if the original matching decision is later found to be incorrect. In the event of a dispute the CRB notifies the prospective employer who would be aware of the CRB's code of practice that asks them not to take any precipitative action and defer any employment decision until the dispute is resolved. When a disclosure is disputed the CRB will inform all parties that this is the case, including the employer. Where the information contained in the disclosure is found not to relate to the

applicant, a fresh disclosure will be issued free-of-charge to both the applicant and the registered body. 90 per cent. of disputes are resolved within 21 days.

A public consultation exercise was conducted in October 2003 about making greater use of fingerprinting at an earlier stage in the application process and to aid the matching and decision-making procedures. The overwhelming response was not in favour of such a measure.

It is worth noting that under the previous police checking arrangements, individuals were not able to see the criminal records information disclosed about them. The information would have been passed only to the prospective employer and not to the job applicant and the prospective employer would have had no obligation to pass on the contents of the information to the individual.

Criminal Records Data

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place for sharing criminal records data of individuals from European Union countries admitted to the UK under the Workers Registration Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [79472]

Mr. McNulty: There are currently no arrangements in place for sharing criminal records of individuals from EU member states under the Workers Registration Scheme. The scheme exists to monitor the labour market impact of nationals of the new member states taking employment in the UK. It does not regulate their entry nor their fitness to take a particular job, and those registering under the scheme are not asked to provide details of criminal convictions.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what consultation has taken place with law enforcement professionals in the UK on the European Union pilot project on the sharing of EU citizens' criminal records; and if he will make a statement; [79419]

(2) whether the UK plans to take part in the European Union pilot project on the sharing of the criminal records of EU residents; and if he will make a statement. [79460]

Mr. McNulty: The European Union has put in place a Council Decision on the sharing of criminal conviction information between member states. There has been active consultation with the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of Chief Police Officers (Scotland) and the Police Service for Northern Ireland to ensure that the UK has arrangements in place to comply with the Council Decision.

It is proposed for the future enhancement of these arrangements to introduce an electronic method for exchanging criminal record information. To this end there is currently a 'pilot' taking place between Germany, Belgium, Spain and France. Further consultation with the relevant parties will be carried out before a decision is taken on whether to join the pilot.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions UK officials have had with law enforcement officials in *(a)* Bulgaria and *(b)* Romania on the implications for crime and law enforcement in the UK for those countries accession to the European Union in January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [79421]

Mr. Coaker: I have asked law enforcement authorities to work together to assess the impact of accession on the UK's crime and law enforcement and to take necessary mitigating action. Cooperation on law enforcement is a key part of the UK's relationship with Bulgaria and Romania. We continually engage with Bulgarian and Romanian law enforcement officials. The Commission Monitoring Report of 16 May recognised recent progress in tackling organised crime but highlighted the need for further action in preparation for accession. In our contacts with the Bulgarian and Romanian Governments we have repeatedly stressed the need to address the concerns of the Commission. We are also providing some capacity building support to the Bulgarian and Romanian law enforcement authorities.

Extradition

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been extradited *(a)* to and *(b)* from the UK in each of the last five years. [80834]

Mr. Byrne: The figures given in the table are for England and Wales only, as at 23 June 2006. They do not include extraditions to or from Scotland and Northern Ireland, where Ministers and judicial authorities have devolved powers to make or grant requests. They also exclude surrenders from or to the Republic of Ireland, prior to one January 2004, as those were made under the Backing of Warrants (Republic of Ireland) Act 1965, rather than under extradition legislation.

	Number
(a) Extraditions to England and Wales	
2001	52
2002	36
2003	64
2004[1]	66
2005[1]	74
(b) Extraditions from England and Wales	
2001	55
2002	53
2003	55
2004[1]	74
2005[1]	139

[1] The figures for 2004 and 2005 include extraditions to England and Wales made under part 3 of the Extradition Act 2003, and extraditions from England and Wales made under Part one of the Extradition Act 2003. Parts 1 and 3 of the Extradition Act 2003 implemented the European Arrest Warrant system with effect from one January 2004.

Firearms Certificates

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 652W to the hon. Member for Teignbridge (Richard Younger-Ross), on firearms certificates, what the equivalent information is for *(a)* England, *(b)* London and *(c)* each London borough. [29444]

Mr. McNulty: Please see the following table covering London, England, and England and Wales. The data are not available by London borough.

Defendants sentenced and given custody for carrying a weapon or blade, 1997-2004[1]

	1997	1998	1999	2000
London[2]				
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse				
Sentenced	1,001	876	738	861
Immediate custody	159	158	119	160
Having an article with a blade in a public place				
Sentenced	1,274	1,335	1,089	1,168
Immediate custody	190	225	181	196
Total of both offences				
Sentenced	2,275	2,211	1,827	2,029
Immediate custody	349	383	300	356
England				
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse				
Sentenced	3,900	4,093	3,870	3,843
Immediate custody	482	552	513	558
Having an article with a blade in a public place				
Sentenced	3,185	3,598	3,337	3,349
Immediate custody	356	519	498	479
Total of both offences				
Sentenced	7,085	7,691	7,207	7,192
Immediate custody	838	1,071	1,011	1,037
England and Wales				
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse				
Sentenced	4,130	4,375	4,135	4,108
Immediate custody	509	585	554	595
Having an article with a blade in a public place				
Sentenced	3,341	3,788	3,548	3,518
Immediate custody	372	550	534	499

Defendants sentenced and given custody for carrying a weapon or blade, 1997-2004[1]

	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total of both offences				
Sentenced	7,471	8,163	7,683	7,626
Immediate custody	881	1,135	1,088	1,094

	2001	2002	2003	2004
London[2]				
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse				
Sentenced	1,148	1,455	1,250	1,361
Immediate custody	181	227	201	220
Having an article with a blade in a public place				
Sentenced	1,509	1,877	1,698	1,627
Immediate custody	264	319	290	287
Total of both offences				
Sentenced	2,657	3,332	2,948	2,988
Immediate custody	445	546	491	507
England				
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse				
Sentenced	4,607	5,153	5,114	5,446
Immediate custody	596	748	719	768
Having an article with a blade in a public place				
Sentenced	4,107	5,014	5,083	5,524
Immediate custody	570	742	738	776
Total of both offences				
Sentenced	8,714	10,167	10,197	10,970
Immediate custody	1,166	1,490	1,457	1,544
England and Wales				
Possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse				
Sentenced	4,873	5,441	5,394	5,758
Immediate custody	634	787	760	817
Having an article with a blade in a public place				
Sentenced	4,303	5,269	5,311	5,802
Immediate custody	589	766	755	803
Total of both offences				
Sentenced	9,176	10,710	10,705	11,560
Immediate custody	1,223	1,553	1,515	1,620

[1] The above offences are not covered within the Knives Act 1997 which came into force, partly in September 1997 and fully in March 1999. The offences are covered under previous Acts. The offence of possession of offensive weapons without lawful authority or reasonable excuse is covered under the Prevention of Crime Act 1953 S.1. The offence of having an article with a blade or point in a public place is covered by the Criminal Justice Act 1988 S.139.
[2] London is made up by data from the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police force areas.
Source:
RDS NOMS 13/12/2005

Foreign Prisoners

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Somalian nationals were prosecuted for criminal offences in the UK in each of the last five years. [68882]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Hizb-ut-Tehrir

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will ban Hizb-ut-Tehrir under his powers of proscription of extremist and terrorist organisations; and if he will make a statement. [76535]

Mr. McNulty: The Terrorism Act 2006, which received Royal Assent on 30 March, widened the criteria for proscription to encompass those groups which glorify terrorism. All possible candidates for proscription will be considered against these widened criteria. We do not comment on individual groups that may be possible candidates for proscription.

The list of proscribed organisations is kept under constant review. For further information on proscribed groups please see:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/terrorism-act/proscribed-groups?version=1

Hunting Act

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been brought under the Hunting Act 2004, broken down by offence. [80156]

Mr. Coaker: The Hunting Act 2004 came into force on 18 February 2005. Data on the number of prosecutions in 2005 will be available this autumn.

Khat

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has conducted research into the prevalence of the use of khat in *(a)* England and *(b)* the London borough of Newham. [80632]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has not conducted research into the prevalence of khat use either nationally or at a local level. However, in 2005 the Home Office published the results of an interview study with 602 Somali people from communities in London, Birmingham, Bristol and Sheffield. This study reported the level and nature of khat use found among those interviewed as well as their attitudes towards khat use and their perceptions of its social and health effects, but it was not designed to assess general prevalence levels. The report is available in the House of Commons Library and on the Home Office website.

Labour Party Conference

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the costs of policing the Labour party conference in September 2006 will be met by Greater Manchester police. [76506]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office provide special grant to police authorities to pay for the policing of the main annual party conferences.

Greater Manchester police have submitted a bid of £3.2 million (revenue) plus £1 million (capital) for policing the 2006 Labour party autumn conference. The application is being considered and a decision will be taken shortly.

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when *(a)* he and *(b)* his predecessors have met (i) the chairman and (ii) the members of the Sentencing Guidelines Council to discuss their roles within the criminal justice system. [80644]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Secretary has regular meetings with the Lord Chief Justice to discuss matters of mutual interest. The previous Home Secretary visited the Sentencing Guidelines Council on 4 May 2006 and met the members.

National Wildlife Crime Intelligence Unit

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the funding for the National Wildlife Crime Intelligence Unit for 2006-07 is being provided by his Department; and what arrangements are in place for the future funding of this Unit. [80769]

Mr. Coaker: In 2006-07 the Home Office is providing 5 per cent. of the funding towards the National Wildlife Crime Unit. This is one half of one full-time post.

Discussions about the future funding of the Unit will take place later in the year.

Offender Managers

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Government expect to have a named offender manager for all offenders. [80375]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Based on current planning assumptions, all offenders sentenced to a community order or custodial sentence will have an offender manager by September 2008.

Parking Tickets

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many parking tickets were issued by the Trent Valley division of the Staffordshire police force in each of the last five years. [80142]

Mr. Coaker: Available information on fixed penalty notices relating to all offences of obstruction, waiting and parking within the Staffordshire police force area

during the calendar years 2000 to 2004 (latest available) is given in the following table. It is not possible from the data collected centrally to identify the Trent Valley division within the geographical area covered by the Staffordshire police force.

Information for 2005 will be available early in 2007.

Fixed penalty data for obstruction, waiting and parking offences[1], Staffordshire police force area, 2000-04

	Number of tickets	
	Endorsable	*Non-endorsable*
2000	5	11,936
2001	7	9,154
2002	1	7,275
2003	1	8,410
2004	5	9,343

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.22; Transport Act 2000 ss. 173 (5); 173 (6); 173 (7); 174 (3); 175 (2); 175 (3); 175 (4); 190 Highway Act 1835 ss 72 & 78; RTA 1988 ss. 19 & 21; Highways Act 1980 s. 137 (1); Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 ss. 5 (1), 8, 32-36 & 45-53; Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 Regs. 101 & 103; Transport Act 2000 Part III.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why it took until 22 May 2006 to send a substantive reply to question 48371 on HMP Chelmsford tabled by the hon. Member for West Chelmsford for answer on 6 February; and if he will make a statement. [73866]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* I am sorry the hon. Member did not receive a more prompt reply to his question.

Ministers and officials make every effort to answer questions substantively in accordance with performance guidelines. However this delay is unacceptable.

I have asked those responsible for oversight of my Department's PQs to improve our performance.

Passports

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who applied to renew their UK passports in 2005 did so with a current address in the Irish Republic. [80750]

Joan Ryan: The number of passports issued by the British embassy in Dublin in financial year 2005-06 is 10,817.

Identity and Passport Service (IPS) do not issue passports to applicants with a current address outside of the UK. This is due to the security issues relating to distributing passports by post.

Applicants who reside in the Irish Republic and who do not have a valid UK address are required to renew their passports via a local British embassy office.

Police

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will announce final proposals for police force restructuring in the South West of England. [77127]

Mr. McNulty: As my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced during the course of Home Office oral questions on 19 June, no Orders for Home Secretary initiated police force mergers will be laid before the summer recess. Instead, we want to spend the coming months engaging with police forces and police authorities, including those in the South West, in discussions on the best way forward.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial assistance his Department intends to give to Lancashire and Cumbria police authorities to assist in their voluntary merger. [79818]

Mr. McNulty: We have currently offered Lancashire and Cumbria police a total of £17.8 million in restructuring grants, reflecting our commitment to paying 100 per cent. of reasonable set up revenue and capital costs of restructuring, net of reasonable savings, and reflecting their trailblazer status. We expect to come to a final agreement in the autumn.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the cost of bringing protective services in the four Welsh police forces up to the level considered fit for purpose in the report Closing the Gap. [60353]

Mr. McNulty: The case submitted by the four Welsh police authorities in December 2005 identified costs and benefits of force merger, including a considerable investment to provide an uplift in protective services.

Our assessment, based on independent financial review and professional moderation, is that the same benefits could be realised for a much lower investment. The Home Office continues to work with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Welsh police forces and authorities to review the business case, to refine the costs and benefits of providing the necessary uplift in protective service provision while achieving best value for money.

The operational assessment that a single authority and force for Wales is the best for protecting people better from serious crime and terrorism remains unchanged.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been shot by police firearms units and subsequently not been charged with any offence in each of the last five years. [76396]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collected centrally.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been shot by police firearms units resulting in *(a)* an injury and *(b)* a fatality in each of the last five years. [76397]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not collected in the form requested. Since 2001 there have been 27 separate incidents where conventional weapons were discharged by armed police officers in England and Wales. I

understand from ACPO that 16 people have been fatally shot, and a further six people have received an injury. A breakdown by year is shown in the following table.

Number of incidents at which firearms discharged by a police officer (England and Wales)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
Fatal	4	2	2	2	6	—
Injury	—	2	2	1	1	—
No injury	—	1	1		1	1
Not known	—	—	—	—	1	—

[1] To 31 March 2006

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated cost involved in the reorganisation of existing police forces into the Yorkshire and Humber regional force is; and from where the required resources will be provided. [67511]

Mr. McNulty: Based on financial projections currently available and being refined, a net saving from restructuring of £37 million is projected during the first five years of operation of a combined authority.

The Government have undertaken to pay 100 per cent. of reasonable set up revenue and capital costs, net of reasonable savings.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the future of the *(a)* civilian staff and *(b)* specialist police staff involved in level 2 operations and forensic management who are working at the new Gloucestershire constabulary headquarters at Quedgeley if the proposed police restructuring goes ahead. [65519]

Mr. McNulty: The proposed merger of police forces into new strategic forces addresses an identified weakness in current provision and is intended to strengthen forces' ability to deliver protective services to the public. No decision has yet been made in respect of forces in SW England including Gloucestershire. Decisions about future posts will be for the new strategic forces management teams to determine. Should a new force be created, staff and police officers in post in precursor forces at the time its creation would transfer to the new force.

Private Security Companies

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he estimates the backlog of licence applications will be cleared by the Security Industry Authority. [79289]

Mr. Coaker: Having received a large number of late applications, the SIA currently has a backlog waiting to enter the system. This is currently adding between two and four weeks to the processing time, so it is now taking up to 10 weeks to process most applications. The SIA has put significant additional resources into clearing this backlog, and expect it will have been cleared by early August.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many private security companies were not compliant with the Private Security Industry Act 2001 at 21 March *(a)* 2001 and *(b)* 2006. [79291]

Mr. Coaker: The Private Security Industry Act 2001 requires individuals (not companies) who undertake designated activities to hold the appropriate Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence. Security companies can seek to achieve approved company status (ACS) but this scheme is voluntary.

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how long he expects applications submitted for the licensing of close protection industry operatives to take to be processed; [68444]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to reduce the backlog of close protection licences. [68445]

Mr. Coaker: The information is as follows.

(a) The SIA have a published target of processing 80 per cent. of all applications within six weeks, measured from the date that a properly completed application enters the processing system to the date that a licence is issued. Since September 2005, there has been a backlog of applications that have been waiting to enter the system. These have added an additional time of between two and four weeks to the process, so it is now taking up to 10 weeks to process most applications. As of 13 June there were 7,933 of applications for the manned guarding sector in this backlog.

(b) The SIA has put significant additional resources into clearing this backlog, and expect that by early August applications will achieve the SIA's published target.

Restorative Justice

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps have been taken to increase the use of restorative justice. [80376]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government strongly support the use of restorative justice given its proven benefits for victims. We published our restorative justice strategy in July 2003, best practice guidance for practitioners was issued in December 2004 and guidance on setting up adult restorative justice schemes was issued to local criminal justice boards in March 2005.

Restorative justice has been a central part of the youth justice system since the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Contact with the victim or reparation can be part of all youth justice disposals, including Final Warnings, Referral Orders, Reparation Orders, Action Plan Orders and Supervision Orders.

We encourage the use of restorative justice in the adult criminal justice system, particularly as a service to victims and it can, for example, be delivered as part of a conditional caution. We are building an evidence base on the impact of restorative justice on re-offending to inform our longer-term strategy for adults.

Sentencing Bodies (Appointments)

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Department for Constitutional Affairs, *(b)* the Lord Chancellor and *(c)* the Lord Chief Justice on the appointment of members to the (i) Sentencing Guidelines Council and (ii) Sentencing Advisory Panel. [80354]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Secretary, the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice consult each other, as required by statute, on the appointments to the Sentencing Guidelines Council and the Sentencing Advisory Panel.

Terrorism

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* trained surveillance teams and *(b)* individuals are employed by the Home Office to monitor terrorist suspects in the UK. [66870]

Mr. McNulty: The monitoring of terrorist suspects is primarily carried out by law enforcement and intelligence agencies, not the Home Office.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has given to police officers on identifying those who should be stopped and searched under the Terrorism Act 2000. [50229]

Mr. McNulty: We are continuing to work with police and other stakeholders to develop detailed guidance on the circumstances in which stop and search powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 should be used in order to increase consistency and reassure the public that the powers are used appropriately. This work has had considerable input from police authorities, community representatives and other interest groups. Interim guidance was published on 22 December 2005 by the National Centre for Policing Excellence on this subject, and can be viewed on the ACPO website. A final version of the guidance will be published later this year.

The Home Office also published the Stop and Search Manual in March 2005, which provides guidance on best practice in relation to all stop and search powers. The Codes of Practice issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 also include guidance on the use of stop and search powers, both generally and specifically in relation to powers under the Terrorism Act.

Young Offenders

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the re-offending rate was for inmates detained at *(a)* local authority secure units, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* young offenders' institutions in the last period for which figures are available. [79863]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Re-offending rates are not available broken down by type of custodial institution.

The most recent information on the re-offending of juveniles was published in June 2006 as 'Juvenile re-offending: results from the 2004 cohort. Home Office On-Line Report 10/06'. The report is available on line at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1006.pdf. This includes re-offending rates for juveniles given custodial sentences.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 29 June 2006

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the House of Commons finance director. [80084]

Nick Harvey: The House's director of finance and administration since 1997 is Andrew Walker. He has over 20 years experience in the Inland Revenue and HM Treasury in a variety of tax and management positions. He is assisted in his duties as finance director by appropriately qualified and experienced staff in the Financial Management Directorate. He is due to complete an accountancy qualification course (CIPFA) during 2007-08.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Martin Horwood: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what recent estimates have been made of the level of greenhouse gas emissions produced by the House estate in the form of *(a)* carbon dioxide, *(b)* methane, *(c)* nitrous oxide, *(d)* tetrafluoromethane, *(e)* hexafluoroethane and *(f)* sulphur hexafluoride. [80773]

Nick Harvey: The total quantity of carbon dioxide emissions produced on, or attributable to, the House of Commons element of the parliamentary estate in 2005-06 is estimated at 10,300 tonnes. The released quantities of the other five greenhouse gasses are not measured but the quantities are estimated to be small.

Parliamentary Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make it his policy to ensure that unnumbered Command Papers are indexed in PIMS, together with their location and date of publication; and if he will make a statement. [81244]

Nick Harvey: The Library already indexes all unprinted Command Papers in PIMS. Unprinted (or unnumbered) commands appear in the Vote as being laid "by Command", (as opposed to "by Act"), and are treated accordingly. They are given running numbers which start each session, for ease of retrieval. These numbers appear in PIMS. Each unprinted Command Paper is also retrievable by subject, issuing department, date or name of organisation etc.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Rural Post Offices

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps he will be taking to encourage cross-departmental working on the future of rural post offices. [79425]

The Deputy Prime Minister: As Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on the Post Office Network (MISC 33) set up in May of this year, I have a key role in bringing together different Departments to discuss issues relating to rural post offices and to deliver agreement on actions.

The Government remains committed to rural post offices as demonstrated by our £750 million package of support—£150 million per year for five years to 2008—through the Social Network Payment.

I will continue to work with ministerial colleagues to ensure that Government policy-making in this area is coordinated effectively.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Honour Crimes

22. **Dr. Kumar:** To ask the Solicitor-General what work the Crown Prosecution Service is doing in relation to crimes known as honour crimes. [80904]

The Solicitor-General: The CPS is determined that when these crimes are uncovered they will be prosecuted firmly, fairly and robustly. The CPS wishes to encourage victims and witnesses of honour crimes to come forward and send out a message that this behaviour will not be tolerated. They are working closely with partners in the criminal justice system and the community and voluntary sector to raise awareness and develop strategies for tackling and preventing honour crimes.

Sentencing

23. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Solicitor-General if he will assess how the Crown Prosecution Service can better inform victims about the length of a sentence given to a criminal. [80905]

The Solicitor-General: The Prosecutors' Pledge, introduced by the Attorney-General in October 2005, requires prosecutors to support victims from point of charge through to any appeal. The Pledge underpins the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime, implemented in April 2006. The Code requires Witness Care Units to explain to victims the effect of the sentence within one working day. Further information may be provided to victims who require it by the CPS or the Probation Service.

Craig Sweeney

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will refer the case of Craig Sweeney to the Court of Appeal as an unduly lenient sentence. [80898]

The Solicitor-General: My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General is considering the papers in this case, and will reach a decision shortly. As in all cases of this type, he has to comply with a strict time limit of 28 days from the date the sentence was passed in making his decision.

The power to refer is exercised in the public interest. The Attorney will make his decision purely on the merits of the case and not in response to political or public pressure.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of his Department. [80083]

Mr. Thomas: Richard Calvert is Director of Finance and Corporate Performance at DFID. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and has a masters degree in law. He has held a range of policy and operational posts in DFID including serving in the UK Delegation to the EU in Brussels, as Private Secretary to the Secretary of State, and as Head of the Information and Civil Society Department.

Before taking up his present post in September 2003, he worked on secondment as Head of Service Quality in the Children, Schools and Families Directorate at Hertfordshire county council.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79064]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is as follows:

Overall costs maintaining DFID websites are as follows:

Main DFID website and two country office sites—£127,097 for 2005.

Developments magazine—£11,500 for 2005.

Research for Development portal—£293,464 set up costs for 2005.

Specialist audience sites include:

AIDSPortal—£355,000 since 2004.

Sending Money Home—£9,650 to set up. There are no maintenance costs.

Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative—£1,500 to set up. There are no maintenance costs.

Financial Deepening Challenge Fund's website—average costs are £2,000 per year.

Illegal-Fishing.info—£40,000 to maintain in 2005.

Asia 2015 Conference website—£14,000 to set up and maintain in 2005.

PASS Livelihoods—£36,824 from October 2005-September 2006

The Business Linkages Challenge Fund—£2,565 for January-December 2005.

EC-PREP—£2,500 for January-December 2005.

There are a number of websites set up as part of DFID funding to contractors or professional organisations. Contractors are responsible for maintaining these and have therefore not been included here. Figures are included as part of the overall contract.

HIV/AIDS

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the recent UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS. [80322]

Mr. Thomas: The United Nations General Assembly High Level Meeting agreed a Political Declaration which met virtually all of the UK's objectives, including: committing countries to develop, by the end of 2006, ambitious national plans to scale up towards universal access by 2010 to comprehensive HIV prevention programmes, treatment, care and support, with interim targets for 2008; to ensure that no credible, sustainable national plan should go unfunded, recognising the need to provide from donor countries, national budgets and other sources $20-23 billion annually by 2010 for AIDS responses; and to intensify efforts to develop new technology especially microbicides and vaccines.

Middle East

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what discussions he has had with his counterparts from Arab states regarding their potential contribution to the temporary international mechanism to channel assistance directly to the Palestinian people; [80998]

(2) what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts about the sums of money the EU expects to commit to the temporary international mechanism to channel assistance directly to the Palestinian people set out in the European Council Presidency Conclusions of 15 and 16 June. [80927]

Mr. Thomas: The UK has encouraged contributions to the temporary international mechanism for Palestinian basic needs from the European Union, Arab donors and other members of the international donor community. The European Community is making a contribution of €105 million. We are expecting individual EU member states to release statements regarding their contributions shortly. The mechanism is open to any donor that wishes to contribute.

Plant Breeding

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what funding has been allocated by his Department to strengthen public sector research on seed varieties *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas; and if he will ask the World Bank to increase its lending for such projects; [79836]

(2) if he will list the public sector projects his Department has funded for plant breeding in developing countries in the last three years; [79789]

(3) whether his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned research into (i) the extent of the role of the private sector within the global seed industry and (ii) the impact of the private sector's role on (A) developing new plant varieties for poor farmers and (B) the diversity of genetic resources available to public plant breeders. [80391]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has allocated a total of £15.8 million to support public sector research on improved seed varieties, including plant breeding, over the past three years. The vast majority of research supported has been carried out overseas, with some advanced research being carried out at UK institutions, including the John Innes centre and the university of Leeds.

DFID is already working with the World Bank and other donors to see how we can increase the quality and quantity of aid given for agricultural research. For example, we are working in Africa to support regional agricultural research programmes. We expect this will lead to increased grants and loans for research from the World Bank and other donors. We expect some of these funds will be used to support plant breeding and development of new seed varieties that meet the needs of poor farmers.

DFID's Plant Sciences Research Programme managed by the centre for arid zone studies at the university of Wales at Bangor allocated £3.6 million over the last three years for plant breeding research with overseas partners. This included work on: resistance of pearl millet to downey mildew, nematode resistance of rice, banana and potato, aluminium tolerance in wheat, new breeding methods based on farmer participation in design and selection of varieties of rice, maize and cassava, and genetic marker assisted methods for pearl millet improvement.

DFID also provides core funding to the international agricultural research centres of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Centres vary in the proportion of their budgets devoted to plant breeding. Of the core support DFID has given to centres, over the last three years, we estimate that £12.2 million has been used to support research on plant breeding and improving crop varieties for the benefit of poor people in developing countries.

DFID has not undertaken, or commissioned, research into the extent of, and impact on, the role of the private sector within the global seed industry. However policy research has been carried out which examined the pros and cons of revenue generation from public plant breeding and links to the private sector. (Tripp and Byerlee 2000, http://www.odi.org.uk/NRP/57.html). DFID is also supporting the Seeds of Development Programme managed by the university of Cornell. The purpose of this programme is to better understand the role of private sector in achieving agricultural growth which benefits poor people by improving their access to better quality seeds.

Somaliland

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has provided to Loughborough university's water engineering development centre in its work on developing Somaliland's water programme. [80592]

Mr. Thomas: We are aware of Loughborough university's links with Somaliland. We do not support these directly but are funding a number of projects with UNICEF who have supported some of Loughborough university's activities in Somaliland. UNICEF also undertake considerable work in water and sanitation with the authorities in Somaliland on behalf of DFID and a number of other donors.

Water Provision

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the role of private companies in delivering water in developing nations. [80321]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's assessment is that there are circumstances when the private sector can play a role in meeting the needs of poor people. This is because, in spite of extensive technical assistance, public water utilities in developing countries have found it difficult to improve their performance and outreach. This has come about for a variety of reasons that we need to understand and learn from. DFID continuously assesses and learns from examples of public and private sector participation in delivering water.

There are good and bad examples of both public and private service provision. The best approach often involves partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and communities. An important factor for success is effective regulation, with enforceable contracts that set out clearly what is expected. One example is a four-year public-private partnership in South Africa focusing on poor rural communities, which has brought water to more than nine million people in five provinces.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Animal Experiments

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research received in 2005-06 *(a)* in total, *(b)* from the Medical Research Council, *(c)* the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, *(d)* from pharmaceutical companies and *(e)* from other sources; and what the percentage change in funding is for 2006-07. [80770]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3RS) received £954,402 from its funders during 2005-06 as follows:

	£
Medical Research Council (MRC)	600,000
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)	66,667
Home Office	125,000
Industry	75,000
Charity	75,000
Other	12,735
Total	954,402

The Centre's budget for 2006-07 funding is projected to increase by 141 per cent.

Copyright Infringement

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what budget his Department has set for helping businesses combat *(a)* copyright infringement and *(b)* industrial espionage in each year since 1997. [80240]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department, especially through the Patent Office, helps businesses to combat copyright infringement in a number of ways, for example through raising awareness of the intellectual property system and the value of intellectual property, as well as coordinating enforcement action against intellectual property crime. However, as our awareness activities usually cover the whole range of intellectual property and as copyright infringement on a commercial scale is usually associated with other offences, we do not have figures available relating specifically to copyright infringement.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent representations he has received on copyright infringement. [80241]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have not received any recent representations specifically relating to copyright infringement, apart from the hon. Member, although I am aware of the concerns of the creative industries in this area.

In December last year the Chancellor asked Andrew Gowers to lead an independent review of the Intellectual Property Framework. The review is looking at practical issues affecting businesses and consumers and will report to the Government this autumn.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many prosecutions for copyright infringements there have been in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [80242]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following figures are the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts under the various copyright offences in England and Wales.

	Number of defendants
1997	169
1998	158
1999	152
2000	151
2001	110
2002	97
2003	111
2004	134

Notes:
Figures for 2005 are not yet available. Figures relating to specifically copyright offences before the crown court are not available.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts under various copyright offences, England and Wales, 1997-2004[1].

Statute	*Offence description*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, Sec. 198 1a, b, d.iii. and Sec. 107 1a, b, d.iv and E.	Makes, imports or distributes illicit recordings. Makes for sale or hire, imports possesses or distributes articles which infringes copyright.	78	86	65	72	59	38	47	65
Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.	Triable either way offences except sections included in 84/09.	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	8	9
Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 S.107 2A and 4A as added by Copyright and Related Rights Regulations Reg. 26(1)	Person infringes copyright in a work by communicating the work to the public.	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	—	6
Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 S.198 2A and 5A as added by Copyright and Related Rights Regulations Reg. 26 (3)	Person who infringes a performer's making available right in the course of business/otherwise	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	[2]	—	3
Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.	Summary offences.	91	72	87	79	51	59	56	51

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Not applicable as these offences were part of the 2003 Copyright and Related Rights Regulations.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent estimate he has made of the cost of copyright infringement is to *(a)* the UK economy and *(b)* the EU economy. [80244]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Currently there are no reliable estimates of the value of counterfeit goods being sold in the UK. This lack of evidence makes it impossible to estimate the cost of copyright infringement to both the UK and the EU economies. But our recently published National Intellectual Property Enforcement Report provides a general assessment of the threats and challenges faced by IP rights' owners and how our IP crime strategy is dealing with these issues.

The Patent Office and the DTI are helping to sponsor the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in an international study to develop methodologies and a clearer assessment of the scope and scale of counterfeiting and piracy throughout the world. The Study is scheduled to produce its first results towards the end of 2006.

The EU-US action strategy for the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights statement issued last week recognised the need for the OECD study to provide reliable data.

Counterfeit Goods

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent estimate he has made of the value of counterfeit goods sold in the UK. [80243]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are currently no reliable estimates of the value of counterfeit goods being sold in the UK. But our recently published National Intellectual Property Enforcement Report provides a general assessment of the threats and challenges faced by IP rights' owners and how our IP crime strategy is dealing with these issues.

The Patent Office and the DTI are helping to sponsor the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in an international study to develop methodologies and a clearer assessment of the scope and scale of counterfeiting and piracy throughout the world. The Study is scheduled to produce its first results towards the end of 2006.

Defence Industry

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his Department's areas of responsibility are with regards to *(a)* the defence industry and *(b)* the export of weapons. [80260]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows:

(a) The Enterprise and Business Group of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is responsible for the Government's manufacturing strategy. In this role, it promotes the legitimate interests of a wide range of UK businesses including the UK defence industry and its supply chain and also works to secure investment and research and development that bring benefits to the UK economy. It is Government policy, as set out in the Defence Industrial Strategy, for wider industrial factors to be taken into account on major defence equipment procurements and DTI contributes to this industrial analysis.

(b) Separately, the Department discharges the statutory functions vested in the Secretary of State by the 'Export Control Act 2002'. Principally, this is to process applications for licences to export items whose export is controlled by that Act. This function is carried out by the Export Control and Non-Proliferation directorate, a part of Energy Group.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79062]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We operate one core DTI website, www.dti.gov.uk, within which there are links to a wider community of websites managed by partner agencies and other arm's length bodies. We are aware of 48 DTI websites hosted by other domains.

The support for the Department's core website is included in the overall service charge paid monthly under the IT service contract in place since 1 April 1999. There is no separation of website costs in this charge.

Information about the Department's other websites is not held centrally and to gather it would involve disproportionate cost.

Energy Review

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 874W, on the Energy Review, how many of the responses to the Energy Review were from *(a)* individuals, *(b)* businesses, *(c)* schools, *(d)* academia, *(e)* non-government organisations and *(f)* other organisations; and what proportions of each were (i) in favour of and (ii) opposed to the extension of nuclear energy generation. [80382]

Malcolm Wicks: We received over 5,300 responses to the Energy Review consultation, expressing a range of views on many aspects of the energy industry. Releasing figures for only some of the responses to the consultation, out of context and without accompanying analysis, has the potential to mislead the public by focusing on the views and comments of only one section of the respondents.

We will publish a summary of the responses to the Energy Review consultation in the coming weeks. The responses are currently being posted in full on the DTI website: www.dti.gov.uk/energy/review.

Nuclear Power Industry

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Government spent on nuclear power in each of the last five years. [80832]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government's expenditure on civil nuclear energy from 2001 to 2006 is set out as follows.

Figures for direct Government expenditure (but not including spending by the Research Councils) on nuclear fission are given in the following table:

Financial year	*Nuclear fission (£ million)*
2001-02	2.0
2002-03	2.1
2003-04	2.1
2004-05	2.2
2005-06	2.3

Note:
Expenditure is in support of emergency support arrangements provided by the Met Office in the event of a nuclear release into the atmosphere, and includes a contribution towards the cost of the underpinning meteorological modelling capability

In addition, expenditure by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council on research in aspects of nuclear fission is as follows:

Financial year	*Nuclear fission (£ million)*
2001-02	0.33
2002-03	0.31
2003-04	0.21
2004-05	0.11
2005-06	0.95

Figures for nuclear fusion R and D are given in the following table:

Financial year	*Nuclear fission (£ million)*
2001-02	14.4
2002-03	14.6
2003-04	15.6
2004-05	19.5
2005-06	17.0

In terms of British Energy, a loan facility was provided to the company in 2002 to support it through its restructuring. This loan was re-paid in full with interest in December 2003 and no further drawings can be made. As a result of the restructuring which completed in January 2005, the Government have taken direct financial responsibility for BE's historic spent fuel liabilities. The following payments have been made since restructuring to meet those historic spent fuel liabilities: 2004-05—£185 million; 2005-06—£189 million. The Government are also underwriting British Energy's decommissioning fund to the extent that its liabilities outweigh its assets. In return the company is making enhanced payments into the fund. On current valuations, the assets of the fund exceed the liabilities.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) assumed responsibility for the UK's historic nuclear legacy on 1 April 2005. The legacy is made up of experimental facilities created 30 and 40 years ago and which were built without any consideration at the time for future decommissioning and clean up. About 80 per cent. of the total legacy costs relate to Sellafield and Dounreay—neither of which ever produced much electricity. In its approved Strategy the NDA set out its proposals for nuclear clean up which is estimated to be £62.7 billion. This is the life time cost of clean up—likely to take up to 100 years plus to implement.

Under the 2004 Spending Review the NDA received a budget of £2.2 billion for 2005-06—about half of which was to be raised by the NDA's commercial activities. Following the successful conclusion of the EC State Aid Review on 4 April 2006, financial responsibility for decommissioning BNFL sites has passed to the NDA under the Energy Act 2004. Until this point BNFL held nuclear funding assets of some £17.3 billion on its balance sheet to fund future decommissioning costs. Following the transfer of the nuclear decommissioning liability to the NDA, these assets have been transferred back to the Government.

Figures relating to spend by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs are unavailable and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Racial Abuse Complaints

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many complaints of racial abuse in his Department have been *(a)* investigated and *(b)* upheld in each of the last five years. [72903]

Mr. Darling: The number of formal complaints of discrimination on the grounds of race investigated and upheld in the past five years is contained in the following table:

	Complaints made	*Complaints upheld*
2006 (to date)	0	0
2005	3	0
2004	5	2
2003	2	1
2002	3	0

Renewable Energy

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what support is being given by the Government to companies interested in generating energy from tidal lagoons. [76542]

Malcolm Wicks: This type of scheme is the application of conventional technology therefore the primary mechanism for Government support is the Renewables Obligation.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent representations he has received on tidal lagoon electricity generation; and what contribution he expects this method of generation to make to the Government's targets for the use of renewables. [76543]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has received a number of representations from two organisations regarding a single tidal lagoon project in the U.K.

The Government have set a target of 10 per cent. of electricity in the UK to come from renewables by 2010. However, we have not specified what level of contribution should come from individual technologies. That is left to industry, being consistent with the Government's policy of an open and competitive energy market.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much public subsidy was given to the renewable energy industry in each of the last nine years. [80044]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to the hon. Member for Leominster (Bill Wiggin) on 12 September 2005, *Official Report*, column 2262W.

Rural Post Offices

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1748W, on the Rural Post Office Network, why he is not working to a specific timetable for the consultation on the future of the Rural Post Office Network. [80868]

Jim Fitzpatrick: With a funding support package of £150 million a year for the rural network in place until 2008, we believe it is more important to ensure that we have the fullest possible data and information on which to assess future options than to work to a prematurely predetermined consultation timetable.

Small Arms Trade

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* standard individual trade control licences and *(b)* Open individual trade control licences have been issued to (i) York Guns, (ii) Jago Ltd. and (iii) Procurement Management Services Ltd. since June 2003 for the transfer of small arms from Bosnia to Iraq or any other destination countries. [80458]

Malcolm Wicks: Trade control licence applications are made to the Government in confidence and the information they contain is therefore exempt from disclosure. Further, the Government can neither confirm nor deny that an export licence has been applied for in this instance.

The Government publish details of trade control licences issued, in their annual and quarterly reports on strategic export controls. The Government's annual reports are available from the Libraries of the House and the DTI Export Control Organisation website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/index.html.

Smart Grids

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research he has commissioned into the evolution of smart grids to enhance the existing national grid. [80017]

Malcolm Wicks: The joint DTI/Ofgem/industry 'distributed generation co-ordinating group' (DGCG) commissioned a key study on this topic that was led by the Institution of Electrical Engineers to work with all parties in the sector to form a vision for future networks. This work reported last year—the "Technical Architecture" report is available at:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/temp/ofgem/cache/cmsattach/11732_TA.pdf

The group's work continues under the re-formed Electricity Networks Strategy Group (ENSG).

Separately, Ofgem and British academics, supported by DTI and British companies, have been active participants in the European Union's Technology platform that has developed a vision for Europe's Electricity Networks of the Future. Their 'SmartGrids' report was published recently and is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/energy/pdf/smartgrids_en.pdf

DEFENCE

Aerospace Industry

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer by the Minister of State for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge) of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1410W, on the aerospace industry, what discussions he has had with BAE Systems on securing ongoing export contracts for the Brough site; and if he will make a statement. [79875]

Mr. Ingram: The Government's decision to acquire the Hawk 128 for the Royal Air Force helped to secure in 2004 a major order from India for 66 aircraft. The Government of Bahrain has also ordered the aircraft. The Ministry of Defence, through the Defence Export Services Organisation, is giving BAE Systems strong support to win further export orders.

My noble Friend, the Minister for Defence Procurement (Lord Drayson) has regular meetings with BAE Systems to discuss a range of topics, including matters affecting the company's plans for work to be undertaken at their Brough site where the Hawk aircraft is manufactured.

Afghanistan

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many mobilised reservists from each of the three services are deployed in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. [80722]

Mr. Watson: The number of reservists serving in specific areas of an operation's Joint Operational Area (JOA) is not recorded. However, the number of reservists serving in the Operation HERRICK JOA on 31 May 2006 was:

	Number
Royal Navy	2
Army	142
Royal Air Force	10

Aldermaston

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the planned expenditure on hydrodynamic testing at the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment is in each of the next three years. [78952]

Des Browne: It is planned to spend in the order of £5 million on hydrodynamic testing at the Atomic Weapons Establishment this year, rising to around £6 million by the end of 2007-08. The precise budget beyond that has not been finalised.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected capital costs are for the construction of the centralised Explosive Handling Facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston. [79093]

Des Browne: Mature costings are not available and disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice commercial interests.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected capital costs are for the construction of new Material Science facilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield. [79094]

Des Browne: Mature costings are not available and disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice commercial interests.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans there are to introduce a petaflop computing capability at the UK Atomic Weapons Establishment. [79095]

Des Browne: Petaflop technology is not expected to be available before the end of the decade.

Ballistic Missile Interceptors

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions the Government have had with US authorities on siting land based ballistic missile interceptors in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* UK territorial waters. [80385]

Des Browne: Officials work closely with the United States on joint technology programmes and to further our understanding of the US ballistic missile defence system. Their discussions include the modelling of possible missile defence architectures. However, we have had no discussions about the use of specific sites for interceptors in the United Kingdom.

Defence Training Review

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates his Department has met *(a)* employees and *(b)* consultants of Foresight Communications to discuss (i) the Defence Training Review and (ii) other matters, in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [78110]

Mr. Watson: To my knowledge, no members of the Ministry of Defence who are involved with the Defence Training Review have met employees or consultants of Foresight Communications in the last 12 months. I cannot answer for everyone within the Department on this matter as the information is not held centrally and would incur disproportionate costs to retrieve.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 709W, on departmental staff, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the change in the number of staff failing to achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report since 2002-03; and what measures have been put in place to address the issue. [80789]

Mr. Watson: The increase in numbers year on year was partly due to the introduction of industrial staff to performance appraisal as part of the Ministry of Defence four year pay deal. Also, the figures provided in the answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 709W, were, as explained, a snapshot at the end of the reporting year. We have, throughout the pay deal, raised line manager awareness of the impact on pay of failing to address poor performance at the end of the reporting year and the increase in numbers show that managers were responding to this. The Department remains keen for line managers to deal with poor performers and to manage them out if they do not respond to encouragement and assistance to improve their performance.

Departmental Televisions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many television sets are in operation in the Department *(a)* in total, *(b)* in Minister's private offices and *(c)* in each office building in the Department; and how many television licences are held by the Department. [62798]

Mr. Watson: The information requested on the total number of televisions, their locations and licenses is not held centrally and could not be collected without disproportionate cost and effort. However, in respect of the Department's three central London office buildings, there are 100 televisions in the Main Building—of which there is one in the office of each of the four Ministers; 83 in the Old War Office Building; and 10 in St. George's Court. Two TV licences are held for the Main Building, and one each for the Old War Office Building and St. George's Court.

Future Aircraft Carrier Project

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what impact he expects negotiations with the US Administration on the transfer of technology and software for the Joint Strike Fighter to have on the Future Aircraft Carrier Project. [80723]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* We remain optimistic that our negotiations with the US administration on the transfer of technology and software for the Joint Strike Fighter will be successful and as such will have no impact on the Future Aircraft Carrier programme. We remain fully committed to the Future Aircraft Carrier programme which represents a quantum step up in military capability for the UK's armed forces.

Hutton Report

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1524-25W, on the Hutton Report, at what time of day, and on what day, the press statement from his predecessor, the right hon. Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), reference 168/03 and dated 19 July 2003, available on the Government News Network website, was *(a)* cleared for release and *(b)* released under embargo to the media. [81218]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1524-25W.

Iraq

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many mobilised reservists are deployed in Iraq, broken down by service. [80721]

Mr. Watson: On 31 May 2006 each service had the following number of reserve personnel serving in the Operation TELIC Joint Operational Area:

	Number
Royal Navy	1
Royal Marines	2
Army	422
Royal Air Force	63

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish the findings of the investigation into the fatal attack of 13 May on British troops serving in Basra. [80869]

Mr. Ingram: The Service Police Report resulting from the Royal Military Police (Special Investigation Branch) investigation into the fatal attack of 13 May on British troops serving in Basra is not yet complete. Service Police Reports are not made public, although they are provided to the relevant Coroner's Office for use at the inquest.

It has yet to be decided whether a Service Board of Inquiry into this incident will be held. If there is to be a Board of Inquiry, its findings will be made available to the next of kin of the deceased once it is complete.

The Army is in contact with the families of the deceased soldiers and is keeping them informed of developments.

Joint Personnel Administration

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes *(a)* have been made and *(b)* are planned to (i) concessionary travel, (ii) living allowances, (iii) other allowances and (iv) compensation for each of the armed forces as a consequence of the introduction of Joint Personnel Administration; and if he will make a statement. [79662]

Mr. Watson: Due to the amount of information requested I have placed a detailed response in the Library of the House.

Joint Striker Fighter

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions his Department has had with the US Defense Department on sharing of *(a)* stealth technology and *(b)* flight control software for the Joint Strike Fighter project. [80724]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* As part of the continuing process of preparing to operate the Joint Strike Fighter as a sovereign capability, Ministers and senior officials have had a wide range of discussions with US counterparts on all aspects of the Joint Strike Fighter programme. As my noble Friend, the Minister for Defence Procurement, has previously explained in another place, those discussions have raised the issue of information access and explained the UK's requirements for operational sovereignty. These detailed discussions continue and we remain optimistic that they will be successful.

Meteor Beyond-visual-range Air-to-air Missile

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the results of MBDA's first test firing of the Meteor beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile on 9 May; and whether the development of the Meteor missile is on schedule. [79542]

Mr. Ingram: The first firing of a Meteor missile took place on 9 May. The missile maintained full guidance control throughout its planned flight. Data were successfully collected during the flight and the debris was recovered. A second firing was successfully conducted on 20 June, the data from which are now being analysed.

The Meteor programme remains on schedule to achieve the in-service date declared in the Major Project Report 2005.

Missile Effectiveness

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the *(a)* Storm Shadow air-launched cruise and *(b)* Brimstone anti-tank guided missile, with particular reference to deployment in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan; and whether it is meeting military requirements. [79539]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence conducts assessment of its weapons systems on a regular basis. Details of these assessments cannot be released as this could prejudice the safety and security of our armed forces.

Project Hyperion

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the conclusions of Project Hyperion will be announced. [80796]

Mr. Ingram: I hope to be able to make an announcement before the recess.

Suicide Vulnerability

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what right of appeal is available to a trainee in the UK armed services discharged as a result of being discovered to be at risk following an assessment made as a part of the suicide vulnerability risk management policy. [79840]

Mr. Watson: Service personnel are not discharged from the armed forces as a result of being discovered to be at risk following an assessment made as part of suicide risk management policies.

There are a number of reasons why service personnel could be discharged from the armed forces, such as for medical reasons, on compassionate grounds, or because the individual is thought to be temperamentally unsuitable to service life. If a service person does not agree with the reason for their discharge, they have the right to submit a redress of complaint. If an individual is discharged on medical grounds they may also submit an appeal to a Medical Appeal Board.

Training Exercises

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of training exercises have been suspended in the last 12 months. [81143]

Mr. Ingram: Of the 548 training events recorded in the Defence Exercise Programme for the period 1 July 2005-30 June 2006, 63 (11 per cent.) were suspended.

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether evidence from experiments conducted in *(a)* existing and *(b)* proposed hydrodynamic testing facilities will be used to support the decision on whether to reuse or replace the Trident warhead pit. [79090]

Des Browne: Evidence from hydrodynamics experimentation, both current and future, represents an essential supporting element in all decisions in connection with UK warhead assurance and in-service life.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the *(a)* Trident missile, *(b)* nuclear warheads, *(c)* guidance systems and *(d)* submarine launch platforms are each expected to be (i) no longer available and (ii) beyond refurbishment. [81340]

Des Browne: The expected life of each element of the UK's nuclear deterrent was set out in a memorandum provided by the Ministry of Defence to the House of Commons Defence Select Committee, which was published on the Committee's website on 20 January 2006 (http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmselect/cmdfence/835/835m04.htm).

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Poverty

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect on child poverty of proposals in A New Deal for Welfare: Empowering People to Work to introduce the Employment and Support Allowance. [77937]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We believe that work is the best route out of poverty. It builds family aspirations, fosters greater social inclusion and can improve an individual's health and well-being. Our Green Paper sets out proposals aimed at achieving an employment rate equivalent to 80 per cent. of the working age population. We will do this by reducing the number of people on incapacity benefits, by helping lone parents into work and by increasing the number of older workers.

We propose to significantly reduce the number of people claiming incapacity benefits through a three pronged approach: reducing the number of people who leave the workplace due to illness; increasing the number leaving benefits and better addressing the needs of all those on benefit with additional payments to the most severely disabled people.

Work is still under way in relation to the proposals, and an assessment of the potential impact on child poverty will form part of this. We are currently reviewing the DWP contribution to reducing child poverty across all current and planned policies and, in the autumn, we will be setting out our new strategy for how we can make faster progress towards reaching our goal of halving child poverty by 2010.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of cases recorded on the Child Support Agency old rules scheme would pay *(a)* increased and *(b)* decreased payments if migrated to the new rules scheme. [77946]

Mr. Plaskitt: For those cases with a full maintenance assessment on the child support computer system (CSCS) in February 2006, we estimate that around *(a)* 60 per cent. would have an increased liability and *(b)* 40 per cent. would have a decreased liability if the new scheme rules were applied to their current reported circumstances.

We estimate that the majority of changes in maintenance liabilities will be for less than £10 per week. To give non-resident parents and parents with care time to adjust to their new amount, most changes are phased in by fixed annual steps.

Source: Child support computer system five per cent. extract, February 2006.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average number of Child Support Agency staff who are involved in each case from first application to the establishment of regular payments. [77947]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many unprocessed cases were held by the Child Support Agency during each month of the last year for which figures are available; [77949]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the backlog of new claims held by the Child Support Agency. [77951]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what his latest estimate is of the backlog of new claims held by the Child Support Agency.

You also asked how many unprocessed cases were held by the Child Support Agency during each month of the last year for which figures are available.

As at March 2006, the Agency had a total 333,000 uncleared potential applications. This consisted of 66,000 old scheme applications and 267,000 new scheme applications. These figures can be found in table 1 and table 2.1 of the latest issue Agency's 'Quarterly Summary Statistics' (QSS), a copy of which is available in the House library.

The following table shows the number of uncleared potential applications across both schemes for each month of the last year.

Although the total volume of uncleared potential applications fell by 8% between January 2005 and March 2006, the Agency recognises that this remains unacceptably high. The Agency therefore has a 2006/07 target to ensure that, by March 2007, the volume of new scheme uncleared applications outstanding at March 2006 is reduced by 25 %.

Number of uncleared potential applications across both schemes, March 2006

	Total agency uncleared applications	*New scheme uncleared applications*	*Old scheme uncleared applications*
April 2005	352,000	266,000	86,000
May 2005	346,000	265,000	82,000
June 2005	341,000	263,000	78,000
July 2005	340,000	263,000	76,000
August 2005	339,000	264,000	75,000
September 2005	333,000	261,000	73,000
October 2005	331,000	262,000	70,000
November 2005	328,000	259,000	69,000
December 2005	327,000	259,000	68,000
January 2006	327,000	260,000	67,000
February 2006	332,000	265,000	67,000
March 2006	333,000	267,000	66,000

Notes:

1. The definition of an uncleared potential application differs between new and old schemes. Old scheme cases are considered cleared when they have been processed through to an assessment. New scheme cases are only considered cleared when they have received a calculation and have a payment schedule in place.
2. These figures include all uncleared potential applications from those received in the latest month to those received more than a year ago.
3. Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his latest estimate is of the average time it takes the Child Support Agency to bring cases from first application to assessment; [77950]

(2) how many and what proportion of eligible parents received their first payment from the Child Support Agency within the target time of six weeks in each month of the last year for which figures are available. [77948]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what his latest estimate is of the average time it takes the Child Support Agency to bring cases from first application to assessment.

You also asked how many and what proportion of eligible parents received their first payment from the Child Support Agency within the time limit of six weeks in each month of the last year for which figures are available.

As at the end of March 2006, of those cases that progressed to calculation since the introduction of the new scheme, the average time from first contact to calculation was 181 days (26 weeks). Of such cases, 24 per cent received a calculation in less than 6 weeks; 48 per cent between 6 weeks and 6 months; 16 per cent between 6 months and a year; and 12 per cent took more than a year.

It should be noted, however, that the Agency does not regard an application as being cleared once a calculation alone has been carried out, but only once collection arrangements have been agreed with the non resident parent. Additionally, since not all Child Support Agency applications result in a calculation, an application is also defined as cleared if the case is closed; the parent with care is identified as claiming Good Cause or is subject to a Reduced Benefit Decision; or the application is identified as being a change of circumstances on an existing case as opposed to a new application.

As of the end of March 2006, for all cases cleared since the introduction of the new scheme, the mean average time taken to process a new-scheme application from the date of first contact to clearance, as defined above, was 204 days (29 weeks). Of those

cases cleared, 25 per cent did so in less that 6 weeks; 41 per cent between 6 weeks and 6 months; 17 per cent between 6 months and a year; and 17 per cent took more than a year. These figures exclude 126,000 applications that came through the Jobcentre Plus interface and which have been cleared, but for which insufficient management information exists to enable age at clearance to be determined.

The Agency does not have a time limit for the time taken for a parent with care to receive their first payment. Information regarding the number and percentage of cases receiving a first payment within six weeks or longer is attached.

Once a case has received a calculation, a method of collection must be agreed with the non-resident parent and set up by the Agency which, in the cases of a Direct Debit or a Standing Order, may take a few weeks. The day on which payment is due from the non- resident parent is then specified by the Agency having taken in to account the date of any other income payable to the non-resident parent, which may result in a delay of up to 4 weeks to make payment to the Agency. The Agency then has to process the payment from the non-resident parent and make payment to the parent with care.

Delays may occur if a non resident parent does not comply. For an employed non-resident parent the Agency can then impose a Deductions from Earnings Order (DEO). Where this occurs, the Agency must contact and liaise with the employer to set up the DEO, wait for the subsequent payment from the employer, which in itself can take over 20 days, before money is available to be paid to the parent with care.

The elapsed times between a payment request by the Agency and actual payment by the non resident parent mean that, it is unlikely that it would be possible for many parents with care to receive maintenance payments within 6 weeks of their first contact with the Agency.

The Agency published its 2006 Client Charter on 28th April 2006. This sets out the minimum standards of service which we aim to meet in future for each of our main business areas. The first three service standards which relate to first contact and payments are attached.

I hope you find this helpful.

Number of cases where payment has been made from the Agency to the parent with care by time elapsed since first contact with the CSA

	Number of cases receiving payment in			
Date of intake	*Less than 6 weeks*	*6 weeks or longer*	*Number of cases where payment not yet received*	*Total*
January 2005	500	5,000	1,000	6,500
February 2005	500	5,000	1,500	7,000
March 2005	500	5,000	1,500	7,000
April 2005	500	5,000	1,500	7,000
May 2005	500	4,500	1,500	6,500
June 2005	500	5,000	1,500	7,000
July 2005	500	4,500	1,500	6,500
August 2005	500	4,000	1,500	6,000
September 2005	500	4,000	2,000	6,500
October 2005	500	3,500	2,000	6,500
November 2005	500	3,500	2,500	6,500
December 2005	500	2,000	2,000	4,500

Percentage of cases where payment has been made from the Agency to the parent with care by time elapsed since first contact with the CSA

	Percentage of cases receiving payment in			
Date of intake	*Less than 6 weeks*	*6 weeks or longer*	*Percentage of cases where payment not yet received*	*Total*
January 2005	5	76	19	6,500
February 2005	6	76	19	7,000
March 2005	5	74	21	7,000
April 2005	6	73	21	7,000
May 2005	6	73	21	6,500
June 2005	7	70	23	7,000
July 2005	7	69	23	6,500
August 2005	8	66	26	6,000
September 2005	9	64	28	6,500
October 2005	10	57	33	6,500
November 2005	10	54	36	6,500
December 2005	7	47	46	4,500

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 500, and percentages to the nearest whole percent. As such, components may not sum to totals.

Child Support Agency Client Charter—Service standards relating to first contact and payment

Standard 1

If the parent with care can give us contact details for the non-resident parent, we will start gathering information from the non- resident parent within four weeks of the application being received. We will aim to make an accurate decision on the application within 12 weeks, but in some cases this may take as long as 26 weeks.

If we do not have current contact details for the non-resident parent, we will trace them as quickly as we can. These applications may take longer to progress. In the small number of cases where we cannot trace the non-resident parent, we will not be able to progress the application.

Standard 2

Where we are collecting child maintenance, we aim to make a first payment to the parent with care within six weeks of making the initial payment arrangements with the non-resident parent.

If the non-resident parent has a job but either fails or refuses to pay, we will aim to obtain payment via a Deduction from Earnings Order (DEO) within four months of making initial payment arrangements.

Where the non-resident parent has still not paid four months after initial payment arrangements were made, we will refer the case to our specialist enforcement unit.

Standard 3

We will make maintenance payments to parents with care within a week of receiving the money from the non-resident parent.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average administration cost per case on *(a)* the new and *(b)* the old Child Support Agency scheme was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [77953]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average administration cost per case on (a) the new scheme and (b) the old scheme was in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

The Child Support Agency is funded to administer child support applications and payments regardless of whether the case is administered on the new scheme or the old scheme. The actual costs of administering child support cases under each scheme are not separately identified and as such we cannot supply information to the level of detail required.

The cost of administering the Child Support Agency in 2004/05 was £325.6 million. Figures for 2005/06 will be available when the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts are published. A change in accounting policy proposed by the Department for Work and Pensions, will lead to a restatement of 2004/05 expenditure reported in the Agency's annual accounts. This reflects the incorporation of costs associated with the Modernisation Programme in the accounts of individual Agencies rather than charging such costs directly to the central Departmental Resource Account. It is expected that the restated 2004-05 figure will increase expenditure to around £425 million. Costs for 2005/06 will be prepared on the same basis.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints have been made to the Child Support Agency in each year for which figures are available. [77954]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive, Mr. Stephen Geraghty. He will write to the hon. Member with the requested information.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many complaints were made to the Child Support Agency in each year for which figures are available.

The volumes of complaints received direct from clients, their representatives and MPs to the Child Support Agency or to our Ministers, for which information is available, are in the attached table.

It should be noted that it is difficult to use this information to make meaningful comparisons over time due to changes in the way that information has been recorded. In particular whilst the volume of stage 1 written complaints undoubtedly rose between 2002-03 and 2003-04, this is likely to have been due in part to more rigorous recording of complaints received at the time, and the introduction by the Agency of a three tier complaints process during 2003-04.

It should also be noted that the volume of complaints has stabilised. In the twelve months up to March 2006, the Agency received a total of 55,000 complaints. This compares to 55,000 for the 12 months up to May 2005 (the earliest period for which comparable data for total numbers of complaints received is available).

Further, to put the attached figures into context, the 55,000 complaints received in the 12 months to March 2006 represent less than 4% of the 1.5 million cases dealt with by the CSA.

I hope you find this answer useful.

Agency complaints—number of cases received in the Agency 1997 to 2006

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Stage 1 complaints received (Written)	27,875	28,073	21,015	19,634	15,493	15,182	24,809	29,213	27,344
Stage 1 Complaints received (telephone)	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—	7,458	10,570	10,660
Chief Executive Complaints	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	4,096	4,555	7,804	[4]—	[5]—	5,887
Treat Official Complaints[6]	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	2,609	2,869	1,344	1,521	1,108	1,278
MP Complaints to Business Units	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	4,175	4,818	4,537	5,317	8,871	9,729

[1] Whilst the Agency did receive stage 1 telephone complaints prior to 2002-03, their volumes were not recorded.

[2] Although 671 stage 1 telephone complaints were recorded between December 2002 and March 2003, their volumes were not recorded throughout the whole year, thus preventing meaningful comparison with later years.

[3] Whilst the Agency did receive complaints directly to the Chief Executive, treat official complaints, and MP complaints to Business Units prior to 2000/01, their volumes were not recorded.

[4] During 2003-04 complaints sent directly to the Chief Executive were not recorded separately from those complaints that were escalated to him as part of the 3-stage process. Therefore, although 7,183 complaints in total were received during 2003-04, it is not possible to separate out those complaints received by the Chief Executive directly (as opposed to those escalated via the complaints process), thus preventing meaningful comparison with data for earlier years.

[5] In April and May of 2004, the Chief Executive received a total of 1,435 complaints however, is not possible to separate out those complaints received by the Chief Executive directly, as opposed to those escalated to stage 3 of the complaints process). From June 2004-March 2005, after which time such complaints were recorded separately, the Chief Executive received 4,393 direct complaints and 2,549 complaints escalated upwards from stage 2. Again, these recording issues prevent meaningful comparison of this category with earlier years.

[6] Treat official letters are those received by a Minister from a member of the public, and referred for initial consideration to an official of the agency.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the average time taken to resolve complaints to the Child Support Agency about *(a)* old scheme cases and *(b)* new scheme cases. [77956]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what his latest estimate is of the average time taken to resolve complaints to the Child Support Agency about (a) old scheme cases and (b) new scheme cases.

The Agency had a 2005/06 internal target to ensure that 68% of stage one client complaints were resolved or had a resolution plan in place within 15 working days of receipt of the complaint from the client.

I cannot provide the average time taken to resolve complaints but information on the Agency's 2005/06 performance against this standard is set out in the table below.

	Percentage of complaints which have been resolved, or have a resolution plan within 15 working days of receipt of the complaint for 2005/06
Old child support scheme	90
New child support scheme	88
Overall	89

Note:
This target is measured by checking a 10% sample of cases which have been resolved or have a resolution plan in place.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to process compensation payments made to Child Support Agency clients for administrative errors was in 2005-06. [77957]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken to process compensation payments made by Child Support Agency clients for administrative errors was in 2005-6.

Financial redress is made to clients in cases where maladministration has occurred. The Agency does not hold robust information to distinguish administrative errors from other acts of maladministration.

However, in the 2005/06 financial year 80% of financial redress payments for maladministered cases were processed within 30 days

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the 10 largest total *(a)* compensation and *(b)* maladministration payments made by the Child Support Agency to a single individual have been since May 1997, including separate payments made in relation to a single case requiring compensation; and if he will make a statement. [77958]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds, dated 29 June 2006:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the 10 largest total (a) compensation and (b) maladministration payments made by the Child Support Agency to a single individual including separate payments made in relation to a single case requiring compensation have been since May 1997; and if he will make a statement.

The Agency does not have sufficient robust information to give you precisely the information you requested. I apologise for this but can give you information on the ten highest financial redress payments awarded due to maladministration between the period 1 December 2001 to 31 May 2006.

The table below contains the available information.

	£
1	41,000.00
2	27,961.66
3	22,160.08
4	19,965.36
5	19,056.49
6	18,980.90
7	16,000.00
8	14,905.97
9	14,732.40
10	14,648.55

Maladministration and compensatory payments in excess of £10,000 represent a small fraction (just over 0.01%) of the total number of such payments made by the Agency.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total cost was of compensation payments made to clients of the Child Support Agency for administrative errors in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [77959]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds, dated 29 June 2006:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the total cost of compensation payments made to clients of the Child Support Agency for administrative errors was in each of the last five years for which figures are available.

Financial redress is made to clients in cases where maladministration has occurred. The Agency does not hold robust information to distinguish administrative errors from other acts of maladministration.

The following table summarises the financial redress payments made to clients in each of the last five years, as outlined in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts. Figures for 2005-06 will be available in the Agency's 2005-06 Annual Report and Accounts.

	Financial redress paid to clients (£)
2000-01	3,053,000
2001-02	2,590,000
2002-03	2,478,000
2003-04	2,331,000
2004-05	3,043,000

I hope you find this response helpful.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of *(a)* harassment, *(b)* bullying and *(c)* discrimination in the workplace there were against Child Support Agency staff in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [77960]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of (a) harassment (b) bullying and (c) discrimination have been reported to the Child Support Agency in each of the last five years.

The numbers of harassment, bullying and discrimination cases formally reported to the Agency in the last five years are as follows:

	Number of cases reported
2001/02	49
2002/03	32
2003/04	44
2004/05	22
2005/06	16

The nature of the complaints does not allow separation of the data into the constituent elements of harassment, bullying and discrimination.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the proportion of sickness absence days taken in a year at the Child Support Agency which were due to stress and other mental health problems. [77961]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive.

He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds, dated 29 June 2006:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the proportion of sickness absence days taken at the Child Support Agency in the last five years that were due to stress and other mental health problems.

The table below shows the absences broadly due to stress and other mental health problems as a percentage of total sickness absences.

	Percentage
January 2001-December 2001	28.8
January 2002-December 2002	28.3
April 2003-March 2004	31.8
April 2004-March 2005	32
April 2005-March 2006	26.7

Figures for January 2003 to March 2003 are unavailable as a change in methodology for collection of sickness data was introduced in April 2003.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* absence rates due to sickness and *(b)* turnover rates for Child Support Agency staff were for each year since 1995-96. [77967]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As the Chief Executive is out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the (a) absence rates due to sickness and (b) turnover rates for Child Support Agency staff were for each year since 1995-96.

The tables below provide the information requested.

Year ending	*Annual sickness rate (average working days lost per member of staff, expressed in full-time equivalent terms)*
December 1999	12.5
December 2000	11.9
December 2001	12.3
December 2002	12.9
March 2003	13.7
March 2004	15.6
March 2005	15.9
March 2006	12.0

Year ending March:	*Turnover rates (Percentage)*
1999	27.6
2000	17.1
2001	14.6
2002	14.6
2003	13.0
2004	14.9
2005	16.6
2006	13.6

Notes:

1. Data prior to 1999 are not available.
2. Due to a change in methodology for collection of sickness data introduced in April 2003, the year end dates have changed from December to March.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the key performance metrics are for measuring the performance of the EDS contract with the Child Support Agency. [77969]

Mr. Pleskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply for the Chief Executive. As he is out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the key performance metrics are for measuring the success of the EDS contract with the Child Support Agency.

In August 2005, the Department realigned its IT contracts with Electronic Data Systems (EDS), including that covering the Child Support Reforms (CSR), into the Standard Services Business Allocation (SSBA). The realigned contract is intended to deliver industry standard services at market competitive prices to the Department as a whole including Child Support Agency.

Under the SSBA, EDS is required to meet contractual levels for live operational services across a full range of industry standard measures. The key criteria on which EDS' performance is measured in respect of CS2 (the principal IT system used by the CSA) are:

The level of system availability (where the current target is 99.2%, rising to 99.6% over time);

The level of desktop infrastructure availability (where the current target is 99.2%, rising to 99.4% over time);

Accuracy and timeliness of payments to parents with care (where the target is 100%).

The Department is entitled to financial remedies if these targets are not met. In addition, the Department can benchmark EDS services against external industry comparators to help achieve ongoing performance and value for money.

The general contract realignment included resolution of outstanding CSR contractual issues with EDS. As part of this agreement, EDS is required to deliver a staged programme of work to fix agreed defects on CS2. The Department is monitoring delivery of this programme to planned milestone dates and to agreed testing acceptance and implementation quality criteria. Once all the relevant services have been transformed, application reliability, which affects processing times, will also become a contractual service level.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the latest list of change requests made to EDS by the Child Support Agency. [77972]

Mr. Pleskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will place in the Library the latest list of change requests made to EDS by the Child Support Agency.

The following table shows the latest list of change requests made by the Child Support Agency.

Change requests	*Benefits*
CR1 (chargeable defects)	This allows the business to prioritise and approve small IT fixes during the testing phase which are identified as chargeable, without delaying the current testing and delivery timescales.
Change Release 1.1 (Integration Test Project)	To ensure continuity of the development activity for Change Release 1.1 whilst business requirements are re-affirmed.
Management Information Improvement Project	This will supply management information for the key core process areas of the business to assist performance management.
Call Off Scans	This will allow the Agency to meet its legal requirement to maintain the accuracy of data on the CS2 system and also allow the business to obtain detailed case information.
HSBC Bank Files	This updates and changes the way bank files are handled between the Agency/Department and HSBC and creates an automatic link between the banking system and Agency systems.
Programme Launch	This will ensure that a defined and contracted programme of work is accepted, is jointly regarded as representing the best IT solution to support of the Agency's change programme. In turn this will mean that relevant EDS resource can be effectively and efficiently managed and projects implemented.
Year- end scans on FMS	This will allow the analysis of Agency debt to support year-end accounting activities, the development of policy proposals and emerging plans.
Weeding and Archiving	This allows the Agency to maintain efficient weeding and archiving of data.
Data Management System Performance Changes	This will reduce the overall time of the Data Management System batch run, and thereby minimise impact on the online working day start time.
Notifications Survey - DWP (CSA)	This will improve clarity of client notifications.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone calls to the Child Support Agency *(a)* were received, *(b)* received an engaged tone and *(c)* were disconnected during the interactive voice response process in the period April 2002 to May 2006. [77973]

Mr. Pleskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many telephone calls to the Child Support Agency (a) were received, (b) received an engaged tone, (c) were disconnected during the interactive voice response process in the period April 2002 to May 2006.

The latest information is contained in the table. Please note that point (c) has been interpreted as referring to the total number of calls abandoned (for example, by clients who do not have a National Insurance number to hand and hang up to go and find it before calling back) or lost during the automated part of the process.

Further information on the Agency's telephony performance is available in Table 16 of the latest edition of the Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics. A copy of this document is available in the House library, as well as on the internet, at http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/csa.asp.

The Agency has shown significant and sustained improvement in telephony performance. Specifically:

Average waiting times to answer calls from the queue improved in 2005/06 compared to 2004/05, from 2:29 minutes to 1:21 minutes for new system calls; and 0:56 seconds to 0:28 seconds for old system calls.

In 2005/06, 91% of the calls available in queues for Agency employees were answered. This is up from 84% in 2004/05.

I hope you find this helpful.

Telephony outcomes, 2002-03 to 2005-06

	April 2002-March 2003	*April 2003-March 2004*	*April 2004-March 2005*	*April 2005-March 2006*
Attempted client calls to both CS2 and CSCS numbers	4,145,000	6,051,000	5,738,000	5,352,000
Calls for which outcome not recorded	45,000	145,000	48,000	42,000
Calls for which outcome recorded	4,100,000	5,906,000	5,689,000	5,310,000
Of which:				
Calls that received an engaged/busy tone	See note	498,000	126,000	50,000
Calls abandoned/lost during the IVR process.	528,000	362,000	320,000	317,000

Notes:
1. Data is presented for calls made regarding cases on the new system (CS2) and the old system (CSCS) combined.
2. "Attempted client calls" excludes calls attempted outside working hours.
3. "Calls for which outcome not recorded" are those that were received but for which, due to data problems, the eventual outcome was not recorded. The volume of such calls has decreased significantly in the last 3 years as management information systems have improved.
4. "Calls for which outcome recorded" are those which were received and for which there is management information to track the eventual outcome.
5. IVR denotes the automated touch tone part of the process where clients enter their details via the telephone key pad. Once callers have cleared this part of the process, they enter a queue to be answered by a CSA employee. Note that there is no IVR process on the old system.
6. Numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand. Components may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what policies are in place with regard to *(a)* migrating Child Support Agency cases on the old rules system to the new rules system and *(b)* migrating them back onto the old rules system. [77978]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have always said that we would not consider transferring the bulk of the old scheme cases onto the new scheme until the new scheme was working well.

Child support legislation allows an old scheme case to transfer to the new scheme where an old scheme case has prescribed links to a new scheme application.

There is no policy for converting cases back to the old scheme. But where a re-application for child support maintenance is made within 13 weeks of an old scheme application ceasing, "linking rules" will provide for the new application to be assessed under old scheme rules.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what total amount of outstanding debt is owed to parents with care via the Child Support Agency; and what proportion of this is deemed uncollectable. [77980]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply form the Chief Executive. As he is currently out of the country, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what total amount of outstanding debt is owed to parents with care via the Child Support Agency; and what proportion of this is deemed uncollectable.

The outstanding debt balance for 2004/05 is £3,252.75 million for both new scheme and old scheme cases, of which £1,984.42 million has been classified as probably uncollectable. This information is shown the table below.

2004-05	*Debt Position (£ million)*
Collectable	637.79
Possibly uncollectable	599.54
Deferred	31.00
Probably uncollectable	1984.42
Total	3252.75

I am unable to provide the outstanding debt amount owed to the parent with care as there is no differential applied to the outstanding debt balance between the Secretary of State and the parent with care.

This response is based on the position at the end of the financial year 2004/05. The 2005/06 figures are currently being audited by National Audit Office and will be published in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts.

Definitions of Collectability of Debt

Collectable

Amount outstanding which the debt analysis exercise revealed is likely to be collected. This takes into account factors such as regular contact with the non-resident parent, where regular payments are being made or an arrears agreement has been set up.

Possibly Uncollectable

Amounts outstanding which the debt analysis exercise revealed some uncertainty over whether it will be collected. The amounts are considered doubtful where, for example, payments have been infrequent or it has not been possible to establish an arrears agreement or impose a deduction of earning order.

Deferred Debt

Debt deferred by the Agency, provided non-resident parents meet certain conditions on payment of regular maintenance and the remaining debt outstanding.

Probably Uncollectable

Amount outstanding which the debt analysis exercise revealed is likely to be very difficult to collect due, for example, to the lack of contact with, or the personal circumstance of, the non-resident parent. In many of these cases the Agency has suspended recovery action until such time as the individual's circumstances change.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in prison have Child Support Agency maintenance liabilities. [79616]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* The information requested is not available.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time was which the Child Support Agency took for processing a change in circumstances applications in *(a)* 2001-02, *(b)* 2002-03, *(c)* 2003-04, *(d)* 2004-05 and *(e)* 2005-06. [81228]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many variations to Child Support Agency payment schedules were granted on the grounds of *(a)* assets, *(b)* lifestyle inconsistent with income, *(c)* diversion of income and *(d)* income not taken into account purposes in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06. [81229]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Child Support Agency (Scotland)

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Scotland have been transferred over to the new Child Support Agency system. [80166]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available at the geographical level specified.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much industrial injuries disablement benefit was underpaid in each year since 1997; and how much was underpaid due to *(a)* fraud, *(b)* customer error and *(c)* official error in each year. [77989]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No estimates of fraud and error are available for industrial injuries disablement benefit.

Mesothelioma

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many mesothelioma diagnoses have been made by his Department in connection with a claim for industrial injuries disablement benefit in the last three years; and how many of these were posthumous claims for backdated benefit; [79109]

(2) what the occupations were of claimants of industrial injuries disablement benefit for mesothelioma in the last three years. [79110]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* The available information is in the following table. Although included in the table, information on the number of posthumous claims for backdated benefit is not available separately.

Mesothelioma diagnoses in connection with a claim to industrial injuries disablement benefit by occupation

Number

		2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
	All occupations	1,000	1,170	1,345	1,175
11	Corporate managers	15	25	15	15
12	Managers and proprietors in agriculture and services	5	5	—	—
21	Science and technology professionals	60	95	105	90
22	Health professionals	—	—	—	5
23	Teaching and research professionals	5	10	10	10
24	Business and public service professionals	5	5	5	5
31	Science and technology associate professionals	45	40	50	35
32	Health and social welfare associate professionals	5	5	—	10
33	Protective service occupations	10	10	10	5
34	Culture, media and sports occupations	—	—	5	—
35	Business and public service associate professionals	10	10	15	5
41	Administrative occupations	20	20	35	20
42	Secretarial and related occupations	5	5	10	10
51	Skilled agricultural trades	5	5	10	10
52	Skilled metal and electrical trades	270	310	350	290
53	Skilled construction and building trades	265	285	335	315
54	Textiles, printing and other skilled trades	15	25	20	30
61	Caring personal service occupations	5	5	5	5

Mesothelioma diagnoses in connection with a claim to industrial injuries disablement benefit by occupation

					Number
		2002	2003	2004	2005
62	Leisure and other personal services occupations	5	5	10	10
71	Sales occupations	5	10	10	5
72	Customer service occupations	5	—	5	—
81	Process, plant and machine operatives	115	150	160	140
82	Transport and mobile machine drivers and operatives	20	35	35	45
91	Elementary trades, plant and storage related occupations	90	110	115	100
92	Elementary administration and service occupations	20	15	20	15

Notes:
1. The table uses the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO-8).
2. Figures for 2005 are for nine months only and are provisional.
3. – Nil or Negligible.
4. Numbers are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
All figures are from a 100 per cent. sample of clerical forms received from the Disablement Benefit offices.

National Insurance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether under his proposals for pensions a man with childcare responsibilities requiring a career break will receive national insurance contribution credits. [80316]

James Purnell: As part of our package of proposed reforms, published in Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system (Cm 6841), we want to make the state pension scheme fairer and more widely available. The changes would give people more certainty about what state pension entitlement they are building up, while retaining the contributory principle.

Replacing home responsibilities protection with national insurance credits for those reaching state pension age on or after 6 April 2010 means the person awarded child benefit for a child under age 12—whether that is a man or a woman—would be entitled to national insurance credits. The credits, which would count towards both the basic and additional state pension in the same way as paid contributions, would therefore be available to men on career breaks if they were awarded the child benefit.

Pension Credit

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in each electoral ward in Carlisle constituency receive pension credit. [81105]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Pension credit individual beneficiaries in Carlisle, November 2005

Ward name[1]	Individual beneficiaries[2]
Belah	225
Belle Vue	295
Botcherby	380
Burgh	45
Castle	305
Currock	255
Dalston	190
Denton Holme	365
Harraby	385
Morton	585
St. Aidans	320
Stanwix Urban[3]	230
Upperby	505
Yewdale	250
Carlisle constituency total	4,280

[1] Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries.
[2] The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.
[3] Only part of Stanwix Urban ward falls within Carlisle parliamentary constituency.

Note:
Number of individual beneficiaries are rounded to a multiple of five, therefore ward totals do not always sum to area totals.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Luton South receive pension credit, broken down by ward. [80509]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Pension credit individual beneficiaries for wards in Luton South parliamentary constituency, November 2005

Ward name[1]	Individual beneficiaries[2]
Barnfield[3]	170
Biscot	950
Crawley	285
Dallow	885
Parley	830
High Town	350
Round Green	540
South	630
Stopsley	305
Wigmore	360
Caddington, Hyde and Slip End	305
Luton South constituency total	5,420

[1] Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries.
[2] The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.
[3] Only part of Barnfield ward falls within Luton South parliamentary constituency.
Note:
Number of individual beneficiaries are rounded to a multiple of five, therefore ward totals do not always sum to area totals.
Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data.

Pensioner Poverty

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures his Department has taken to reduce pensioner poverty in Coventry South since 1997. [80585]

James Purnell: The seventh annual 'Opportunity for all' report (Cm 6673) sets out the Government's strategy for tackling poverty and social exclusion and reports progress against a range of indicators.

The Government have introduced a number of measures since 1997 to help older people enjoy a better standard of living, such as minimum income guarantee, and then its successor, pension credit, winter fuel payments, free TV licences for over 75s and increases above inflation in the basic state pension. The minimum level of income pensioners are expected to live on has increased by a third in real terms since 1997. As at November 2005, 4,800 people in Coventry South constituency were receiving pension credit.

Between 1996-97 and 2004-05 numbers of pensioners in Great Britain in relative low income, after housing costs, have fallen by over a third from 2.8 million to 1.8 million. Pensioners are now less likely to be in low-income than younger people, on an after housing costs basis. Information on the numbers of pensioners in low income is not available at constituency level.

The Pensions White Paper "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system" (Cm 6841) announced our commitment to uprate the pension credit standard guarantee and the basic state pension in line with earnings growth ensuring that we continue to tackle pensioner poverty.

Prescribed Disease A11

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the changes to the terms of prescription for Prescribed Disease A11 to be put in place. [69201]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our current plans are to introduce the changes in June 2007.

State Pension

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether under his proposals for pensions women with no childcare responsibilities will qualify for a full basic state pension with 30 years' contributions. [80315]

James Purnell: The proposals, published in the White Paper, Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system (Cm6841), are designed to enable more women and men to maximise their state pension entitlement, while retaining the contributory basis of the system.

Under these proposals, women with no childcare responsibilities who reach state pension age on or after 6 April 2010 would qualify for a full basic state pension on the basis of 30 years' contributions. The thirty qualifying years could be achieved through paid national insurance contributions, the award of credits, or a combination of both, including our proposed more generous crediting arrangements. The proposals would apply equally to men in this position.

Work Search Premium Pilots

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to evaluate the Work Search Premium pilots. [76512]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Work Search Premium (WSP) pilots are running in eight Jobcentre Plus districts. Lone parents participating in the pilots are paid a £20 a week premium for a maximum of 26 weeks to help with the costs associated with searching for work. Participation is voluntary and certain eligibility criteria must be met. Participants agree to undertake intensive work search and will also be entitled to help with the cost of formal childcare while undertaking work search activities.

The evaluation of the pilots aims to assess the long and short term effect of the pilots on lone parents and movements off benefit and into work. It consists of a quantitative impact assessment which will estimate the net impact of the WSP pilots on patterns of flows off Income Support and other working age benefits like jobseeker's allowance, as well as other outcomes like entry into work.

The first published report, which we expect to publish in the autumn, will use 12 months of programme data and will examine the impact of the WSP on those lone parents already claiming benefit at the time of introduction of the pilot. A report covering 30 months of data will be published in autumn 2008, and one covering 48 months of data will be published in spring 2010.

In addition, qualitative evaluation will explore the impact of the pilots on the attitudes, motivations and responses of eligible lone parents, and examine the effectiveness of delivery. This will include interviews with lone parents and Jobcentre Plus lone parent advisers. We expect this report to be available in spring 2007.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the main barriers to the UK making more and better use of energy efficiency methods; and what steps his Department is taking with other Departments to overcome these barriers. [79684]

Ian Pearson: The Energy Efficiency Innovation Review, published jointly by Her Majesty's Treasury and DEFRA last December, assessed the barriers to the increased take-up of energy efficiency measures. These include high up-front investment costs, lack of access to capital, split incentives, other market failures, the hassle factor, lack of consumer information and mistrust of suppliers or installers. Further information can be found on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/energy/review/.

This evidence has been used to inform the Review of the UK Climate Change programme, published in March this year, and the ongoing Energy Policy Review. For example, in the household sector, the Energy Efficiency Innovation Review identified consumer misapprehension of the costs and benefits of energy efficiency as a key barrier. The Government have subsequently announced a £20 million initiative to promote consumer uptake of energy efficiency measures, working with energy suppliers and local authorities.

Environmental Liability Directive

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the consultation on the implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive to start. [79213]

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 499W, on the Environmental Liability Directive, why the first of the two consultations on the Environmental Liability Directive on policy options has been delayed. [80390]

Ian Pearson: The first public consultation on the implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive will be launched later this year.

The Government are still considering how best to present the options for transposing the Directive. The Directive raises many issues because of its relationship with existing domestic environmental protection legislation. The Government want to ensure that the issues are clearly set out for optimum stakeholder engagement.

Municipal Waste

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will report on the progress of his Department's 10 demonstration plants to encourage new technologies to treat biodegradable municipal waste. [78537]

Mr. Bradshaw: A full report of all of the demonstration projects will be published as soon as DEFRA have completed due diligence and agreed contracts with technology providers.

At present DEFRA have completed four contracts and it is anticipated that a number of others will be completed by the end of June 2006.

The four signed contracts are with Bioganix, Greenfinch/South Shropshire, Premier Waste and Novera. Further information on these technologies is available on the DEFRA website at the following address:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/wip/newtech/dem-programme/index.htm

Rural Stress

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has commissioned into stress in rural areas; what assessment he has made of levels of stress in rural areas; and what measures are being taken to reduce levels of stress in rural areas. [79581]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* In 2003 DEFRA funded a study by Exeter university reviewing research on rural stress. In 2005 a study into "The Wider Social Impacts of Changes in the Structure of Agricultural Businesses" also considered issues of stress in the farming community.

Copies of these reports are available online at:

http://www.centres.ex.ac.uk/crr/pdf1/reports1/StressReview FinalReport.pdf

http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/research/soc_impact.htm

DEFRA is closely involved with a number of voluntary and community organisations working to alleviate the level of stress in rural areas through the Rural Stress Action plan. The plan supports £300,000 worth of projects each year, and funds are committed until March 2008.

Since it began in 2000 there have been two full evaluations of the Rural Stress Action plan. Copies of these can be found on the DEFRA website.

http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/stress/default.htm

Thames Water (Leaks)

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the failure of Thames Water to meet its leakage targets for the regulatory year 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [80613]

Ian Pearson: The failure of Thames Water to meet its leakage targets for the regulatory year 2005-06 is disappointing. The Economic Regulator, Ofwat, has already said that it views the issue as serious and will carefully scrutinise the company's annual return before deciding on regulatory action. Ofwat is responsible for setting leakage targets and has powers to deal with poor performance. I will not pre-empt Ofwat's response on this issue.

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition of research he uses in relation to *(a)* the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (No. 2) Regulations 2006, Part 2(4) and *(b)* EC Regulation 999/2001. [79811]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* It is not possible to define research specifically in the context of the above regulations; indeed, it is not deemed necessary to do so. My Department, in collaboration with other funding bodies, seeks to facilitate investigations that will further scientific knowledge on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) but has to take into account the likelihood of success, scope for sound interpretation of data and relevance to policy needs

before funds can be committed. Investigations that are specifically addressed by the above regulations and which are statutory obligations would normally be classed as surveillance, namely investigations that determine the existence of TSEs in individual animals or targeted populations. Research and surveillance are complementary, and evidence arising in one area inevitably impacts on the other.

TRANSPORT

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department have had *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in each of the last three years. [73114]

Gillian Merron: The figures for the Department for Transport and its agencies for periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last three years are as follows:

Periods of sick leave	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Five or more	1,395	1,378	1,516
Four	780	733	919
Three	626	602	826
Two	1,044	1,066	1,525

The Department is committed to managing sick absence effectively and to putting in place the recommendations of the 'Managing Sickness Absence in the Public Sector' report. The DfT Board takes an active interest in the issue of attendance management, and a number of steps have already been taken.

Overseas Visits

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what overseas visits have been made by Ministers in his Department in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [80499]

Gillian Merron: Information about overseas visits undertaken by Ministers in the Department for Transport on official business, during 2004, 2005 and to date in 2006, has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code' and 'Travel by Ministers', copies of which are available in the Library. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. Copies of the lists are available in the Library. Information for 2005-06 is currently being compiled and will be published when it is ready.

Rail Services (Cheltenham Spa)

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* earliest and *(b)* last trains (i) to Cheltenham Spa from London Paddington and (ii) from London Paddington to Cheltenham Spa were on (A) 6 June 1986, (B) 6 June 1996 and (C) 6 June 2006; how many direct and indirect train services were provided on a weekday between Cheltenham Spa and London Paddington on each of those dates; and how many of those services were direct in each case. [80826]

Derek Twigg: The earliest and last trains (direct) to/from Cheltenham Spa and London Paddington on weekdays were as follows:

	1986	*1996*	*2006*
First Services			
London Paddington to Cheltenham Spa	06:40	05:30	06:48
Cheltenham Spa to London Paddington	05:18	06:03	05:59
Last Services			
London Paddington to Cheltenham Spa	22:05	21:00	19:45
Cheltenham Spa to London Paddington	21:10	21:00	22:10

The number of direct and indirect train services on weekdays to/from Cheltenham Spa and London Paddington was as follows:

	At 6 June each year:		
	1986	*1996*	*2006*
London Paddington to Cheltenham Spa			
Direct	14	4	8
Indirect	0	15	14
Cheltenham Spa to London Paddington			
Direct	13	4	9
Indirect	0	13	16

Note:
The connecting services shown are where connections are made at Swindon.

Reorganisation Strategies for DfT

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that all measures for handling surplus staff arising from the Shared Service Programme set out in 'Reorganisation Strategies for DfT' are followed by his Department and its agencies. [79778]

Gillian Merron: The Department and its agencies will follow the principles of fairness and transparency set out in that document.

Road Safety

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving heavy goods vehicles were reported to the police in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many involved foreign-registered heavy goods vehicles. [81080]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of personal injury road accidents reported to the police involving heavy goods vehicles in each year from 2001 to 2005 is shown in the following table. Identification of foreign registered vehicles involved in personal injury road accidents is possible only from 2005, the latest year for which data are available.

Accidents involving heavy goods vehicles[1] and accidents involving foreign registered foreign goods vehicles: 2001-05

	Heavy goods vehicles (HGVs)	*Foreign registered HGVs*
2001	13,631	—
2002	12,427	—
2003	12,205	—
2004	11,542	—
2005	11,162	1,098

[1] Heavy goods vehicles are goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes maximum gross weight.

South West Trains

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account was taken of plans for future housing and infrastructure in the formulation of the new South West Trains franchise; and if he will make a statement. [78365]

Derek Twigg: The specification for the new South Western franchise has been developed to build upon the current franchise operation. The future levels of forecast demand have been based on standard rail industry modelling assumptions.

A new and improved service will operate between Salisbury and Romsey via Southampton Central and Southampton Airport Parkway, replacing the Romsey-Totton service via Eastleigh. The new service will create a regular half-hourly Salisbury-Southampton service, create new travel opportunities between Salisbury and Southampton airport, and allow stops to be made at Dunbridge and Dean.

In addition, services in South Hampshire and Dorset have been enhanced to provide a second train each hour through to Weymouth from London, and cross-Bournemouth services to be improved. It is also proposed that an hourly semi-fast Southampton-Brighton service be introduced to connect these major urban areas.

Franchise replacements are not vehicles for significant infrastructure investment. However, they do need to consider infrastructure schemes that have committed funds to enable their delivery, and the South Western franchise process has adhered to this approach.

Vandalism

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many incidents of vandalism were reported to the British Transport Police in the last 12 months, broken down by *(a)* Government office region and *(b)* constituency. [77784]

Derek Twigg: The British Transport Police do not record vandalism offences by either Government office region or constituency and therefore this data can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Coroners (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many *(a)* coroners and *(b)* deputy coroners there have been in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997. [80058]

Ms Harman: The number of coroners and deputy coroners in Northern Ireland since 1997 is set out in the following table:

	Presiding judge	*Full-time coroners*	*Part-time coroners*	*Deputy coroners*
1997	—	1	6	5
1998	—	1	6	5
1999	—	1	6	5
2000	—	1	6	5
2001	—	3	6	5
2002	—	3	6	5
2003	—	3	6	5
2004	—	3	6	5
2005	—	3	6	5
2006	1	3	0	1

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the *(a)* legal background and *(b)* practitioner experience is of each (i) coroner in Northern Ireland, (ii) deputy coroner who served between 1997 and 2006 and (iii) newly appointed (A) coroner and (B) deputy coroner. [80059]

Ms Harman: With the exception of one part-time coroner who was a barrister, all coroners and deputy coroners who served between 1997 and 2006 were solicitors. Of the two full-time coroners appointed in April 2006, one was a barrister and the other was a solicitor. In addition a High Court judge was appointed to the office of coroner in May 2006 to be the presiding judge for the Coroners Service.

With effect from 15 October 2002 in order to be eligible for appointment to the position of coroner or deputy coroner in Northern Ireland a person must be a barrister or a solicitor of at least five years standing.

The professional standing of coroners appointed since 15 October 2002 is as follows:

Date appointed	*Barrister/solicitor*	*Number of years standing*
3 April 2006	Solicitor	19
3 April 2006	Barrister	13

Prior to 15 October 2002 eligibility for appointment as a coroner or deputy coroner in Northern Ireland was based on having practised for not less then five years as a barrister or solicitor. Details of the number of years in practice of individual coroners appointed prior to 15 October 2002 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Court Service (Suffolk)

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the recent performance of the Court Service in Suffolk. [79392]

Ms Harman: Figures are provided to cover performance against key targets over financial year 2005-06 compared with the previous year. The information is as follows:

Ineffective trials

2005-06 Crown—4 per cent. Improved from 10 per cent. last year. Target 15 per cent.

2005-06 Magistrates—12 per cent. Improved from 15 per cent. last year. Target 16 per cent.

Crown Court Timeliness

2005-06—84 per cent. of cases dealt with within target (Trials 16 weeks, Section 51 26 weeks, Committals for Sentence 10 weeks, Appeals 14 weeks). Up from 81 per cent. last year. Target 78 per cent.

Persistent Young Offenders (Crown and Magistrates)

2005-06—37 days arrest to sentence. Down from 25 days last year. Target 71 days or less.

Payment rate (Magistrates Courts)

2005-06—109 per cent. Up from 102 per cent. last year. Target 89 per cent.

Family Public Law

Percentage cases completed within 40 weeks.

2005-06 County Court—64 per cent. Up from 61 per cent. last year. Target 70 per cent.

2005-06 Magistrates—73 per cent. Down from 77 per cent. last year. Target 70 per cent.

County Court Small Claims

2005-06—90 per cent. of cases dealt with within 15 weeks. Up from 73 per cent. last year. Target 80.5 per cent.

County Court Fast Track

2005-06—79 per cent. of cases dealt with within 30 weeks. Down from 91 per cent. last year. Target 78 per cent.

County Court Multi Track

2005-06—100 per cent. of cases dealt with within 50 weeks as last year. Target 78 per cent.

Community Penalty Breach Warrants

Percentage of proceedings resolved within 25 days.

2005-06—72 per cent. Up from 41 per cent. last year. Target 50 per cent.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will estimate the pension liability of her Department over the next 30 years. [75279]

Bridget Prentice: The hon. Member is referred to a technical Note by HM Treasury which was placed in the Library of the House on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-90, following an oral statement in Parliament by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual departments, they are estimated for individual pension schemes, as shown in the breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme given in Table 1 of the technical Note.

Dr. David Kelly

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1255-67W, on Dr. David Kelly, what discussions took place between *(a)* the coroner, *(b)* the deputy coroner, *(c)* the assistant deputy coroner of Oxfordshire and *(d)* anyone else responsible to the Oxfordshire coroner and (i) her Department and (ii) Lord Hutton before the local registrar's decision to issue a certified copy of entry in the register of deaths for Dr. David Kelly. [81212]

Ms Harman: Dr. Kelly's death was registered on 18 August 2003 following the adjournment of the inquest at the request of the Lord Chancellor under Section 17A of the Coroners Act 1988. My officials met the coroner on 11 August 2003. At the outset of Lord Hutton's inquiry the coroner was in contact with the inquiry secretariat to explore the boundaries of their respective jurisdictions and to provide the inquiry with information relating to Dr. Kelly's death. No other discussions took place between the coroner, the deputy coroner, the assistant deputy coroner of Oxfordshire and anyone else responsible to the Oxfordshire coroner and either my Department or Lord Hutton.

Electoral Fraud

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many incidents of *(a)* postal vote fraud and *(b)* other electoral fraud there were in (i) European elections, (ii) parliamentary elections and (iii) local elections in each of the last 30 years. [79077]

Bridget Prentice: Information in this detail is not collected centrally. However, I refer my hon. Friend to the previous answer on 13 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 181W, for information on electoral fraud convictions. Since then, I am aware that in Halton, in May 2006 a former Labour councillor was convicted and fined for electoral fraud offences relating to the local and European parliamentary elections in 2004.

Judges (Part-time)

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 30 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 151-52W, on judges (part-time), if she will maintain and publish a central list of part-time judges. [79756]

Ms Harman: Following the implementation of the Constitutional Reform Act in April 2006, the Judicial Communications Office, in supporting the Lord Chief Justice, has taken over responsibility for maintaining and publishing lists of the judiciary from my Department. On the Judicial website, there are currently lists of full-time judiciary down to and including circuit judges (www.judiciary.gov.uk). I understand that they are considering what further information can be included and whether in due course these lists can be extended to include all salaried or fee-paid holders of judicial office.

Magistrates

David Davis: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the total funding allocated for the training of magistrates was in each of the last eight years. [79956]

Ms Harman: The management information currently available within DCA and HM Courts Service is not able to easily extract the data for the periods requested. Therefore, this information cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. With the inception of HMCS last year, consistent systems and processes to merge magistrate courts are being established to ensure that the data are easily captured and will be available for the future period.

MMR Vaccine

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much legal aid has been spent on *(a)* solicitors', *(b)* barristers' and *(c)* experts' fees in respect of the MMR vaccine litigation cases in which all proceedings are complete; which firms of solicitors, barristers and experts have received payments for these cases; and how much has been paid to each firm. [73868]

Vera Baird: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) is still awaiting confirmation of the outcome of the final detailed assessment by the court. Once this has been completed, and the LSC has settled the claims, I will write to the hon. Member.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which barrister was paid *(a)* £463,782, *(b)* £445,601 and *(c)* £424,659 in legal aid fees in the MMR vaccine litigation, as referred to in the answers to House of Lords questions HL 3418 and HL 3419; what hourly rate was paid to each barrister; and whether these payments represent risk rates paid because the service providers would be unlikely to profit from a case which was not successful. [74076]

Vera Baird: Final assessment for the advocates involved with this litigation have yet to be made by the courts. I will therefore write to the hon. Member with the information requested, when the final payments have been settled.

Personal Protection (Judiciary)

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much was spent on providing personal protection to members of the judiciary in each year since 1997. [81001]

Ms Harman: It is the policy of this Department not to disclose details or the cost of security provided to individuals as to do so may compromise their security.

Post-mortem Reports

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the recommended time is within which a family should be sent a copy of a post-mortem report; and in how many cases such reports were written and sent *(a)* within the recommended time and *(b)* after the recommended time in the most recent period for which figures are available. [79829]

Ms Harman: There is no recommended time within which a family should be sent a copy of a coroner's post-mortem report, although good practice recommends that a copy should be sent on request to the immediate next of kin in advance of the inquest. There are accordingly no central records kept relating to the post-mortem reports sent by coroners.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what Private Members' Bills were drafted by her Department in each Session since 1997; and which of those received Royal Assent. [77509]

Vera Baird: Members will consider a range of possible subjects before introducing their Private Members' Bills.

Government draftsmen do draft some Bills in advance which are available as one of the options for Members to consider before they make their selection.

However, Members may make subsequent amendments or revisions to a Government drafted Bill, or use it as the basis for a Private Member's Bill in the future.

The information requested is therefore not collected.

Queens's Counsel (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many Queen's Counsel have been appointed to the Bar in Northern Ireland in each year since 1997; what the community background was of the appointees; and whether there were any declared family relationships between members of the appointing panel and any of the appointees. [80064]

Bridget Prentice: Queen's Counsel have been appointed in Northern Ireland since 1997 as follows:

	Number of Queen's Counsel appointed
1999	12
2001	13
2006	16

Prior to the 2006 Silk round the community background on appointees was not recorded.

Of the 16 Queen's Counsel appointed this year, seven are Protestant, six are Roman Catholic, and three did not indicate their community background.

During the recent selection process one member of the panel absented himself from the panel's deliberations in respect of one applicant who was his daughter-in-law.

Special Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what role is played by special advisers in answering parliamentary questions asked of her Department. [80645]

Bridget Prentice: Special advisers conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements of the code of conduct for special advisers.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

European Sports Review

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress she is making in implementing the recommendations of the Independent European Sports Review. [81004]

Mr. Caborn: The first step following publication of the Review is for all interested parties to consider its recommendations very carefully before deciding whether these should be implemented and, if so, how.

My officials and legal advisers are consulting with other Government Departments, the football authorities and other interested sporting bodies. I intend to respond formally to the review in September.

Olympics

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress she is making in her discussions with the Home Office on granting an exemption from firearms legislation for target pistol shooting training for the Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [81006]

Mr. Caborn: I have written to my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary to draw his attention to the impact that the current firearms legislation places upon our elite shooters' ability to train for major international shooting competitions in Great Britain. I have asked ask him to consider how this situation could be improved within the parameters of the existing firearms legislation. To date I have not received a response.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1640-1W, on the London Olympics, when discussions with the English Institute of Sport (EIS) and the Summer Olympic Sports are expected to be finalised; and when a decision is expected to be made on the amount of funding allocated to each sport for use on EIS Services within the World Class Pathway Summer Olympic programme 2006-09. [81198]

Mr. Caborn: In line with its investment model UK Sport has confirmed the indicative value of existing EIS services for each funded summer Olympic sport through to 2009. In addition, these sports now have a guideline figure to be spent on Sports Science and Sports Medicine within their total World Class Performance Pathway funding.

Those sports that already have a relationship with the EIS are in the process of determining how best to allocate the additional financial resource they have received for Sport Science/Sports Medicine services for the period 2006-09. These decisions are likely to be finalised after the summer competition season, in September or October this year.

The new sports with no existing relationship are at the very early stages of planning their performance activity and are unlikely to finalise their Institute service requirements until later in the year.

UK Sport, the EIS and the Summer Olympic Sports will continue to discuss the role of the Institute network in supporting athletes throughout the build up to the Beijing Olympic games and beyond.

Rowing Safety

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had about rowing safety; and if she will make a statement. [81005]

Mr. Caborn: Since the adjournment debate on rowing safety in March, I have met with my hon. Friend the Member for Ashton-under-Lyne (David Heyes) and his constituents Stephen and Jane Blockley to hear their concerns on the issue. I have also written to the Amateur Rowing Association to ask them to clarify the matter of boat buoyancy and to the international rowing governing body FISA to better understand its position on that issue.

Safety in any water sport is paramount and given that there is divided opinion on the issue I consider that it would be helpful to have an objective view of the current guidance and evidence available. I have therefore asked Sport England to identify an appropriate organisation to undertake an independent review of rowing safety.

Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will visit Shrewsbury *(a)* to see the plans for a new theatre and *(b)* to discuss Shropshire's role in the 2012 Olympic games. [80337]

Mr. Caborn: I am aware of plans to build a new theatre in Shrewsbury and understand that Arts Council England's West Midlands office is in contact with the council over the project.

I do not have plans to visit Shrewsbury at the current time. However, representatives from the DCMS and the London Organising Committee for the Olympic games (LOCOG) will be visiting Much Wenlock in Shropshire as part of the forthcoming 2012 Regional Roadshow on 10 July.

The Roadshow aims to ensure that local communities and businesses are fully engaged with the cultural, sporting, economic and social aspects of the games. It forms a valuable part of the work currently being taken forward by the Nations and Regions Group, chaired by Charles Allen and supported by LOCOG, to maximise benefits in every nation and region of the UK.

Special Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what role is played by special advisers in answering parliamentary questions asked of her Department. [80646]

Mr. Lammy: Special advisers conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements of the code of conduct for special advisers.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

32 (The Royal) Squadron

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in respect of what official duties the Minister for Europe used 32 (The Royal) Squadron for flights on *(a)* 29 September 2003 and *(b)* 30 September 2002; what the take-off and landing times were of each flight; whether the carbon emissions were offset in respect of each flight; which other transport options were considered on each occasion; why other transport options were not used; and if he will make a statement. [66159]

Mr. Hoon: The then Ministers for Europe used 32 (The Royal) Squadron to fly to Brussels to attend the General Affairs and External Relations Council, on behalf of the then Foreign Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Jack Straw) on both 29 September 2003—my right hon. Friend the Member for Rotherham (Mr. MacShane)—and 30 September 2002—my right hon. Friend the Member for Neath (Mr. Hain). The flight details on each occasion were as follows:

29 September 2003				*30 September 2002*			
Departed	*Time*	*Arrived*	*Time*	*Departed*	*Time*	*Arrived*	*Time*
RAF Northolt	6.45 am	Brussels	7.35 am	Northolt	6.00 am	Brussels	6.55 am
Brussels	3.15 pm	Bournemouth	4.45 pm	Brussels	3.30 pm	Blackpool	4.30 pm
Bournemouth	5.5 pm	RAF Northolt	5.30 pm	Blackpool	4.45 pm	RAF Northolt	5.25 pm

Carbon dioxide emissions arising from 32 Squadron flights are included in the Government's carbon offsetting commitment. Carbon emissions arising from the use of these flights have been recorded and offset in the same way as the use of scheduled flights since April 2005.

In accordance with the guidance in "Travel by Ministers", other transport options were considered on each occasion. On both occasions, the option of the Minister and officials travelling by 32 (The Royal) Squadron to Brussels was chosen to enable Ministers to meet their commitments in an efficient way. The rules on the use of special flights are set out in "Travel by Ministers". The annual lists of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500 set out when special flights are used, and the purpose of each trip. Copies are available in the Library of the House.

Afghanistan

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* middle schools and *(c)* high schools there were in the Helmand region in each year since 2003; and how many of these schools have been closed due to (i) security risks and (ii) activities of insurgent groups. [80432]

Dr. Howells: In light of the security situation in Helmand detailed education statistics are difficult to obtain.

According to a 2005 survey by the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF, there were 253 schools in Helmand. Of 117,000 students, approximately 8,900 were girls. According to Helmand provincial Government's Department of Education there are now 224 Government of Afghanistan approved schools in the province. Of those, only 64 are currently operating in dedicated buildings. 66 schools are currently closed due to destroyed facilities or threats against teachers. To date we have been unable to obtain a more detailed breakdown of how many of these schools were closed because of Taliban action.

The UK and other international partners are working closely with the Afghan Government to improve the quality and accessibility of education for all children across Afghanistan, in particular girls who were deprived of the opportunity under the Taliban.

Algeria

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received regarding the compatibility of the proposed memorandum of understanding with Algeria regarding the deportation of persons with international human rights law; and what steps she is taking to ensure that any eventual agreement will fully meet the requirements of international law. [80995]

Mr. McCartney: The Government have received a range of representations on the deportation of persons to Algeria, including from international human rights institutions and non-governmental organisations such as the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture, and Amnesty International.

The Government continue to believe that memoranda of understanding or comparable arrangements provide a framework to deport foreign nationals whom we believe threaten our security, in a manner consistent with our international human rights obligations. Any decision to deport is subject to appeal through the UK court system.

In the case of Algeria, such deportation takes full account of the provisions of the Algerian Charter for Peace and Reconciliation, its accompanying provisions for clemency and the particular circumstances of each case.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what stage negotiations for a memorandum of understanding with Algeria regarding the deportation of persons has reached; and if she will make a statement. [80996]

Mr. McCartney: The deportation of persons who pose a threat to the UK's national security is a subject of discussion between the British and Algerian Governments.

The Government continue to believe that memoranda of understanding or comparable arrangements provide a framework to deport foreign nationals whom we believe threaten our security, in a manner consistent with our international human rights obligations. Any decision to deport is subject to appeal through the UK court system.

In the case of Algeria, such deportation takes full account of the provisions of the Algerian Charter for Peace and Reconciliation, its accompanying provisions for clemency and the particular circumstances of each case.

Belarus

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will adopt a total trade ban on Belarus in response to malpractice in the presidential elections. [80607]

Mr. Hoon: Our trade relations with Belarus are conducted through the EU. All EU restrictions imposed in response to the fraudulent presidential elections are designed to target the regime, not the people of Belarus. As such, a unilateral trade ban in response to the fraudulent elections is not being considered at the moment.

Separately, Belarus faces possible withdrawal of the general system of preferences (GSP)—the system of preferential trading arrangements through which the EU extends preferential access to its markets to developing countries. Eligibility for GSP benefits depends on International Labour Organisation monitoring of labour standards and an investigation last year uncovered serious and systematic violations.

Darfur

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the decision of the UN to suspend operations in part of Darfur; and what assessment she has made of the extent to which that decision was a consequence of the Government of Sudan's reluctance to agree to the handover of security from the African Union to the UN. [81337]

Mr. McCartney: On 25 June, the Government of Sudan suspended all UN activity in Darfur apart from humanitarian assistance provided by the World Food Programme and the UN Children's Fund, UNICEF. They lifted the suspension the following day. There has been some impact on the UN's humanitarian work in West Darfur, but minimal disruption elsewhere.

This was a provocative act by the Sudanese Government in response to the UN helping a prominent Darfur rebel. The Government of Sudan should allow all UN humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organisations unimpeded access in Darfur.

The Sudanese Government currently oppose an international force for Darfur. However the UN Secretary-General has said he hopes to see a UN force in Darfur, the Security Council has taken a strong line in favour and the African Union wants to see the UN take over in Darfur, as do many prominent African countries. We will continue to press the Government of Sudan to accept it.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action the UK plans to take through the UN Security Council to put pressure on the Government of Sudan to agree to the introduction of UN troops as part of the Darfur Peace Agreement. [81338]

Mr. McCartney: The UK led the recent UN Security Council mission to Sudan. That visit was important in securing Sudanese Government agreement for a joint UN/African Union Technical Assessment Mission (TAM) to deploy to Darfur. The TAM has now made its visit. It will make detailed technical recommendations shortly to the UN Secretary-General on establishing a UN force for Darfur, who will then report to the Security Council. Once he has done so, the Security Council will debate the mandate of a future UN force. We are continuing to press the Government of Sudan to accept such a force.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Government of Sudan on how to disarm the Janjaweed in Darfur. [81339]

Mr. McCartney: We continue to press the Government of Sudan to neutralise and disarm the Janjaweed and expel foreign fighters from Darfur as soon as possible. On Friday 23 June, the Government of Sudan publicly began disarming a small group of Janjaweed in South Darfur. We welcome this step, and call on the Government to continue this work and to present a plan for neutralising and disarming the Janjaweed/armed militias, which they are required to do under the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Ethiopia

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations her Department has made to the Ethiopian government regarding *(a)* the detention of prisoners of conscience, *(b)* freedom of expression and opinion and *(c)* human rights. [80620]

Mr. McCartney: We remain concerned about the internal situation in Ethiopia. We have made representations to the Government of Ethiopia on numerous occasions both at ministerial and official level. Most recently our ambassador to Ethiopia had discussions with Prime Minister Meles on 24 April.

We have also raised issues of respect for human rights, freedom of expression and the cases of those detained in connection with the political disturbances in 2005. We welcome the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into the events of last June and November and look forward to its report.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the reserves of oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters. [79611]

Mr. Hoon: Only further exploratory drilling will allow for a dependable estimate on the size of the reserves of oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters. Initial exploratory drilling was unable to ascertain the level of oil and gas reserves and is unlikely to restart before 2007.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the Government have made of the potential contribution of the search for oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters to the provision of energy in the UK; and whether the Government are taking action to support such exploration. [79702]

Mr. Hoon: Only further exploratory drilling will allow for a dependable estimate on the size of the reserves of oil and gas in Falkland Islands waters. It is not therefore possible currently to assess the potential contribution to the provision of energy in the UK. Initial exploratory drilling was unable to ascertain the level of oil and gas reserves and is unlikely to restart before 2007.

The Government are committed to the offshore prospecting policy pursued by the Falkland Islands Government.

Human Rights

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with China on the human rights records of the countries in Africa with which it trades. [79433]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had specific discussions with China on human rights in Africa. We continue to develop our dialogue with China on Africa, and to encourage China to engage with Africa in a way that promotes human rights, conflict prevention, sustainable development and democratic and accountable governance. I raised these issues with the Chinese ambassador on 21 June and urged China to develop a wider strategic concept of its engagement in Africa commensurate with its growing economic presence. I also raised China's engagement in Africa with the Chairman of the UK Friendship Group of the China National People's Congress during my meeting with him on 13 June.

Iraq

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account will be taken of the views of the Iraqi Government when considering troop withdrawal from Iraq; and what assessment she has made of the recent comments by Iraq's *(a)* Prime Minister and *(b)* National Security Adviser on this issue. [80430]

Dr. Howells: We are committed to Iraq for as long as the Iraqi Government judge that the coalition is required to provide security and to assist the Iraqi security forces. All decisions on the presence of multinational forces in Iraq reflect regular and intense consultation with the Iraqi authorities. Recommendations on the transfer of security responsibility in each of Iraq's provinces and cities from coalition to Iraqi security forces are made jointly, with the ultimate decision being made by the Iraqi Prime Minister.

This process was reflected in Prime Minister Maliki's 19 June statement announcing the forthcoming transfer of security responsibility in Muthanna province and Mowaffak al-Rabaie's article of 20 June. We remain committed to providing what support we can to help the Iraqi authorities achieve our shared goal of a stable and democratic future for Iraq.

Libya

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she had with the Libyan Government on bringing those responsible for the death of PC Yvonne Fletcher to justice. [80331]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had personal discussions with the Libyan Government about WPC Fletcher's case. I raised this with the Libyan authorities during my visit to Libya on 25 to 27 June. We continue to press for progress in our contacts with Libya.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she had with her Libyan counterpart on the situation in Darfur. [80332]

Mr. McCartney: My hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Middle East, Kim Howells, raised the situation on Darfur with Abdulrahman Shalgam the Libyan Secretary of Foreign Affairs in Tripoli on 26 June. The UK's Special Envoy for Darfur also visited Libya earlier in June to hold talks about Sudan.

Student Visas

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many student visas have been issued to students from *(a)* Russia and *(b)* the Ukraine in each of the last eight years. [79783]

Dr. Howells: The number of student visas issued in Russia and the Ukraine in each of the last eight years are as follows:

	Russia	*Ukraine*
2004-05	3,734	2,098
2003-04	8,900	1,895
2002-03	2,757	2,715
2001-02	7,131	3,325
2000	2,450	4,218
1999	3,525	3,319
1998	6,036	3,867
1997	9,267	3,590

Prior to 2001-02, entry clearance statistics were published by calendar year, rather than financial year.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Every Child Matters

13. **Kali Mountford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made in implementing the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme. [80892]

Beverley Hughes: We have made good progress. 863 children's centres are now operational. We are on track to deliver 2,500 centres by 2008. Over 1,500 schools are offering access to a core menu of extended services, and we are on track to have 2,500 extended schools in place by this September. From April this year £115 million has been available in support of our 'Youth Matters' reforms to radically improve opportunities and support for young people.

17. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made in implementing the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme. [80896]

Beverley Hughes: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Colne Valley (Kali Mountford) earlier today.

Language Learning

14. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support his Department is making available to primary schools to ensure primary school pupils have the opportunity to learn a second language as early as possible. [80893]

Jim Knight: Our commitment is that by the end of this decade every key stage 2 pupil will have the opportunity to learn a foreign language.

Between 2005 and 2008 we are investing £115 million to support our National Languages Strategy, £60 million of this will specifically support primary schools in introducing language learning programmes. This includes initial teacher training for new primary teachers with a language specialism, and in service training for teaching and non-teaching staff.

Teenage Pregnancy

15. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress is being made on meeting the Government's target to reduce teenage pregnancy. [80894]

Beverley Hughes: Teenage pregnancy rates are declining steadily. Between 1998 and 2004, the under-18 conception rate fell by 11.1 per cent. and the under-16 conception rate fell by 15.2 per cent. Both rates are now at their lowest level since the mid-1980s. We know from the best performing areas what works, and will be sharing these lessons with all local authorities to accelerate progress towards our target to halve the under-18 conception rate by 2010.

Building Schools

16. **Mr. Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will visit Northumberland to discuss school building programmes and school budgets in the county. [80895]

Jim Knight: I am eager for the chance to visit Northumberland to discuss school building programmes and school budgets in the county. I am looking in my diary to find a suitable opportunity.

Youth Opportunity Card

18. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made in establishing pilot projects for the Youth Opportunity Card. [80897]

Beverley Hughes: Progress is being made in establishing the Youth Opportunity Card pilots. We have chosen the ten local authorities where the pilots will run and are working closely with them and with other key partners to develop a workable delivery model. As with all initiatives there is a lot of detailed work to be done and we need to take the time to ensure we get it right.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure *(a)* that funds raised from the UK air passenger duty are separately identified when they are redeployed and *(b)* that a greater percentage of those funds is directed to the international finance facility. [81101]

Ed Balls: The UK is committed to developing innovative financing mechanisms to support accelerated progress towards the millennium development goals, and has announced that it will hypothecate part of the existing air passenger duty to provide a long-term stream of finance to the International Finance Facility (IFF) and its pilot the IFF for Immunization (IFFIm).

The UK air passenger duty revenue is published on an annual basis at: http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=airpass. The UK contribution to IFFIm will average £71 million a year over 20 years. The UK contribution to the IFF will be determined when it is launched. With the IFF, the UK could reach the equivalent of the 0.7 per cent. ODA-GNI target, which could be achieved as early as 2008-09.

Batteries (VAT)

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the circumstances in which VAT is chargeable on *(a)* wheelchair and mobility vehicle batteries and *(b)* the fitting of wheelchair and mobility vehicle batteries; and whether there have been any recent changes to VAT rules in this area. [80821]

Dawn Primarolo: Batteries which have been designed solely for use with a wheelchair or mobility vehicle are VAT zero-rated when purchased by: a disabled person for his or her domestic or personal use; or a charity for making available to a disabled person for his or her domestic or personal use; or certain eligible bodies which pay for them with charitable funds; or a charity which will donate them to one of those eligible bodies.

In some circumstances, the supply to a disabled person, charity or eligible body of any batteries as part of the repair and maintenance of a wheelchair or mobility vehicle is also zero-rated.

There have been no recent changes to the VAT rules in this area.

Child Poverty

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures his Department has taken to reduce child poverty in Coventry south since 1997. [80586]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's strategy to reduce child poverty was set out in the 'Child Poverty Review', published in July 2004. It consists of:

financial support for families, with more support for those who need it most, when they need it most;

work for those who can, helping parents participate in the labour market;

tackling material deprivation;

delivering high quality public services that improve children's life chances.

Across the UK, these measures have helped 700,000 children out of poverty, since 1998-99. Tax credits are benefiting more than 420,000 families in the West Midlands region, and in Coventry South claimant unemployment has fallen by over 30 per cent. since 1997.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Paymaster General will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 23 May on correspondence forwarded to her from Jobcentre Plus. [81448]

Dawn Primarolo: I have done so.

Customs (Cornwall)

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the number of illegal items entering the UK via the Cornish coast in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [81097]

Dawn Primarolo: No estimate is available specifically in relation to the Cornish coast.

Information on operational results is published in the Annual Reports of HM Revenue and Customs. The most recent Annual Report was published on 19 December 2005. The figures for the year ending 31 March 2006 will be published in the next Annual Report.

Death Certificates

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1387W, on death certificates, who possesses the authority to alter a certified copy of a registration of death. [81213]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 29 June 2006:

As Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent question, pursuant to the Answer of 2nd May 2006, Official Report, column 1387W, on death certificates, who possesses the authority legitimately to alter a certified copy of a registration of death. (81213)

The law provides for the registration officer who has custody of the death register containing the relevant record to make a correction. The register is kept by the registrar of births and deaths until all the entries in the register have been completed (there are usually 300 entries in a register). Once the register is filled it is deposited with the Superintendent Registrar for the district, who then assumes responsibility for correcting any of the records it contains. A certified copy (or certificate) is a copy of the entry in the register and must be a true copy of that entry. If an entry in a death register is corrected a certified copy of the corrected entry may be issued by the person with custody of the register.

Death Statistics

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the most recent rate of *(a)* cancers and *(b)* stroke was in (i) Stoke-on-Trent, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England. [80605]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 29 June 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent rate of (a) cancers and (b) stroke was in (i) Stoke-on-Trent, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England. [80605]

A: Cancers

The latest available rates for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2003. Registration rates per 100,000 population, by site and sex, for (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England for the year 2003 are available in Table 5 of the Annual Reference Volume, Cancer statistics: Registrations, Series MB1. These are available on the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=14&ColRank=2&Rank=272

The most recent cancer incidence rates for all malignant cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer are given in Table 1 below for (i) Stoke on Trent Unitary Authority (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England.

B. Stroke

There is no complete register of stroke cases. Information is available centrally on emergency admission to hospital from the NHS Hospital Episode System (HES), and on death registrations.

Figures on emergency admissions to hospital for strokes can be found on the Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base website: http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/. (Table reference numbers: 10C_5281SR7CM_04-V2 (males) 10C_5281SR7CF_04-V2 (females)). Figures are available for England, Government Office Regions, Strategic Health Authorities, Unitary Authorities and County Districts. The latest year for which data are available is for the financial year 2003/04.

The latest year for which death rates for stroke are available is 2004 and these are given in Table 2 below.

Table 1. Incidence rates[1] per 100,000 population for all malignant cancers[2], by sex, registered in Stoke on Trent local authority, West Midlands Government office region and England, 2003

	Incidence rate per 100,000		
All cancers excluding nmsc	*Stoke on Trent*	*West Midlands*	*England*
Male	518.0	478.0	462.0
Female	490.0	450.0	451.0

[1] Crude rates per 100,000 population.

[2] 'All malignant cancers' are defined by codes C00-C97 excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (nmsc) code C44 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10).

Source:

Office for National Statistics

Table 2. Death rates[1] from stroke[2] for Stoke-on-Trent local authority, West Midlands Government office region and England,[3] by sex, 2004[4]

	Death rate per 100,000—Stroke		
All cancers excluding nmsc	*Stoke on Trent*	*West Midlands*	*England*
Male	71.0	66.0	59.0
Female	61.0	58.0	55.0

[1] Rates per 100,000 population standardised to the European Standard Population.

[2] The cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

The codes used are listed as follows:

Cerebrovascular diseases—ICD-10160-169;

Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause.

[3] Usual residents of these areas.

[4] Deaths registered in each calendar year

Departmental Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list in date order *(a)* Green and *(b)* White papers produced by his Department since October 2005. [81249]

John Healey: A list in date order of Command Papers published by the Treasury since November 2001 can by found on the website of the Office of Public Sector Information (www.opsi.gov.uk). Information relating specifically to White Papers and to Green Papers—terms which are not formally defined—is not available.

Deposited Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to make copies of deposited papers available in the *(a)* Vote Office and *(b)* Printed Paper Office at the same time as copies are deposited in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [81242]

John Healey: The Treasury acts in accordance with the guidance issued by the House of Commons Library and makes available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office multiple copies of deposited papers that are likely to be required by a large number of Members.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list deposited papers placed in the Library by his Department since 2000; and when each was published. [81253]

John Healey: The Treasury does not maintain a database of the numerous documents deposited in the Library each session. However, deposited papers are available to Members from the Library of the House.

Household Incomes

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the *(a)* median and *(b)* mean household income was in the latest year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement; [80640]

(2) what the lower limit of the top decile for household earnings was in the latest year for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [80641]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 29 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions asking what the (a) median and (b) mean household income was in the latest year available and what is the lower limit of the top decile for household earnings for the latest year for which information is available. I am replying in her absence. (80640, 80641)

This response is based on the article titled 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income' which takes account of all household income and can be found at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits, as well as in the May 2006 edition of Economic Trends.

Disposable income is the income available for spending. It includes income from all sources after the deduction of income tax, National Insurance Contributions and council tax/Northern Ireland rates.

Using data based on the above analysis the median household disposable income for 2004/05 was £20,398.

Looking at table 14, appendix 1 (page 20), the mean household disposable income for 2004/05 was £25,360 per year.

The article does also show the means for various other definitions of income, such as gross income. However, the analysis does not show the medians for these other definitions of income. These medians can be obtained on request.

The analysis is based on an "equivalised" household disposable income distribution. "Equivalised" household disposable income distribution is a process that adjusts household income to take into account the different size and composition of households.

Using table 14 in appendix 1 (page 20) from the above analysis, the lower limit of the top decile for household disposable income was £40,385 per year (2004/05). An equivalent figure for household earnings has not been provided as this is only one part of income and would show a large variation of earnings within the top decile (and other deciles).

This detailed analysis is based on the Expenditure and Food Survey, which has a sample covering approximately 7,000 households in the UK.

Income Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many income tax payers had incomes of less than £7,185 per year in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [80638]

(2) how many upper rate income tax payers had a gross income of less than £50,000 in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [80639]

Dawn Primarolo: The estimated additional cost of introducing the proposed changes for 2006-07 is in the table.

Cost of the proposed income tax changes, 2006-07

	Current regime	*Proposed option*
Personal allowance (£)	5,035	7,185
Starting rate (percentage)	10	20
Basic rate (percentage)[1]	22	20
Basic rate limit (£)	33,300	42,815
Additional cost (£ billion)	—	-17.1

[1] The marginal rate on earnings.

The figure excludes any estimate of behavioural response to the tax changes which could be significant given the scale of the changes.

There are an estimated 2.3 million taxpayers with total income below £7,185 and 1.4 million higher rate taxpayers with total income below £50,000.

The estimates are based on the 2003-04 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward to 2006-07 in line with Budget 2006 assumptions.

Israel

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on his recent discussions with Prime Minister Olmert regarding natural gas supplies to Israel. [81345]

John Healey: Decisions on natural gas in the area are for commercial negotiation.

Not-for-profit Organisations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proposals he has put forward to reduce VAT liability of not-for-profit institutions working in the field of social care, for *(a)* surgical products, *(b)* new buildings, *(c)* refurbishments to buildings and *(d)* other expenditure. [81079]

Dawn Primarolo: Charities, including those that provide social care, benefit from VAT relief on the goods and services that they purchase worth some £200 million per year. These reliefs include a zero rate for medical, sterilising and laboratory equipment purchased by charities for use in the course of medical research, diagnosis or treatment.

VAT is not chargeable on the construction of new buildings used for a relevant charitable purpose, or for the provision of residential care to elderly or disabled people. Similarly, the construction of a hospice for a charity is zero-rated.

No VAT is chargeable on certain adaptations designed to facilitate entry to, or movement within, certain charitable buildings by a disabled person. This includes the installation of lifts, the installation or adaptation of bathrooms and lavatories and the widening of doorways and passageways. Approved alterations to protected buildings that are used for a relevant charitable or communal residential purpose are also zero-rated.

A reduced VAT rate of 5 per cent. is also available for the conversion of a non-residential building into a communal residential building, such as a care home, and for the installation of certain energy-saving materials in certain charitable and residential buildings.

Public Service Employment

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by how much and what percentage the *(a)* number of people employed in and *(b)* productivity of Government Departments has changed since 1997. [80775]

Mr. Timms: Data on public employment sector employment levels since 1997 can be found in the National Statistics quarterly publication "Public Sector Employment First Release", published on the ONS website. The latest release can be found at the following web address: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0406.pdf. Data on departmental work forces are currently published on the Cabinet Office website. The latest release can be found at the following web address:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/employment/index.asp.

Data are not held on a measure of the productivity of Government Departments. ONS's UK Centre for the Measurement of Government Activity publishes analyses in a regular series of Public Service Productivity articles which present and discuss estimates of the productivity performance of the key public services. These can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/PublicSector/output/default.asp.

At the same time, in the 2004 Spending Review Departments were set challenging targets for achieving annual efficiency gains totalling over £20 billion by March 2008. In the 2006 Budget the Chancellor announced that the Government had achieved provisional annual efficiency gains of £6.4 billion by December 2005, before the first year of the efficiency programme had been completed.

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many working days were lost to his Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated total cost to the Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [78080]

John Healey: Staff absenteeism recorded as sickness absence, in each year since 1997 is given in the table as the average annual number of days absent per employee. The departments/agencies cannot disaggregate other elements of absenteeism.

Figures regarding sickness absence are contained in the annual report, "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service", published by the Cabinet Office. Reports for each year since 1999 are available in the Library and on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/occupational_health/publications/index.asp

Information on the cost of sickness absence could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Average annual number of sick absence days per employee

Department/Agency	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Inland Revenue	11.9	11.0	11.5	10.9	9.5	10.5	10.8	12.2
HM Customs and Excise	8.9	9.4	9.6	9.0	8.7	9	9.2	7.4
Office of Government Commerce (OGC)	—	—	—	10.0	8.4	6.3	3.3	3.2
OGC Buying Solutions	—	—	—	—	7.7	5.9	6.4	6.4
National Savings and Investment	—	—	4.7	8.8	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.5
Valuation Office Agency	—	—	10.1	9.2	7.0	8.1	7.9	8.6
Royal Mint	5.8	6.2	6.5	5.3	5.8	8.0	6.0	5.4
Government Actuary's Department	—	9.3	6.7	6.6	6.9	3.1	5.3	4.5
Debt Management Office	—	—	—	—	—	3.0	3.7	3.2
Office for National Statistics	9.1	9.6	8.8	8.0	7.9	6.6	6.7	6.8
HM Treasury	4.9	3.9	5.5	3.9	4.7	4.4	5.2	4.1

Notes:
1. OGC was created in 2000 and OGC Buying Solutions, an Executive Agency of OGC, was created in 2001.
2. Royal Mint figures refer to non-industrials only.
3. HM Treasury included the DMO in its sickness absence reporting before 2002.

The information on average working days sickness absence is derived from the annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published on behalf of the Cabinet Office.

Stamp Duty

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the revenue implications of restructuring stamp duty on residential property sales to charge marginal rates of *(a)* 0 per cent. on property sales of £125,000 or less, *(b)* 1 per cent. on sales between £125,000 and £249,999, *(c)* 5 per cent. on sales between £250,000 and £499,999 and *(d)* 5 per cent. on sales of £500,000 and above; and if he will make a statement; [80297]

(2) if he will estimate the revenue implications of restructuring stamp duty on residential property sales to charge marginal rates of *(a)* 0 per cent. on property sales of £125,000 or less, *(b)* 1 per cent. on sales between £125,000 and £249,999, *(c)* 5 per cent. on sales between £250,000 and £499,999 and *(d)* 6 per cent. on sales of £500,000 and above; [80298]

(3) if he will estimate the revenue implications of restructuring stamp duty on residential property sales to charge marginal rates of *(a)* 0 per cent. on property sales of £150,000 or less, *(b)* 2 per cent. on sales between £150,000 and £249,999, *(c)* 5 per cent. on sales between £250,000 and £499,999 and *(d)* (i) 5 and (ii) 6 per cent. on sales of £500,000 and above; [80317]

(4) if he will estimate the revenue implications of restructuring stamp duty on residential property sales to charge marginal rates of *(a)* 0 per cent. on property sales of £125,000 or less, *(b)* 2 per cent. on sales between £125,000 and £249,999, *(c)* 5 per cent. on sales between £250,000 and £499,999 and *(d)* 5 per cent. on sales of £500,000 and above; [80318]

(5) if he will estimate the revenue implications of restructuring stamp duty on residential property sales to charge marginal rates of *(a)* 0 per cent. on property sales of £150,000 or less, *(b)* 1 per cent. on sales between £150,000 and £249,999, *(c)* 5 per cent. on sales between £250,000 and £499,999 and *(d)* (i) 5 and (ii) 6 per cent. on sales of £500,000 and above. [80323]

Ed Balls: The estimated revenue cost, in 2007-08, of restructuring stamp duty on residential property sales according to the seven marginal rate schemes (where each rate only applies to consideration above the threshold for each range) described in the question is given in the following tables:

Percentage rate	*Tax regime 1 thresholds*
0	£0-124,999
1	£125,000-249,999
5	£250,000-499,999
5	£500,001 and above
Revenue cost (£ billion)	2.4

Percentage rate	*Tax regime 2 thresholds*
0	£0-124,999
1	£125,000-249,999
5	£250,000-499,999
6	£500,001 and above
Revenue cost (£ billion)	2.2

Percentage rate	*Tax regime 3 thresholds*
0	£0-149,999
2	£150,000-249,999
5	£250,000-499,999
5	£500,001 and above
Revenue cost (£ billion)	2.1

Percentage rate	Tax regime 4 thresholds
0	£0-149,999
2	£150,000-249,999
5	£250,000-499,999
6	£500,001 and above
Revenue cost (£ billion)	1.8

Percentage rate	Tax regime 5 thresholds
0	£0-124,999
2	£125,000-249,999
5	£250,000-499,999
5	£500,001 and above
Revenue cost (£ billion)	1.6

Percentage rate	Tax regime 6 thresholds
0	£0-149,999
1	£150,000-249,999
5	£250,000-499,999
5	£500,001 and above
Revenue cost (£ billion)	2.7

Percentage rate	Tax regime7thresholds
0	£0-149,999
1	£150,000-249,999
5	£250,000-499,999
6	£500,001 and above
Revenue cost (£ billion)	2.4

These figures do not include any allowance for behavioural changes.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many bonus payments were made to staff at the tax credits office in each year from 2003-04; what the value was in each year; and if he will make a statement; [75782]

(2) what bonuses have been paid to managers in the tax credits department since 1 April 2005; and if he will make a statement. [76945]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1792-93W. Information is not available relating to managers.

Widows (Financial Support)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government plan to take to improve the financial position of widows in their late 50s and 60s who rely on half of their deceased husbands' pension as their main income. [78513]

James Purnell: I have been asked to reply.

Our proposals, published in the White Paper, Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system (Cm6841), are a bold blueprint for reform, which include delivering fair outcomes for women and continuing to target resources on those most in need.

We intend to continue to uprate the pension credit standard guarantee in line with earnings over the long-term, securing pensioners, including widows, against poverty.

The White Paper also sets out our commitment to strengthen retirement incomes for all pensioners by linking the uprating of basic state pension to average earnings. A widow, who claims a state pension based on her husband's national insurance record, will benefit from this proposed uprating strategy.

In addition, our intention is that the proposed new crediting arrangements for carers from 2010, including the replacement of home responsibilities protection with a weekly credit and the introduction of a new carer's credit, would also apply to bereavement benefits.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fire Service

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many malicious false fire alarm calls were attended by the fire and rescue service in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* Essex, *(c)* Hertfordshire and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1995. [80174]

Angela E. Smith: The available information covers items *(b)*, *(c)* and *(d)* of the question.

Information for Southend is not available centrally.

Malicious false fire alarm calls attended by fire and rescue services 1995-2004

	Essex	Hertfordshire	England and Wales
1995	1,923	1,011	102;730
1996	1,684	660	99,308
1997	1,922	714	88,813
1998	1,607	531	74,200
1999	1,655	508	70,446
2000	1,717	578	63,842
2001	2,009	686	63,371
2002	2,112	646	55,388
2003	1,600	438	48,685
2004	1,485	234	41,017

Note:
Excludes any malicious false fire alarm calls in November 2002 and January-February 2003 strike periods
Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG

Housing

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new houses have been built in each constituency since 1 May 1997. [81039]

Yvette Cooper: Information on new houses built is available by local authority area and not constituency. Figures are as reported by local authority and the national house building council. Published information is available for 2002-03 to 2004-05 on the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/66/Table253Excel860Kb_id 1156066.xls

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to introduce a decent homes programme in the private rented sector; and if she will make a statement. [80519]

Yvette Cooper: As part of the public service agreement with Treasury (PSA7) my Department already has a target to increase the percentage of vulnerable households in the private sector who live in decent homes. The target is to increase this percentage to 70 per cent. by 2010 and we are ahead of trajectory to achieve this. This target includes households in the private rented sector.

In order to meet this target local authorities have a wide range of powers to improve housing conditions in the private rented sector, in particular the Housing Health and Safety Rating system and the licensing system for high risk houses in multiple occupation introduced by the Housing Act 2004.

IT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was in each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by her Department with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71787]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government was formed in May 2006, (previously the ODPM was formed in May 2002). The five largest information technology contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years are as follows.

1. Contract for: Data Network Management and Support Services

	£ million
(a) Original estimate	28
(b) Recent estimate	28
(c) Outturn cost	[1]n/a

[1] Contract completes in 2011.

2. Contract for: GASPS 3 (Logasnet)—Grants Authorisation System

	£ million
(a) Original estimate	[1]3.018
(b) Recent estimate	[1]3.018
(c) Outturn cost	[2]2.516

[1] To deliver system
[2] System delivered. Full outturn costs including annual support and hosting charges n/a as contract completes in 2007 or 2009 depending on whether a two year extension option is exercised.

3. Contract for: Supporting People Local Interim System

	£ million
(a) Original estimate	3.6
(b) Recent estimate	[1]4.6
(c) Outturn cost	4.5

[1] Contract complete

4. Contract for: Maps on Tap Project (phase 1, to end 2005-06)

	£ million
(a) Original estimate	2.42
(b) Recent estimate	2.4
(c) Outturn cost	[1]—

[1] Framework contract ends in 2008. Phased development, with phase 1 complete and phase 2 planned. Specification and hence cost of phase 2 to be agreed. Figures provided for original and recent estimates are for infrastructure purchase and phase 1 development only.

5. Contract for: Transactional ERDF and State Aid system (TESA)

	£ million
(a) Original estimate	1.5
(b) Recent estimate	1.43
(c) Outturn cost	[1]n/a

[1] Contract ends in June 2007

Neighbourhood Management/Renewal Schemes

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the value for money of neighbourhood management schemes. [80999]

Yvette Cooper: The neighbourhood management pathfinder programme is subject to a comprehensive national evaluation. The most recent report (Neighbourhood Renewal Unit Research Report 23) stated that neighbourhood management is capable of delivering better outcomes for deprived areas, and is a valuable tool that deserves to be developed and adopted more widely. Planned future research will address more directly the costs and benefits of the programme, though it should be noted that quantifying the impact of neighbourhood management is made harder because it works by influencing existing service providers rather than delivering and funding new services and projects directly.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding has been provided by the Government for Neighbourhood Renewal projects in the constituency of Bristol, East since the scheme's inception. [80587]

Mr. Woolas: Over £34,149,397 of Neighbourhood Renewal funding has been spent in the Bristol, East constituency between 1 April 2000 and 31 March 2006.

This is made up of:

Funding stream	*Area*	*Amount (£)*
New Deal for Communities	Barton Hill	30,975,000
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	Easton and Lawrence Hill	2,866,589
Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	Barton Hill	148,444
Community Chest/Community Learning Chest	Easton and Lawrence Hill	123,214
Community Chest/Community Learning Chest	Barton Hill	36,150
Total NR Funding	Bristol, East	34,149,397

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund allocation above only includes the funding spent on direct neighbourhood projects. In addition to this the area has benefited substantially from city-wide projects, including the £1.35 million city-wide education allocation in 2004-06

and from the £1,036,955 spent on projects working with equalities groups over 2001-06. Funding from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund has also provided a neighbourhood-based team for the area since 2001.

Future Neighbourhood Renewal Funding

£17,105,237 has been allocated for the area from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008. This is made up of £15,277,000 New Deal for Communities Funding and £1,828,237 Neighbourhood Renewal Fund.

Planning

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Government have allocated to the *(a)* Ashford and *(b)* Milton Keynes growth areas for infrastructure development for each of the next 10 years. [78237]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* The Ashford growth area has been allocated a total of £5.72 million in 2006-07 and £15.29 million in 2007-08 from the Growth Areas Fund. The Milton Keynes/South Midlands growth area has been allocated a total of £66.07 million in 2006-07 and £62.83 million in 2007-08 from the Growth Areas Fund. In addition, the Milton Keynes/South Midlands growth area has also been allocated a total of £96.8 million across these two years from the Community Infrastructure Fund. The split between 2006-07 and 2007-08 has yet to be decided. This funding is in addition to infrastructure funding from other Government Departments, for example for schools, healthcare facilities and transport.

No allocations have been made beyond 2007-08, as budgets cannot be set beyond the Government's Spending Review horizon.

Second Homes

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of second homes in each region. [80530]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 28 June 2006]:* The number of second homes and the number of second homes as a proportion of the housing stock in each region in England are shown in the following table. The data are from a snapshot taken in October 2005, as recorded on CTB1 forms submitted by each local authority for council tax purposes.

	Number of second homes	*Second homes as a percentage of total number of dwellings*
North East	7,188	0.6
North West	18,295	0.6
Yorkshire and the Humber	16,267	0.7
East Midlands	9,968	0.5
West Midlands	14,774	0.6
East of England	28,181	1.2
London	49,820	1.6
South East	41,588	1.2
South West	50,250	2.2
Total	236,331	1.1

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties are *(a)* designated as second homes and eligible for a council tax discount and *(b)* claiming such a discount in (i) the Lewes district council and (ii) Wealdon district council area. [81033]

Mr. Woolas: There are 446 properties in the Lewes district council area and 956 properties in the Wealden district council area designated as second homes and claiming a discount in council tax as at 19 September 2005, the latest date for which figures are available.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Academic Selection

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the estimated cost is of abolishing academic selection in Northern Ireland. [79998]

Maria Eagle: The abolition of academic selection is one element of a whole package of reforms of post-primary education. The focus of the new arrangements is on the educational needs of the child. The new arrangements will be implemented locally by schools and school managing authorities working together, taking account of local needs and circumstances. Until local arrangements are developed, the financial implications cannot be assessed. £24.7 million has been made available over the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 to support the preparation for and phased introduction of, key elements of the new post-primary arrangements.

Breast Cancer

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking to reduce waiting times for women undergoing predictive genetic testing for breast cancer; and if he will make a statement. [80097]

Paul Goggins: Predictive genetic testing for breast cancer is available to women at the regional Genetics Centre at Belfast City hospital. I have been advised that predictive genetic tests for breast cancer are treated as a high priority and are generally reported within four to six weeks. There is no significant waiting list for this service.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many families in Northern Ireland have been tested for the CDH 1gene; and how many patients have opted for pre-emptive surgery in each board area as a result of the test in each of the last three years. [80103]

Paul Goggins: The CDH1 (E-Cadherin) mutation is associated with familial diffuse gastric cancer. Approximately 10 to 15 families in Northern Ireland have been tested for the CDH1 mutation. None has tested positive consequently. There has been no pre-emptive surgery performed in Northern Ireland for this disease.

Call Centres

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many call centre jobs there are in Northern Ireland; how many there were three years ago; and if he will make a statement. [80101]

Paul Goggins: Invest NI figures from a survey of customer contact centres in Northern Ireland conducted in May 2006 show that there are currently over 10,500 employed in the sector. Three years ago the number employed was around 8,000.

The customer contact sector in Northern Ireland has been developed largely by inward investment but also contains a number of locally owned companies trading in international markets. It remains a key target sector for Invest NI.

Cocaine

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in each health and social services board area (HSSB) are known to be cocaine users; and what working estimate of the total number of cocaine users each HSSB has. [79976]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) records information on problem drug users presenting to treatment services for the first time, or for the first time in six months or more. The number of people presenting to treatment services in 2004-05 (the latest year for which figures are available) where they reported cocaine (including crack cocaine) use, by health and social services board, is recorded as:

Health and social services board	*Number*
Eastern	138
Northern	56
Southern	53
Western	75
Northern Ireland[1]	369

[1] Includes 47 people from Northern Ireland prisons who have reported using cocaine at some stage.

Source:
NI Drug Misuse Database.

The DHSSPS report entitled '2002-03 Drug Prevalence Survey: Cocaine Results' reported lifetime prevalence figures for cocaine (those who reported that they had ever used cocaine, including crack cocaine) use in Northern Ireland. Lifetime Prevalence figures, for adults aged 15 to 64 years, for each of the four health and social services boards in Northern Ireland were reported as:

Health and social services board	*Percentage of lifetime prevalence*
Eastern	2.4
Northern	1.0
Southern	0.8
Western	1.6

Consultant Referrals

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average waiting time to be seen by a consultant was for people in Northern Ireland in 2005-06, broken down by clinical conditions. [80057]

Paul Goggins: Official waiting list information is collected by time band. It is therefore not possible to calculate the average (arithmetic mean) and longest waiting time. It is however possible to identify the median or mid point waiting time band.

The latest available waiting list statistics show the position at 31 March 2006. It is not possible to provide waiting lists by clinical conditions as waiting list information is aggregated by specialty. The median waiting time band for patients waiting for their first outpatient consultant appointment at 31 March 2006 for each individual specialty is provided in the following table.

Specialty	*Median waiting time for first outpatient consultant appointment at 31 March 2006 (months)*
General Surgery	0-2
Urology	3-5
T and O Surgery	9-11
ENT	3-5
Ophthalmology	3-5
Oral Surgery	6-8
Restorative Dentistry	9-11
Paediatric Dentistry	12-14
Orthodontics	3-5
Neurosurgery	6-8
Plastic Surgery	21-23
Cardiac Surgery	0-2
Paediatric Surgery	3-5
Thoracic Surgery	0-2
Accident and Emergency	0-2
Anaesthetics	0-2
Pain Management	6-8
General Medicine	3-5
Gastroenterology	3-5
Endocrinology	0-2
Haematology (Clinical)	0-2
Audiological Medicine	0-2
Clinical Genetics	0-2
Rehabilitation	0-2
Palliative Medicine	0-2
Cardiology	3-5
Dermatology	3-5
Thoracic Medicine	0-2
Genito-Urinary Medicine	0-2
Nephrology	3-5
Medical Oncology	0-2
Neurology	3-5
Rheumatology	3-5
Paediatrics	0-2
Paediatric Neurology	0-2
Geriatric Medicine	0-2
Dental Medicine Specialties	9-11
Obstetrics	0-2
Gynaecology	0-2
GP Other	0-2

Specialty	Median waiting time for first outpatient consultant appointment at 31 March 2006 (months)
Mental Handicap	3-5
Mental Illness	0-2
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	0-2
Psychotherapy	3-5
Old Age Psychiatry	0-2
Clinical Oncology	0-2
Chemical Pathology	0-2
Haematology	0-2
Joint Consultant Clinics	0-2
All Specialties	3-5

Source:
Departmental Information Return CH3 Parts 1 and 2

Deafblind Children (Goverment Guidance)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will implement in Northern Ireland the Government guidance entitled Social Care for Deafblind Children and Adults; and if he will make a statement. [79911]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is currently developing a strategic framework for services for people with a sensory or physical disability. It will consider the application of this guidance as part of the strategy development process.

Depression

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been diagnosed with depression in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and how many people diagnosed were given access to cognitive behaviour therapy. [80939]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not available.

Donor Cards

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have signed up to carrying donor cards since 1999; and if he will make a statement. [80107]

Paul Goggins: It is impossible to know how many people in Northern Ireland carry donor cards. However, the following figures show the number of people in Northern Ireland who have registered with the NHS organ donor register.

	Total Northern Ireland registrations
Pre-1999	136,262
1999 to date	198,801
On NHS organ donor register	335,063

Education

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland why special schools in Northern Ireland are not permitted to move to integrated status. [78979]

Maria Eagle: Article 90 (2) of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 as amended by the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 and the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 prohibits special schools from attaining controlled integrated status. While it is accepted that most special schools have both Protestant and Roman Catholic children, integrated status is not appropriate for the special school sector, where developmental needs are necessarily assessed on the basis of specialised criteria, related to the individual special educational needs of the child.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many schools in Northern Ireland, apart from integrated schools, have 10 per cent. or more of the minority tradition enrolled; and what the figures were in each of the preceding 10 years. [78983]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is as follows.

	Number of schools			
	Nursery	Primary	Post primary	Special
1995-96	22	26	17	n/a
1996-97	26	29	18	n/a
1997-98	25	31	19	n/a
1998-99	21	28	16	n/a
1999-2000	23	23	15	n/a
2000-01	21	28	16	n/a
2001-02	23	28	16	n/a
2002-03	20	29	12	n/a
2003-04	23	25	14	34
2004-05	25	27	14	24
2005-06	25	25	12	28

Note:
The answer is based on those schools with over 50 per cent. Protestant pupils and 10 per cent. or more Catholic pupils, and those schools with over 50 per cent. Catholic pupils and 10 per cent. or more Protestant pupils.
Source:
NI school census

Home Helps

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to review the working practices of home help and domestic care workers for elderly and infirm people in Northern Ireland, with special reference to Health and Safety restrictions. [81226]

Paul Goggins: There are at present no plans to review the working practices of home help and domestic care workers for elderly and infirm people in Northern Ireland. However, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety is currently developing regulations and minimum care standards for domiciliary care agencies.

These standards will specify minimum supervision and appraisal requirements, mandatory training requirements and safe and healthy working practices. These new regulations and standards are expected to come into effect on 1 April 2007 and will form the basis for inspections carried out by the Regulatory and Quality Improvement Authority.

House Fires

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many house fires the Fire Service in Northern Ireland was called out to deal with where there was *(a)* no and *(b)* a faulty smoke alarm fitted during 2005. [81222]

Paul Goggins: In the period January 2005 to December 2005 there were 203 cases of house fires where a smoke alarm was not fitted and 152 cases where the smoke alarm was faulty.

Invest Northern Ireland

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what land holdings are held by Invest Northern Ireland in each district council in Northern Ireland. [80293]

Paul Goggins: The amount of land held by Invest Northern Ireland in each of the 26 district councils in Northern Ireland is set out in the following table. It amounts to 2,803 acres (1,134 hectares).

Council area	*Acres*	*Hectares*
Antrim	110	45
Ards	31	13
Armagh	33	13
Ballymena	81	33
Ballymoney	13	5
Banbridge	27	11
Belfast	139	56
Carrickfergus	108	44
Castlereagh	13	5
Coleraine	74	30
Cookstown	38	16
Craigavon	360	146
Derry	419	170
Down	134	54
Dungannon	93	38
Fermanagh	126	51
Lame	36	14
Limavady	51	21
Lisburn	313	127
Magherafelt	72	29
Moyle	6	2
Newry and Mourne	100	41
Newtownabbey	283	115
North Down	63	25
Omagh	47	19
Strabane	29	12
Total	[1]2,803	[1]1,134

[1] Figures do not add precisely due to founding

Lung Cancer

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of lung cancer have been diagnosed in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [80957]

Paul Goggins: Table 1 details information on the incidence of lung cancer (ICD-10 C33 and C34) in Northern Ireland for the last five years for which data was available.

Table 1: Lung cancer incidence in Northern Ireland: 1999 to 2003

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Male	520	520	569	505	508
Female	360	344	316	364	337
Total	880	864	885	869	845

This information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry and is the most up to date currently available.

Medical Training

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many medical students who are studying in Northern Ireland will *(a)* be unable to continue their studies and *(b)* be unable to take up positions of employment in Northern Ireland as a result of the new visa regulations pertaining to international medical students; and if he will make a statement. [79762]

Paul Goggins: The information is as follows.

(a) All overseas medical students will be able to continue their medical studies, as training up to registration with the General Medical Council (GMC) is not affected by the new immigration rules.

(b) Non-European economic area (EEA) doctors already in training posts will now be considered as being employed rather than in training, and therefore will need to meet the work permit provisions. Transitional arrangements are in place for those who have been offered a post starting on or before 4 August 2006.

The new immigration rules introduced by the Home Office that came into effect on 3 April 2006 will not prevent doctors from training in the United Kingdom, but are designed to bring the employment of doctors into line with other sectors of the UK economy.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* nurse and *(b)* doctor training places were available in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; how many people entered training in each year; and how many people qualified in each year. [78719]

Paul Goggins: The number of *(a)* nurses and *(b)* doctors who commenced training and completed training in each of the last 10 years is presented in the following tables. All available training places have been filled in each of the 10 years.

Table (a1): Number of pre-registration nursing students who commenced training in each of the last 10 years

Academic year	Number commencing training
2005-06	815
2004-05	851
2003-04	811
2002-03	763
2001-02	643
2000-01	484
1999-2000	482
1998-99	460
1997-98	460
1996-97	341

Table (a2): Number of pre-registration nursing students who completed training in each of the last 10 years

Academic year	Number qualifying
2005-06	[1]n/a
2004-05	662
2003-04	571
2002-03	471
2001-02	410
2000-01	378
1999-2000	303
1998-99	424
1997-98	375
1996-97	[2]30

[1] The completing figures for academic year 2005-06 are not yet available.
[2] Students completed training via the five colleges of nursing for 1996-97.
Note:
University of Ulster completed the above number.
Source:
Queens University Belfast, University of Ulster and Open University

The following table shows the number of medical places available in the period requested.

Table (b1): Queen's University Belfast (Home and EU) undergraduate medical students/places

Academic year	Number of places/students
2005-06	250
2004-05	188
2003-04	169
2002-03	170
2001-02	169
2000-01	161
1999-2000	160
1998-99	154
1997-98	169
1996-97	152

The numbers of medical students qualifying in each year is set out in the following table.

Table (b2): Queen's Home and EU medical graduates

Academic year	Number of students
2005-06	[1]n/a
2004-05	148
2003-04	162
2002-03	151
2001-02	169
2000-01	139
1999-2000	141
1998-99	149
1997-98	135
1996-97	137

[1] The figures for 2005-06 will not be available until mid-July.

MS Treatment

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average waiting time is for multiple sclerosis patients in the Western Health and Social Services Board (WHSSB) area to be added to the waiting list to receive disease-modifying therapy (DMT) treatment; what the average waiting time is for MS patients in the WHSSB area who are on the waiting list to begin DMT treatment; and what the target time is in each case. [79969]

Paul Goggins: Patients with MS who are assessed as eligible to receive treatment with disease modifying therapies are placed on the waiting list following assessment by, and in consultation with, their neurologist. There is no waiting period to be added to the list.

Waiting list information for disease modifying therapies is collected by time band. While these cannot be used to calculate the average length of time waiting, it is possible to identify the median or mid-point waiting time band. The median waiting time band for MS patients in the Western Board area at 30 April 2006 was six to eight months. An additional £2 million has been allocated to Health and Social Services Boards in 2006-07 and 2007-08 which will, by March 2008, allow all those who are currently waiting for disease modifying therapies to start their treatment and ensure that new patients who are eligible for treatment do not face long waits.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many new multiple sclerosis patients in the Western Health and Social Services Board (WHSSB) area have begun receiving disease-modifying therapy in the last three months; how many additional MS patients in the WHSSB area have been placed on the waiting list to receive DMT treatment in the last three months; and if he will make a statement. [79970]

Paul Goggins: In the three month period from 1 March 2006 to 31 May 2006, two multiple sclerosis patients from the Western Health and Social Services Board area started treatment with disease modifying therapies. Over the same period, two Western Board patients were added to the waiting list.

Respite Care Charges

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the financial impact on families of respite care charges for adults with learning disabilities; and what plans he has to review the making of such charges. [79968]

Paul Goggins: The need for respite care and any associated charge is a matter for assessment on a case by case basis. There are currently no plans to review the charging arrangements.

School Transport

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many taxis are being used to transport children to school in each education and library board area; and at what cost. [80102]

Maria Eagle: In 2004-05 the education and library boards used 1,393 taxis to transport pupils to and from school, at a total cost of £8,012,000, broken down in the following table.

	Number of taxis	*Cost (£)*
Belfast board	195	633,000
North-Eastern board	259	2,095,000
South-Eastern board	298	2,216,000
Southern board	335	2,022,000
Western board	306	1,046,000

Education and library boards only transport pupils via taxi where an existing bus service is not available and it is more cost effective to provide a taxi rather than introduce a new route. In addition, pupils with a statement of special needs may have specialised transport requirements that can only be met through the provision of a taxi. Medical experts make this decision and the requirement to provide transport via taxi is detailed on the pupil's statement of special needs.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children have *(a)* been injured and *(b)* reported attacks by other children in shared taxis in the last two years, broken down by education and library board. [80104]

Maria Eagle: Four of the five education and library boards have confirmed that there have been no children reported injured by other children while travelling to and from school in shared taxis in the last two years. The Southern education and library board has also confirmed that there have been no serious injuries to children during this period but is not able to provide details of minor incidents.

Schools

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many schools in Northern Ireland which are currently open he expects to have closed by the end of 2007. [79456]

Maria Eagle: Proposals to close a school are subject to the publication of a development proposal, which ensures that all interested parties are informed, and have the opportunity to comment, before a decision is made.

The Department has approved the closure of seven primary schools, six of which are due to close in August 2006 and one to close in August 2007. The Department has also approved the closure of one post-primary school to take effect in August 2006.

There are currently four other recently published development proposals each for the closure of a primary school, with three proposed to take effect in August 2006 and one in August 2007, on which decisions have not yet been made. There are also two recently published development proposals for the closure of two post-primary schools in August 2007, on which decisions have not yet been made.

In addition, the Department has previously approved the amalgamations of 12 primary schools into four schools—these are all planned to take effect before the end of 2007, and approved a further proposal to support the amalgamation of two post-primary schools to form one school with effect from September 2006. Two Development proposals each for the amalgamation of two primary schools to form one school have recently been published and currently under consideration.

Security Checks

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what security checks are carried out on workers subcontracted to carry out work on school premises, including cleaners and maintenance workers. [78784]

Maria Eagle: It is the responsibility of those contracted by the education and libraries board or other employing authorities, to provide services on school premises, to ensure that their staff pose no risk to children by carrying out a vetting check.

The employing authority must, at the tender stage, make it clear to private contractors that vetting must be carried out on employees before any work is undertaken on school premises.

The arrangements for the vetting and selection of persons to work with children in an educational setting were the subject of an urgent review early in 2006 and new guidance covering all aspects was issued to employing authorities, among others, in March in circular 2006/06, Child Protection: Recruitment of People to work with Children and Young People in Educational Settings (available at www.deni.gov.uk)

Seroxat

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the safety of Seroxat for pregnant women suffering from depression; and if he will make a statement. [80110]

Paul Goggins: On 7 December 2005 the Chief Medical Officer issued an urgent communication to the Health and Social Services in Northern Ireland attaching a letter from the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) which highlighted new evidence relating to a possible risk of congenital malformations following maternal use of Paroxetine (Seroxat) in the first trimester. The CHM letter contained advice to prescribers and patients on the use of Paroxetine (Seroxat) in pregnancy. The advice indicated that Paroxetine should only be used in pregnancy when strictly indicated and only if the benefits of treatment for the mother are thought to outweigh the potential risk to the foetus.

There is ongoing discussion at a European level on the safety of all selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), including Paroxetine (Seroxat) in pregnancy. Any new advice will be issued as necessary.

Vandalism

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost was to the Department of Education of vandalism at educational establishments in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [78303]

Maria Eagle: The cost of repairing vandalism met by each education and library board in controlled and maintained schools in the last three years is as follows:

	£000
2003-04	831
2004-05	639
2005-06	679

The information for voluntary grammar and grant maintained integrated schools is not readily available and is being requested. I will write to the hon. Lady with the information as soon as possible.

HEALTH

Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members are of the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation. [79477]

Andy Burnham: The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) is an independent body consisting of national health service management, general practitioners and academics.

ACRA members are shown in the table.

ACRA membership as of September 2005

	Organisation
Chair	
Mr. D. Fillingham	Chief Executive, Bolton Hospital NHS Trust
Members	
Mr. K. Derbyshire	Department of Health, Senior Economic Advisor
Professor I. Diamond	Chief Executive, Economic and Social Research Council
Mr. F. Dickinson	Department of Health, Economic Advisor
Dr. S. Drage	General Practitioners Committee, BMA
Dr. M. D'Souza	Head of the Unit of General Practice, NH and LI Imperial College, Surrey
Professor H. Glennerster	Professor Emeritus of Social Administration and Co-Director of CASE, London School of Economics
Dr. R. Hussey	Director of Health Strategy, Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic Health Authority
Professor Sir B. Jarman	Emeritus Professor of the Department of General Practice, Imperial College of Medicine
Mr. P. Lilley	Chief Executive, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Ms R. MacDonald	Chief Executive, Bath and North Somerset Primary Care Trust
Mrs. Candy Morris	Chief Executive, Surrey and Sussex SHA
Dr. N. Rice	Reader, University of York
Mr. D. Roberts	Unit Manager, NHS, Health and Social Care Information Centre
Dr. I. Trimble	General Practitioner, Nottingham
Mr. C. Vincent	Department of Health, Finance

Audiology Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to review the decision to exclude audiology from the 18-week waiting time target for treatment. [81155]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The 18-week referral to treatment target covers hospital pathways.

As a result of innovation, the majority of audiology and adult hearing services are accessed directly from primary care and are outside the scope of the 18-week pathway. However, hearing and balance conditions that do need to be referred to a medical consultant will be subject to 18 weeks.

There is no intention to reconsider or review this principle. However, reducing the time that patients wait for directly accessed services is important and an action plan is being developed to improve access to audiology services outside the 18-week pathway.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times are from GP referral to final fitting of digital hearing aids for *(a)* new patients and *(b)* existing patients with an analogue hearing aid in the Solihull Primary Care Trust area. [80853]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect waiting time data for hearing aid/audiology services. However, since January 2006 we have been collecting waiting time and activity data for 15 diagnostic tests/procedures, including pure tone audiometry. These data have been shared with the national health service, for performance management purposes since 2 June 2006. These data will be routinely published from July 2006.

Audit Commission Act

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reports under *(a)* section 19 and *(b)* section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 she has received in each year since the provisions were implemented. [81002]

Andy Burnham: Section 8 of the Act requires auditors in auditing the accounts to consider whether, in the public interest, they should report on any matter coming to their notice in the course of the audit, in order for it to be considered by the body concerned or brought to the attention of the public. The auditor can issue an immediate report if the public interest requires it, or can issue a report at the conclusion of the audit.

Section 19 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 requires an appointed auditor to refer matters to the Secretary of State if he/she has reason to believe that a national health service organisation has made a decision which involves, or may involve, unlawful expenditure, known as referrals to the Secretary of State. These reports are not published.

The number of reports and referrals made under sections 8 and 19 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 are shown in the table.

Number

	Section 8 reports	*Section 19 referrals*	*Qualifications on accounts section 19 referrals*[1]
1998	2	1	0
1999	1	3	0
2000	0	1	0
2001	0	3	0
2002	1	1	0
2003	2	0	0
2004	2	2	53
2005	23	7	93
2006[2]	16	20	n/a

n/a = not available

[1] Introduced from April 2000. The section 19 referrals issued to these NHS organisations took the form of regularity reports on the 2004-05 and did not constitute a full report to the Secretary of State.

[2] To date.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to her answer of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1943W, on the Audit Commission Act, how many and which section 19 reports were the result of *(a)* the organisation breaking its resource allocation limits, *(b)* the organisation having little prospect of achieving balance within a three or five year period, *(c)* suspicious payments, *(d)* fraud and *(e)* and other reasons; [81231]

(2) pursuant to her answer of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1943W, on the Audit Commission Act, what the dates are of each report. [81230]

Andy Burnham: Section 19 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 requires an appointed auditor to refer matters to the Secretary of State if he/she has reason to believe that a national health service organisation has made a decision which involves, or may involve, unlawful expenditure, known as referrals to the Secretary of State. These reports are not published.

Auditors made the following referrals, on the dates shown, under section 19 for:

The organisation breaking its resource allocation limits

Bedfordshire Heartlands Primary Care Trust (PCT)[1]
Bexley Care Trust PCT[1]
Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT[1]
Blackwater Valley and Hart PCT[1]
Broadland PCT[1]
Burntwood, Lichfield and Tamworth PCT[1]
Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire PCTs (December 2005)
Cambridge City PCT[1]
Cannock Chase PCT[1]
Canterbury and Coastal PCT[1]
Central Cornwall PCT[1]
Central Suffolk PCT (February 2006)
Central Suffolk PCT[1]
Charnwood and North West Leicestershire PCT[1]
Chelmsford PCT[1]
Cherwell Vale PCT[1]
Cheshire West PCT (February 2006)
Cheshire West PCT[1]
Chiltern and South Bucks PCT[1]
Colchester PCT[1]
Cotswold and Vale PCT[1]
Dacorum PCT (April 2006)
Dacorum PCT[1]
Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT[1]
E Elmbridge and Mid Surrey PCT[1]
East Hampshire PCT[1]
East Lincolnshire PCT[1]
Eastbourne Downs PCT[1]
Eastleigh and Test Valley PCT[1]
Fareham and Gosport PCT[1]
Guildford and Waverley PCT[1]
Harrow PCT[1]
Havering PCT[1]
Hertsmere PCT (April 2006)
Hertsmere PCT[1]
Hillingdon PCT[1]
Hounslow PCT[1]
Huntingdonshire PCT[1]
Ipswich PCT[1]
Isle of Wight PCT[1]
Kennet and North Wiltshire PCT[1]
Kensington and Chelsea PCT[1]
Kingston PCT[1]
Leicester City West PCT[1]
Luton PCT[1]
Maidstone Weald PCT[1]
Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT[1]
Medway PCT[1]
Mid Hampshire PCT[1]
Milton Keynes PCT[1]
North East Oxfordshire PCT[1]
North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT[1]
New Forest PCT[1]
Newbury and Community PCT[1]
Newcastle under Lyme PCT[1]
North and East Cornwall PCT[1]
North Birmingham PCT[1]
North Devon PCT[1]
North Hampshire PCT[1]
North Norfolk PCT[1]
North Somerset PCT[1]
North Stoke PCT[1]
Norwich PCT[1]
Oldbury and Smethwick PCT[1]
South and East Dorset PCT[1]
South Cambridgeshire PCT[1]
South West Oxfordshire PCT[1]
South Western Staffordshire PCT[1]
Selby and York PCT[1]

South East Hertfordshire PCT[1]
South Leicestershire PCT[1]
South Stoke PCT[1]
South Wiltshire PCT[1]
Southampton City PCT[1]
Southern Norfolk PCT[1]
St. Albans and Harpenden PCT (April 2006)
St. Albans and Harpenden PCT[1]
Staffordshire Moorlands PCT[1]
Suffolk Coastal PCT (February 2006)
Suffolk Coastal PCT[1]
Suffolk West PCT (February 2006)
Suffolk West PCT[1]
Sussex Downs and Weald PCT[1]
Swale PCT[1]
Thurrock PCT[1]
Vale of Aylesbury PCT[1]
Waltham Forest PCT[1]
Wandsworth PCT[1]
Watford and Three Rivers PCT (April 2006)
Watford and Three Rivers PCT[1]
Waveney PCT[1]
Welwyn Hatfield PCT[1]
West Gloucestershire PCT[1]
West Midlands South Strategic Health Authority (SHA)[1]
West Norfolk PCT[1]
West of Cornwall PCT[1]
West Wiltshire PCT[1]
Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead PCT[1]
Witham, Braintree and Halstead PCT[1]
Wycombe PCT[1]
Wyre Forest PCT[1]
Yorkshire Wolds and Coast PCT[1]

[1] The section 19 referrals issued to these NHS organisations took the form of regularity reports on the 2004-05 accounts and did not constitute a full report to the Secretary of State. These referrals do not have a specific date associated with them.

The organisation having little prospect of achieving balance within a three or five year period

Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust (July 2005)
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (April 2006)
Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust (June 2006)
North Bristol NHS Trust (April 2006)
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust (April 2006)
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust (June 2005)
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust (April 2006)
Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust (September 2005)
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust (June 2006)
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust (April 2006)
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust (April 2006)
Weston Area Health NHS Trust (April 2006)
Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (April 2006)

Other reasons including fraud and suspicious payments

Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA—employment issues (February 2006)
Avon Ambulance Service NHS Trust—employment issues (June 2006)

Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that all the organisations within the Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire strategic health authority tackle their deficits within the timescale identified by the local operating framework. [79651]

Caroline Flint: The role of the Department is to ensure that strategic health authorities (SHAs) comply with the operating framework guidance published on 26 January 2006. Individual SHAs are responsible for the performance management of their national health service organisations and for ensuring that they achieve financial balance. The aim is for the NHS as a whole, is to have returned to financial balance by the end of 2006-07. In addition, we are aiming for all overspending organisations to have monthly balance of income and expenditure (run rate balance) by the end of 2006-07.

There will be some exceptional cases where an organisation cannot achieve run rate balance in 2006-07 without an undue impact on patient services.

However, where one organisation overspends, an organisation elsewhere in the system needs to underspend for the NHS as a whole to be in financial balance. It is important, therefore, that organisations return to financial balance as quickly as possible.

Bowel Cancer

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice the chief medical officer has provided on preventing bowel cancer; and if she will make a statement. [72617]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Bowel cancer is one of several cancers linked to diet and other lifestyle factors, including physical activity. Government advice on how to reduce cancer risk is to eat a healthy, balanced diet that is high in fibre, fruit and vegetables, low in fat, and containing a moderate amount of red and processed meat. Other known risk factors include obesity, smoking and alcohol consumption.

Breast Cancer

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will give greater priority to the *(a)* treatment of, *(b)* research into and *(c)* financing of treatment of inflammatory breast cancer. [78987]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Cancer is a Government priority. However, decisions on the provision and funding of cancer services are a matter for the national health service and individual primary care trusts to consider as part of their local priority setting.

In the 'NHS Cancer Plan', published in 2000, the Department confirmed its commitment to increasing investment in cancer research and breast cancer trials constitute the largest proportion of trials in the national cancer research network's portfolio.

In 2004-05, £3.8 billion was spent on cancer services. However, figures are not routinely collected centrally on the treatment of individual cancers, including inflammatory breast cancer.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 June, *Official Report*, column 1936W, on breast cancer, in what circumstances a breast cancer patient may not benefit from Herceptin. [81082]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for individual clinicians, in discussion with a patient, to decide whether or not it is suitable to prescribe a specific drug, taking into account any relevant guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). Primary care trusts may need to be involved to decide whether to support the clinician's decision and supply the drug at the national health service expense.

On 9 June 2006, NICE published its draft guidance on Herceptin. This recommends the drug for women with early stage HER2-positive breast cancer, except where there are concerns about cardiac function.

However, there may be other individual patients for whom it is not suitable—for example, if the woman is too frail to tolerate chemotherapy. This will be a matter for discussion between a woman and her clinician.

These recommendations are subject to an appeal period which closed on 28 June 2006. Final guidance is expected to be issued at the beginning of July, assuming there are no appeals. There are no national restrictions on the NHS using Herceptin in the interim.

Care Homes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pages of *(a)* guidance and *(b)* forms (i) her Department and (ii) its arm's length bodies sent to care homes in each year since 1997. [79674]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available centrally.

Child Malnutrition

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of child malnutrition levels in each of the last 10 years. [74154]

Caroline Flint: Malnutrition occurs when a deficiency, excess or imbalance of energy, protein, and other nutrients causes measurable adverse effects on tissue, function and clinical outcome.

Data on child malnutrition levels in each of the last 10 years can be obtained from the hospital episodes statistics (HES) which uses the international classification for diseases (ICD) to record and collate hospital admissions data. Malnutrition is defined by a primary diagnosis between the ICD-10 codes E40 to E46. The data from HES for child malnutrition in each of the last 10 years is shown in the table.

Count of finished admission episodes and patients where primary diagnosis is malnutrition in children under 18 at national health service hospitals, England 1995-96 to 2004-05

	Finished admission episodes	Patient counts
1995-96	22	n/a
1996-97	38	n/a
1997-98	43	21
1998-99	26	14
1999-2000	24	18
2000-01	24	20
2001-02	15	14
2002-03	22	19
2003-04	18	14
2004-05	16	15

Source:
HES, The Information Centre for health and social care

Contracts (Termination Clauses)

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she plans to take to ensure that NHS organisations contracting with private sector contracts have effective termination clauses in their contracts. [75022]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All national health service organisations should have appropriate clauses for the termination of contracts that they give based on legal advice. Where termination of a contract is necessary this should be done on the basis of the terms within that contract and any further legal advice the commissioner may need. The Department will be issuing guidance to NHS commissioners for framework contracts later this year.

Deafblind People (Care Services)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she next plans to review the implementation by local authorities of *(a)* the statutory guidance for deafblind children and adults and *(b)* section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 on fair access to care services; and if she will make a statement. [81073]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are no plans to review the implementation by local authorities of the statutory guidance for deafblind children and adults. It is the responsibility of councils to identify the number of deafblind people in their area.

There are no plans to review the implementation by local authorities of fair access to care services (FACS), which is published as statutory guidance under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970.

As part of the consultation on the adult social care Green Paper "Independence, Well-being and Choice", we asked for views on the impact on FACS of shifting the balance of services from high-level need to earlier, preventative interventions. Following analysis of consultation, we believe that FACS is compatible with a preventative approach to social care.

Dentistry

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of children eligible for orthodontic treatment (i) prior to 1 April and (ii) following the introduction of an assessment based on an index of treatment need, broken down by primary care trust. [78954]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Contractors only provide orthodontic treatment to a person who is assessed as having a treatment need in grade four or five of the dental health component of the index of orthodontic treatment need (IOTN) or grade three of the dental health component of that index with an aesthetic component of six or above. This is unless the contractor is of the opinion that orthodontic treatment should be provided to a person who does not have such a treatment need by virtue of the exceptional circumstances of the dental and oral condition of the person concerned.

Research has shown that IOTN grades four and five constitute about 30 per cent., of the 12 year old child population, the age most suitable for treatment. Although many orthodontic practitioners based their treatment planning on IOTN, all grades could be treated in the general dental services. It should also be noted that children do not necessarily receive orthodontic treatment within the primary care trust which they reside.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether her Department treats referrals to hospital-based orthodontists from dentists as consultant to consultant referrals; and if she will make a statement; [76953]

(2) whether her Department collects statistics on referrals to hospital-based orthodontists by dentists; and if she will make a statement. [76960]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Where the referral is from a general dental practitioner it is recorded in the same way as a referral from a general medical practitioner. If the referral is from a primary care dentist other than a general dental practitioner, it is recorded as a consultant to consultant referral.

The table shows the number of referral requests for first out-patient appointments in orthodontics between 2002-03 and 2005-06. The information collected is split by written referrals by general practitioners (GPs) and other. GP referrals include referrals by general dental practitioners and other referrals include consultant to consultant referrals and referrals to optometrists.

	Number of referral requests for first out-patient appointments		
Quarter	*GP written*	*Other*	*Percentage GP written*
2005-06			
3	17,894	3,607	83.2
2	18,359	4,188	81.4
1	19,752	4,631	81.0
2004-05			
4	17,798	4,293	80.6
3	19,614	4,371	81.8
2	18,451	4,825	79.3
1	19,365	4,516	81.1
2003-04			
4	20,485	4,441	82.2
3	19,197	4,318	81.6
2	18,451	4,825	79.3
1	19,365	4,516	81.1
2002-03			
4	19,336	5,148	79.0
3	19,225	4,829	79.9
2	19,704	4,496	81.4
1	19,658	4,351	81.9
Total	286,654	67,355	81.0

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost is of resolving new dental service contracts and agreements which have been signed in dispute; and how many man-hours she estimates will be spent on resolving the issues. [77049]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trusts are responsible for local resolution of contract and pre-contract disputes for all national health service services that they commission. From April 2006, primary care dentistry has become one of these locally commissioned services. Information is not collected centrally on the costs or the time involved in the local resolution of disputes.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists in Wantage constituency have stopped taking new NHS patients since 1 April. [77118]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data on the number of dentists who rejected the new contract on or since 1 April and who have therefore ceased to treat national health service patients is not available centrally.

Management information is held centrally on the number of contracts rejected or accepted by primary care trusts (PCTs). A contract may be for either a practice or an individual dentist so the information is not a guide to the number of dentists who accepted or rejected the contract. As of April, 35 contracts were agreed and three rejected in the South West Oxfordshire PCT area while 23 contracts were signed and 13 rejected in the Swindon PCT area. The signed contracts represent 98.1 per cent. and 93.1 per cent. of dental services respectively. This reflects that fact that many of those who rejected new contracts were dentists who treated relatively few NHS patients. PCTs are using the funding associated with the rejected contracts to commission additional services from other dentists.

Dermatology

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government is taking to improve GP *(a)* initial and *(b)* continued training in dermatology; and if she will make a statement. [77985]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is not responsible for setting curricula for health professional training; that is rightly the responsibility of the statutory and professional bodies. However, we do share a commitment with those bodies that all health professionals are trained so that they have the skills and knowledge to deliver a high quality health service to all groups of the population with whom they deal.

Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are decided against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service.

Access to training is affected by a number of factors such as the availability of funding. Whether staff can be released, the availability of appropriate training interventions, mentors and assessors. It would not be practical for the centre to be prescriptive on this.

European Health Insurance Cards

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many European health insurance cards have been issued by the NHS in each calendar quarter since their inception. [76507]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The first European health insurance cards were issued in mid July 2005. Up to 17 June 2006 19.4 million cards had been issued. The quarterly breakdown is shown in the table.

	Number of cards issued
July to September 2005	7.26
October to December 2005	6.8
January to March 2006	3.08
April to 17 June 2006	2.28

Food Supplements

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she plans to raise with the European Commission the reasons why its recent Discussion Paper on the Setting of Maximum and Minimum Amounts for Vitamins and Minerals in Foodstuffs does not include the report of the United Kingdom Government's Expert Advisory Group on Vitamins and Minerals in the Annexes containing examples of approaches to the setting of such levels; [76827]

(2) whom she intends to consult in preparing a response to the Discussion Paper on the Setting for Maximum and Minimum Amounts of Vitamins and Minerals in Foodstuffs recently published by the European Commission; and what her objectives are for that process; [76828]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has raised with the European Commission why its recent discussion paper on setting maximum levels of vitamins and minerals in foodstuffs did not include the report from the United Kingdom expert group on vitamins and minerals (EVM). The Commission has explained that the EVM work provided recommended levels for individual vitamins and minerals rather than presenting a model for establishing such levels. The annexes in the Commission document provides examples of such models.

The FSA will consult stakeholders and independent scientific experts, and draw on the work carried out by the EVM in responding to the discussion paper on the setting of maximum and minimum amounts of vitamins and minerals in foodstuffs. The FSA will hold a meeting to discuss these points as part of this consultation.

GP Vocational Training Scheme

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that funding is found to enable the 29 junior doctors who have had their general practitioner vocational training scheme posts deferred to start their training in August 2006. [81045]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Funding for investment in education and training is allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs) for them to use according to local priorities. It is for the SHAs and their deaneries, in this case London, to determine their priorities and allocate resources accordingly. I understand there has been no reduction in the number of funded training places by the London Deanery.

Health Care Support Workers

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many healthcare support workers have been employed in the NHS at Agenda for Change level *(a)* five, *(b)* four, *(c)* three, *(d)* two and *(e)* one since 1997; what the annual change in staff has been at each level; and what the forecast annual change is over the next 10 year period. [77085]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Assimilation to the agenda for change pay system has recently been completed with just under 99 per cent. of staff on the new system by the end of March. Data are not collected centrally on the number of staff in each band, but the computer aided job evaluation system can provide data on the frequency with which particular types of job have assimilated to the various pay bands.

Health care support worker is not a commonly used job title. In the case of nursing health care assistants, which are the largest group of support worker, the data show that there have been 12,694 nursing health care assistant matches to band two, 9,255 to band three and 365 to band four. There have been no matches to band five.

Planned changes in staff numbers in jobs at different levels are determined locally.

Health Trusts (Gloucestershire)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1562W on NHS trust deficits, if she will provide the same information for *(a)* Cotswold and Vale and *(b)* Cheltenham and Tewkesbury primary care trusts. [79693]

Caroline Flint: Information on the count of patients residing in the Cotswold and Vale primary care trust (PCT) and the Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT areas, by site of treatment, has been placed in the Library.

Insulin

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of deaths resulting from the incorrect self-administration of insulin by diabetes patients in each of the last three years. [75838]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 919W.

Maternity Services

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate she has made of the cost of a birth without complications in a *(a)* birth centre and *(b)* consultant-led maternity unit; [73110]

(2) what steps she is taking to encourage NHS trusts *(a)* to support existing birth centres and *(b)* to establish new birth centres; [73111]

(3) if she will list the birth centres in England; and which birth centres have been closed *(a)* permanently and *(b)* temporarily in the last three years. [73112]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested on the cost of a normal birth in a birth centre and consultant-led maternity unit is not collected centrally. Reference cost data are collected against three specific health care resource groups: normal delivery with or without complications or co-morbidities, assisted delivery with or without complications or co-morbidities and caesarean section with or without complications or co-morbidities. This information is shown in tables one and two.

The maternity standard of the national service framework for children, young people and maternity services requires national health service maternity care providers and primary care trusts to ensure that the range of services available locally constitutes real choice for women, including care in midwife-led units either in the community or on a hospital site. It is for primary care trusts and NHS trusts to determine the appropriate pattern of service provision locally, taking into account the needs of local people, evidence of effectiveness and available resources.

The information requested to list birth centres in England and on which birth centres have been closed either permanently or temporarily in the last three years is not collected centrally

Table 1: 2004-05 national reference costs data for elective inpatient maternity health care resource groups (HRGs)

				Interquartile range of costs				
HRG code	*HRG label*	*Number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)cost*	*National average unit cost (£)*	*Lower quartile (£)*	*Upper quartile (£)*	*Number of bed days*	*Average length of stay (days*	*Number of data submissions*
N06	Normal delivery w cc	160	1,226.94	1,119	1,541	647	4.04	18
N07	Normal delivery w/o cc	3,720	902.71	673	1,365	7,098	1.91	106
N08	Assisted delivery w cc	54	1,280.46	1,174	1,635	233	4.31	13
N09	Assisted delivery w/o cc	703	1,137.76	684	1,499	1,822	2.59	31
N10	Caesarean section w cc	346	1,767.19	1,450	2,989	1,933	5.59	35
Nil	Caesarean section w/o cc	2,989	1,468.80	1,250	2,237	10,110	3.38	65
	Totals	7,972	—	—	—	21,843	—	—

Source:
2004-05 Reference costs schedule NSRC4: NHS trust and primary care trust (PCT) combined/TELIP sheet.

Table 2: 2004-05 national reference costs data for non elective inpatient maternity HRGs

				Interquartile range of costs				
HRG code	*HRG label*	*Number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)cost*	*National average unit cost (£)*	*Lower quartile (£)*	*Upper quartile (£)*	*Number of bed days*	*Average length of stay (days*	*Number of data submissions*
N06	Normal delivery w cc	21,770	1,576.22	1,112	2,103	75,771	3.48	224
N07	Normal delivery w/o cc	351,662	935.37	682	1,160	653,733	1.86	355
N08	Assisted delivery w cc	6,173	1,887.17	1,517	2,383	26,458	4.29	179
N09	Assisted delivery w/o cc	61,450	1,309.17	957	1,524	160,860	2.62	217

Table 2: 2004-05 national reference costs data for non elective inpatient maternity HRGs

HRG code	HRG label	Number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) cost	National average unit cost (£)	Interquartile range of costs: Lower quartile (£)	Interquartile range of costs: Upper quartile (£)	Number of bed days	Average length of stay (days	Number of data submissions
N10	Caesarean section w cc	20,174	2,880.01	2,140	3,537	127,208	6.31	209
Nil	Caesarean section w/o cc	110,213	2,121.77	1,562	2,492	462,024	4.19	241
	Totals	571,442	—	—	—	1,506,054	—	—

Source:
2004-05 Reference costs schedule NSRC4: NHS trust and primary care trust (PCT) combined/TELIP sheet.

Mental Health Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the primary care trusts which are piloting the well-being programme in mental health; and if she will make a statement. [69343]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following organisations are piloting the well-being programme:

Wave one—2003

Coventry Primary Care Trust (PCT);

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust;

Dorset Healthcare National Health Service Trust;

South London and The Maudsley NHS Trust;

East London and the City Mental Health Trust;

Leeds Mental Health Trust;

Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys Mental Health Trust; and

North Glamorgan NHS Trust.

Wave two

Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care NHS Trust;

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust; and

Barnet, Enfield and Haringey PCTs.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been contributed by the NHS to the well-being pilot programmes in improving mental health. [69344]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has made £7 million available to spearhead primary care trusts in 2006-07 and in 2007-08 to support the implementation of the "Choosing Health" commitments.

Nappies

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures she has put in place to ensure the safety of commercial cloth laundering services supplying NHS maternity wards with communally laundered cloth nappies for newborn babies; at what temperature these nappies are required to be washed; and whether NHS standards for laundry and infection control were met by the laundering services in 2005-06. [78536]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Commercial cloth laundering services supplying national health service maternity wards with communally laundered cloth nappies for newborn babies must comply with HSG(95)18, a copy of which is available in the Library. The guidelines set a thermal disinfection wash cycle in which the water temperature has been raised to 65 degrees Celsius for not less than 10 minutes or to 71 degrees Celsius for not less than three minutes.

A hot wash cycle will destroy most vegetative bacteria and enteric viruses. However, water temperature is only one factor in the laundering process as the cleansing effect of the detergent and the dilution effect of the pre-wash, wash and rinse are also important.

Monitoring of laundry services is a local responsibility.

Obesity

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action her Department *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to (i) assist people who are obese and (ii) encourage people to take action to reduce obesity; and if she will make a statement. [69141]

Caroline Flint: The "Choosing Health" White paper, published in November 2004, committed the Government to a range of actions aimed at tackling obesity. Key components of our strategy to encourage people to choose a better diet include the introduction of front of pack labelling on processed foods and restricting promotion of foods high in fat, salt and sugar to children. Work is underway to increase levels of physical activity, particularly in schools through the school sports strategy, and the setting up of sports partnerships. The Department is currently working with stakeholders to develop a national obesity awareness campaign for launch in early 2007.

To assist people who are obese, general practitioners were sent an obesity care pathway and weight loss guide at the beginning of May. The care pathway is an interim measure pending publication of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on the prevention and treatment of obesity which is due before the end of the year.

Parliamentary Questions

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to question *(a)* 73450 and *(b)* 73451 on the Staffordshire ambulance service tabled by the hon. Member for Lichfield on 22 May 2006. [78437]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Answers were given on 14 June.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patient advice and liaison service workers there are in each NHS trust in England; and what the average number of patients treated per year in each NHS trust in England was over the last five years. [78419]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Because of the local nature of the service, the Department does not keep central data relating to patient advice and liaison service (PALS) operational activities, including the number of PALS workers in each national health service trust in England.

The following table summarises the number of patients treated per year by the NHS in England over the last five years, and is taken from the NHS annual report 2004-05.

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*Total*
General and acute admissions	8,944	8,997	9,269	9,719	10,050	46,979
Geriatric admissions	359	347	357	357	368	1,788
Maternity admissions	896	877	924	970	1,000	4,667
New out-patients (first attendances)	12,466	12,613	12,879	13,431	13,371	64,760
New accident and emergency (first attendances)	12,953	12,901	13,253	15,313	16,712	71,132
Yearly total	35,618,	35,735	36,682	39,790	41,501	—

Note:
Figures relate to thousands

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in what ways the patient advice and liaison service informs cancer patients of its ability to act as a gateway to information and advice about welfare benefits. [78428]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Because of the local nature of the service, the Department does not keep central data relating to patient advice and liaison service (PALS) operational activities. However, one of the core features of PALS is to be identifiable and accessible to patients, their carers, friends and families and strategic health authorities regularly evaluate PALS against this criterion.

Patient Correspondence (Outsourcing)

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cases there have been of inaccurate *(a)* medication and *(b)* diagnosis following the outsourcing of patients' correspondence to non-EU countries; [80817]

(2) what audit safeguards are in place to monitor the outsourcing of patient correspondence to non-EU countries; [80818]

(3) how many hospitals in *(a)* England, *(b)* south-east England and *(c)* Kent have outsourced the typing of patients' correspondence to agencies outside the EU; [80819]

(4) what target time has been agreed for the return of correspondence between consultants and general practitioners sent abroad for typing; and what procedures are in place in the event that the target is not met; [81106]

(5) what steps have been taken to ensure the maintenance of patient confidentiality in respect of patients' notes outsourced to non-EU countries for typing. [81107]

Caroline Flint *[holding answers for UIN 80817, 80818 and 80819 27 June 2006]:* Information is not held centrally on the number of national health service organisations which outsource the typing of patient correspondence and records to agencies outside of the European Union, nor on the accuracy of subsequent medication or diagnosis where this has been done.

NHS organisations are legally responsible for managing the health records of their patients and are required by data protection legislation, reinforced by guidance issued by the Department, to ensure the accuracy and confidentiality of information held within records. They are expected to take appropriate technical and organisational measures to ensure this is the case, including the specification of quality standards in contracts for outsourced services and the establishment of appropriate audit safeguards, but compliance remains a local responsibility. Target delivery times and other service performance standards are a matter for negotiation between parties. One of the many benefits of the national programme for information technology is that it will eliminate errors in the transcription of paper notes.

Policy Research Programme

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the priorities are of the Policy Research Programme within the Department. [80707]

Andy Burnham: Priorities for the policy research programme (PRP) are determined primarily by the Department's strategic objectives and public service agreements. The PRP funds approximately 300 policy related research projects at any one time. Currently, these provide evidence to inform policy on:

health protection including antimicrobial resistance, healthcare acquired infections, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, infectious diseases;

health promotion including obesity, nutrition, tobacco, sexual health, drugs, alcohol, foetal alcohol syndrome;

health inequalities;

specific disease areas such as coronary heart disease, stroke, and diabetes;

screening policy such as for cancer and hepatitis C;

policy for vulnerable or at risk groups such as child and maternal health, people with physical and learning disabilities, long-term conditions, mental health problems, and older people;

adult social care;

whole systems reform; and

the health and social care work force.

Prescription Charges (Exemption)

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance is issued to doctors on the verification of physical disabilities that trigger exemption from prescription charges; and if she will make a statement; [79258]

(2) what criteria are used to determine eligibility for prescription charges physical disability exemption in the case of people who cannot go out unaided; [79259]

(3) how many individuals receive exemption from prescription charges due to a continuing physical disability preventing them from going out of the home unaided; what monitoring of such claims is undertaken; and if she will make a statement. [79266]

Andy Burnham: No guidance has been issued to the national health service specifically concerning the eligibility or verification of patients who apply for a prescription charge exemption on the grounds of a continuing physical disability that prevents them from going outside their home without the help of another person. When applying for a prescription charge exemption, patients are required to declare that they suffer from such a condition and this has to be signed by a doctor or a member of their general practitioner practice with access to the patient's records to confirm the patient's declaration.

The prescription pricing division of the NHS Business Services Authority became responsible for the issuing of medical exemption certificates on 1 October 2002. Since then 70,887 medical exemption certificates have been issued to those declaring a continuing physical disability which prevents them from going outside their home without the help of another person. The certificates are valid for five years from the date of issue.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether primary care trusts will be required to pay acute trusts full tariff for all the activity their patients access. [79678]

Andy Burnham: Primary care trusts (PCTs) pay for activity, within the scope of payment by results, commissioned from national health service trusts and foundation trusts at prices determined by the national tariff. National rules on applying the tariff in 2006-07 are set out in "Payment by Results—Implementation Support Guide (Technical Guidance)" (published January 2006). There are different rules for out-patients/elective admissions; accident and emergency (A and E); and non-elective admissions.

For out-patients/elective admissions, payments are determined by the number and complexity of cases treated using national tariff prices. This may be expressed as a formula (activity x tariff).

For A and E, payments are determined by the planned number and complexity of cases, with additional funding for over performance at tariff, and withdrawal of funding for underperformance at 20 per cent. of tariff.

For non-elective admissions, a full tariff is paid for activity up to a threshold, which is set nationally. Activity above and below this threshold is paid for using a reduced tariff, that is 50 per cent. tariff in 2006-07.

The national tariff for 2006-07 is published on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/66/04/04136604.pdf

Prisons

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prisoners at HMP Full Sutton her Department counted as resident in the prison for the purposes of calculating allocations to Yorkshire Wolds and Coast Primary Care Trust for 2006-07. [80716]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 588 prisoners were estimated as resident at HMP Full Sutton and included in the population of Yorkshire Wolds and Coast Primary Care Trust when revenue allocations were made for 2006-07.

Severe Head Trauma

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many specialist care centres for the rehabilitation of patients with severe head trauma there were in *(a)* the South West and *(b)* England in each year since 1997; [80378]

(2) how much her Department has spent on the provision of specialist rehabilitation services for patients with severe head trauma in each year since 1997; [80379]

(3) how many hospitals in the South West region offer specialist services for the rehabilitation of patients with severe head injuries; [80380]

(4) how many patients have received treatment for severe head trauma in a specialist centre in *(a)* Taunton constituency, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 2001. [80381]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of specialist care centres for the rehabilitation of patients with severe head trauma, and the number of hospitals offering such services is not collected centrally.

Information on the number of patients receiving treatment for severe head trauma in England and the South West, and the cost of that provision, is not collected centrally. Data on the number of admissions to the specialist neurological rehabilitation unit Alfred Morris House, Taunton and Somerset national health service trust are shown in the following table.

	April—March				
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Acquired brain injury	33	32	32	39	49
Complex neurological disability	68	81	73	79	67
Total	101	113	105	118	116

Note:
The above data exclude day cases and out-patient activity.

Social Workers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Safer Place initiative target of reducing violence and abuse against social workers by 25 per cent. by March 2005 was met; and if she will make a statement. [76224]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data to track this recommendation of the national taskforce on violence against social care staff are not collected centrally.

The responsibility to protect staff from violence and abuse falls to the employers of the staff, and the final report of the taskforce, 'A Safer Place', recommended a number of targets for employers to set themselves, against which to measure progress, and to act where standards were not good enough. One of the recommendations to employers was that they should reduce the incidence of violence to workers by 25 per cent. by March 2005 from a baseline of March 2002.

Spinal Cord Injuries

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS beds within specialist facilities are available for spinal cord injured patients; and how many were available in *(a)* 1990, *(b)* 1995, *(c)* 2000 and *(d)* 2005. [80346]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has conducted censuses of available adult intensive care and high dependency provision since 1999. Details of such provision in spinal units (SUs) on census days in 2000 and 2005, and on the date of the most recent census, are shown in the table.

Date of census	*SU intensive care beds*	*SU high dependency care beds*
16 January 2006	8	24
14 July 2005	6	20
13 January 2005	6	25
14 July 2000	4	15
15 January 2000	4	6

Source:
Department of Health, hospital activity statistics, form KHOSa

The table shows the number of available (open and staffed) adult intensive care and high dependency beds in national health service hospitals in England. A census provides a snapshot of provision on one particular day and it should be noted that the number of beds may vary from day to day according to clinical demands and staff availability, with flexibility between general and specialist beds and between intensive care and high dependency.

Streptococcus Testing

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Derbyshire (Mr. Todd) of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 439-41W, on streptococcus testing, what the findings were of the studies undertaken by the health technology assessment programme on prenatal screening for group B streptococcus. [80395]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The United Kingdom national screening committee has asked the health technology assessment (HTA) programme to undertake two studies on prenatal screening for group B streptococcal disease. These studies are still in progress.

The first study is on prenatal screening and treatment strategies to prevent group B streptococcal and other bacterial infections in early infancy: cost effectiveness and expected value of information analyses.

The second study is on prenatal screening for group B streptococcal disease: protocol development for a possible clinical trial.

Details of all ongoing reports and research outputs can be found on the HTA's website at www.hta.nhsweb.nhs.uk.

Trans Fats

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 124W, on trans fats, which national diet and nutrition surveys were referred to in that answer; which of these surveys yielded data on dietary fatty acid profiles according to socio-economic status; and what conclusions she has drawn from these data regarding dietary fatty acid profiles according to socio-economic status. [78949]

Caroline Flint: My previous reply referred to results from the national diet and nutrition survey (NDNS) of adults aged 19 to 64[1]. This survey did not collect detailed information on socio-economic status, but did identify participants living in households in which someone was in receipt of benefits (benefit households).

When intakes are expressed as a percentage of food energy, there were no significant differences in the fat and fatty acid composition of the diets of men and women from benefit and non-benefit households.

Earlier surveys in the NDNS series covering young people aged four to 18[2] and older adults aged 65 and over[3] also found no differences in the fat and fatty acid composition of diets according to socio-economic status.

Notes:

[1] Henderson L, Gregory J, Irving K and Swan G. National Diet and Nutrition Survey: adults aged 19 to 64 years. Volume 2: Energy, protein, carbohydrate, fat and alcohol intake. TSO (London: 2003).

[2] Gregory J, Lowe S, Bates CJ, Prentice A, Jackson LV, Smithers G, Wenlock R and Farron M. National Diet and Nutrition Survey: young people aged four to 18 years. Volume 1: Report of the diet and nutrition survey (2000). TSO (London: 2000).

[3] Finch S, Doyle W, Lowe C, Bates CJ, Prentice A, Smithers G and Clarke PC. National Diet and Nutrition Survey: people aged 65 years or over. Volume 1: Report of the diet and nutrition survey. TSO (London: 1998).

HOME DEPARTMENT

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is issued by his Department for officials adjudicating asylum cases involving alleged coercive or enforced abortion; and if he will make a statement. [80180]

Mr. Byrne: The Asylum Policy Instructions are published on the IND website at http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/policyinstructions/api

Arms Imports

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which UK-based companies have been authorised to import and store *(a)* AK-47 rifles and *(b)* other small arms from Bosnia since June 2003; [79959]

(2) how many UK-based companies are authorised *(a)* to import and *(b)* to store AK-47 style weapons. [79960]

Mr. Coaker: Information in the form requested is not available from either the Department of Trade and Industry's database of import licences or from the Home Office records of authorities granted under section five of the Firearms Act 1968 (as amended).

Asylum/Immigration

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* households and *(b)* children he is supporting under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (i) in each region and country of the UK and (ii) in each local social services authority area in the north east of England. [75259]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that the following table provides management information on the number of main applicants who were supported under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 as at 31 March 2006. Information on the number of children supported under section 4 is not currently available.

A breakdown of those supported by social services authority area in the north east of England is not currently available.

Area	*Number on support*
East Midlands	568
East of England	37
London	991
North East	253
North West	807
Scotland	152
South East	73
South West	243
Wales	222
West Midlands	961
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,142
Total	5,449

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of failed asylum seekers returning to their home country did so voluntarily in each month of 2006. [79514]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that the following table shows the number of principal asylum applicants removed from the UK to a destination that was the same as that of their nationality, broken down by type of removal in each month of the first quarter of 2006.

Removals and voluntary departures[1] of asylum applicants[2], excluding dependants, removed to a destination that was the same as their nationality, January to March 2006[3, 4]

	Number of principal applicants			
Nationality	*January 2006*	*February 2006*	*March 2006*	*Q1 2006*
Total principal asylum applicants removed[5]	935	1,205	1,420	3,560
of whom: leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes[6]	270	355	500	1,125
Persons recorded by IND as voluntary departures[7]	40	30	45	115
Persons who it is established have left the UK without informing the Immigration Authorities	25	75	80	185

[1] Includes persons departing 'Voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration, and removals on safe third country grounds.
[2] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, excluding dependants.
[3] Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum due to rounding.
[4] Provisional figures
[5] Including persons departing 'Voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them.
[6] Persons leaving under Voluntary Assisted Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration. May include some on-entry cases and some cases where enforcement action has been initiated.
[7] Includes persons departing 'Voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders being considered for deportation have been granted bail by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) in each of the last five years; and how many such persons have committed *(a)* offences and *(b)* offences of a violent and sexual nature whilst on bail. [76197]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action has been taken against immigration officials who allowed the Baybasin brothers and their criminal associates to move to the UK in exchange for the gang leader becoming an informer; if he will identify the officials concerned; and whether they will be prosecuted. [78135]

Mr. Byrne: I am unable to comment where wider investigations are still ongoing.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response he has made to the July 2005 report by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman on the treatment of detainees *(a)* at Oakington Immigration Centre and *(b)* while under escort; and if he will make a statement. [79777]

Mr. Byrne: An action plan containing all 54 recommendations from the investigation carried out by Stephen Shaw into the allegations contained in the BBC documentary, 'Detention Undercover: the Real Story' was compiled and published. I am advised that all remaining recommendations will be implemented by October 2006.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on the detention of minors in adult immigration detention facilities. [80629]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that unaccompanied minors are not detained other than in one very limited circumstance: where, exceptionally, it is necessary to detain a child while alternative care arrangements are made (normally overnight).

Families with children may be detained in the following circumstances: initially, whilst their identities and basis of claim are established; where there are reasonable grounds for believing that they will fail to comply with the conditions of temporary admission or release; or to effect removal. In addition, families whose asylum claims appear to be capable of being decided quickly may be detained as part of a fast-track process.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the legal basis is for detaining a British-born child in an immigration detention centre. [80631]

Mr. Byrne: The legal basis for detaining a British-born child in an immigration removal centre is explained in IND's Family Removals Policy. A copy of this document has been placed in the House Libraries.

Biometric Registration

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has undertaken into biometric registration and verification since December 2004. [79547]

Joan Ryan: A number of pieces of biometric research have been completed or commissioned since December 2004. In spring 2005, a large United Kingdom Passport Service biometric enrolment trial reported its findings. In addition, research regarding the effectiveness of facial recognition systems for use in fraud prevention has been completed in March 2006.

Furthermore, the Home Office is funding research by the National Physical Laboratory on biometric minutiae interoperability. This research will develop methodology and tools to assess and improve the interoperability of minutiae-based fingerprint recognition systems. The work is also contributing to international standards on data formats for fingerprint minutiae, conformance testing, and interoperable performance testing. It is anticipated that this research will be completed by mid 2007.

Biometric experts working in the Home Office also receive input and review findings from research conducted by other institutions internationally and examine its implications for the development of Government initiatives. Such work is facilitated by the work of the Biometric Assurance Group, chaired by the Government Chief Scientist, Sir David King and bodies such as the Biometric Experts Group for the National Identity Scheme.

Child Sexual Abuse

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children under 14 years were recorded as experiencing sexual abuse in each of the last five years; what services for such children are funded by his Department; and what mechanisms are in place to provide liaison between services funded by his Department and those provided by other funding streams. [78214]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not collect statistics for the number of children under the age of 14 recorded as experiencing sexual abuse.

The National Service Framework (NSF) for Children, Young People and Maternity Services Standard five 10.6 sets out that

"Local authorities, NHS Trusts and primary care trusts ensure that integrated services are available to respond in a co-ordinated manner to the assessed needs of children and young people and their families where a child has been or is at risk of being abused or neglected. The types of programmes offered are based on best available evidence of what interventions are effective and are subject to regular audit, the findings of which inform future service provision".

The NSF for Children, Young People and Maternity Services is a 10 year strategy.

The Department of Health is working with the Home Office, the Department of Education and Skills and voluntary sector organisations providing services for sexually abused children through the joint Department of Health and National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) Victims of Violence and Abuse Prevention Programme (WAPP). This is a two year programme until April 2007. The aim of the programme is to develop national service guidelines based on research conducted by the programme. Guidelines will be published in spring 2007. The programme is intended to equip professionals and services to identify and respond to the mental and physical health effects of child sexual abuse. An expert group on child victims of domestic violence and sexual assault has been established to advise the programme.

The Home Office and the Department of Health supported the development of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) for children: Project Amethyst in London, and St. Mary's in Manchester. £100,000 from the Victim's Fund was allocated to this work in 2005-06.

Convicted Foreign Nationals

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are being supervised by the Probation Service in *(a)* West Sussex and *(b)* Bognor Regis and Littlehampton constituency. [74992]

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, on deportation and removal of foreign nationals, (1) in respect of how many of the *(a)* more serious and *(b)* most serious offenders the whereabouts are not known; [75049]

(2) if he will give a breakdown by nationality of the *(a)* most serious offenders and *(b)* more serious offenders identified as not being under control; and in the case of the most serious offenders not under control how long each offender has not been under control. [75050]

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will list in descending order according to the number of prisoners concerned the countries of origin of foreign national prisoners who have *(a)* been released without consideration for deportation and *(b)* been deported since February 1999; [75217]

(2) if he will break down the number of foreign national prisoners detained in England and Wales by countries of origin. [75218]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Correspondence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter of 19 December 2005 from the hon. Member for Aylesbury about the asylum case of Mr. K. K. of Aylesbury (reference K515596). [76344]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 12 June 2006.

Departmental Annual Report

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department expects to publish its annual report for 2005-06. [79443]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office Departmental Report is planned for completion and publication before the summer Parliamentary recess.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of his Department. [80085]

Mr. Byrne: Helen Kilpatrick is the Home Office Director General, Financial and Commercial. After graduating from King's College, she qualified as an accountant as a member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). She was appointed to the Home Office in April 2005. She has held a variety of finance and corporate services posts in the public sector, most recently prior to joining the Home Office as Deputy Chief Executive, Strategic Director for Resources and County Treasury of West Sussex county council.

Foreign Offenders

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many deportation reviews of foreign prisoners his Department conducted in each of the last 10 years; [70101]

(2) how many foreign criminals have been deported in each of the last 10 years. [70103]

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances a person may be deported from the UK; what legislation governs the deportation of an individual; what plans he has to review this legislation; and if he will make a statement. [70362]

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his written statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 78-81WS, on deportation and removal of foreign nationals, (1) how many of the 1019 foreign offenders identified were eligible for removal from the UK; [76159]

(2) how many of the *(a)* most serious offenders, *(b)* more serious offenders and *(c)* other offenders out of the 1,019 identified foreign criminals have (i) applied for bail and (ii) been granted bail since 23 May. [76438]

(3) how many individuals have been *(a)* deported and *(b)* excluded from the UK on the basis of the guidelines set out by his predecessor in August 2005. [73793]

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many prisoners released from British prisons since March 2005 the Department does not have a record of nationality. [67677]

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many of the cases of prisoners who should have been considered for deportation prior to their release the prisoner's last known address prior to conviction was in *(a)* the Northampton South constituency and *(b)* elsewhere in Northamptonshire; how many are known to have returned to that address in each case; and what steps are being taken (i) to identify them and (ii) to ensure that consideration for deportation takes place. [68127]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals are being held in each prison in Wales, broken down by *(a)* offence for which the sentence is being served, *(b)* length of sentence, *(c)* nationality and *(d)* deportation status on completing sentence; [67339]

(2) how many foreign nationals have been released from each prison in Wales over the past two years, broken down by *(a)* offence committed, *(b)* nationality, *(c)* whether deported on conclusion of sentence, *(d)* whether originally in the country illegally and *(e)* whether recommended for deportation by the court but released into the community; [67340]

(3) what steps he has taken to determine how many foreign national prisoners have been released in Wales without having their deportation status checked; and if he will make a statement. [67599]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 3 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign convicted prisoners in respect of whom the trial judge recommended that deportation be considered on release have been released from *(a)* Aylesbury Young Offenders Institution, *(b)* Grendon Prison, *(c)* Woodhill Prison and *(d)* Springhill Prison in each of the last five years; how many such prisoners were deported; and if he will make a statement. [67674]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 May 2006]:* In his written ministerial statement to the House on 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 41WS, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary explained that he was aware of a number of requests from hon. Members asking for a detailed breakdown of cases by the prison or constituency from which foreign national prisoners have been released. In his subsequent statement to the House on 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 78WS, my right hon. Friend confirmed that further updates would pend the outcome of a thorough rechecking of all the information we hold in this area. We shall update the House with those results as soon as possible.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners *(a)* who were the subject of his statement and (i) have been considered for deportation and (ii) have yet to be considered for deportation and *(b)* who remain incarcerated are from countries to which deportations are not usually undertaken on human rights grounds. [67682]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons who received a recommendation for deportation by an immigration judge *(a)* were removed in 2005 and *(b)* have been removed in 2006. [67699]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals have been released from HM Prison Littlehey in each of the last five calendar years; how many were deported upon their release; and what crime each had committed. [68088]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners from *(a)* HMP Lancaster and *(b)* Lancaster Farm Young Offender Institution have been released without consideration for deportation in each year from 1999 to 2005. [68093]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what representations he has received from immigration Ministers on the pace of deportation of foreign prisoners since 1999. [73678]

(2) who in his Department is responsible for checking whether a foreign prisoner has been recommended for deportation by a court. [73679]

(3) what representations his office has received from employees of Immigration and Nationality Directorate on deportations of foreign prisoners since 1997. [73682]

(4) what instructions he gave to the Minister of Immigration on dealing with foreign prisoners recommended for deportation since December 2003. [73622]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, where the Home Secretary sets out his analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the released prisoners who should have been considered for deportation are from the Dorset area. [69308]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality department (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the foreign prisoners who were released without being considered for deportation are thought to be in Wales. [68645]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality department (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been deported to third countries, rather than that of their nationality in each of the last three years. [68657]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what proportion of his time he has spent on dealing with deportation of convicted foreign offenders since September 2005; [68663]

(2) how many hours he has spent on issues related to the release of foreign criminals to date; and how many hours he expects to spend working on this issue until the end of 2006. [68664]

(3) how many meetings he has *(a)* attended and *(b)* chaired on the release of foreign offenders since July 2005. [68665]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 8 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, where the Home Secretary sets out his analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether recommendation for deportations after sentence can be made in respect of EU nationals. [68801]

Mr. Byrne: Yes. A foreign national convicted of an offence who has been recommended for deportation can be liable to deportation under section 3(6) of the Immigration Act 1971.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals were released from HMP Wellingborough in each of the last 12 months; and how many were considered for deportation. [68920]

(2) what plans there are to release foreign nationals from HMP Wellingborough over the next six months. [68922]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 8 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his letter to the Speaker of 28 April 2006, on deportation and removal of foreign nationals, what definition he uses of more serious offences. [68926]

John Reid: My predecessor and I have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of

the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the right hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, where I set out my analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today I have also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convicted defendants in courts in England and Wales have *(a)* been recommended for deportation, *(b)* been deported and *(c)* appealed (i) successfully and (ii) unsuccessfully against notice of deportation in each of the last eight years. [68947]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners have been released from prisons in the East Riding of Yorkshire without being considered for deportation in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [69314]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign prisoners have been released on bail in each week since 25 April; how many have breached their bail conditions; how many have been taken back into custody; and whether each prisoner was originally convicted of *(a)* a serious, *(b)* a more serious, *(c)* a most serious and *(d)* another offence; [77125]

(2) how many of the 1,019 foreign prisoners released without being considered for deportation have been allowed to stay in the UK after being considered for deportation; and how many of these are subject to review; [77399]

(3) how many of the 1,019 foreign criminals released without being considered for deportation and subsequently detained have since been granted bail; [77400]

(4) how many of the 1,019 foreign prisoners released without consideration for deportation have been bailed subject to licensing requirements; [77401]

(5) how many of the most serious offenders of the 1,019 foreign prisoners released without being considered for deportation have not been detained; [77407]

(6) how many of the 83 more serious offenders released without being considered for deportation have been brought under control; [77408]

(7) what proportion of foreign criminals subject to deportation orders were deported in each of the last 10 years. [77416]

John Reid: I have updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his timetable is for introducing legislation to ensure that there is a legal presumption that foreign prisoners will be deported at the end of their sentences. [77409]

John Reid: My predecessor and I have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the right hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, where I set out my analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today I have also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals convicted in the Crown courts in England and Wales in each of the last eight years were recommended to the Home Secretary for deportation on completion of their sentences; what the crime committed by the offender was in each case; and on what date *(a)* they were deported and *(b)* he decided not to follow the recommendation. [77446]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many meetings his civil servants have had with chief constables to discuss the whereabouts of foreign offenders released without consideration for deportation; [68622]

(2) how many *(a)* meetings and *(b)* telephone calls he has had with Chief Constables to discuss the release of foreign offenders. [68623]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, where the Home Secretary sets out his analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will list the detention centres in which incarcerated foreign nationals released without being deported had been held; [68676]

(2) how many foreign nationals who were not deported on release from prison and who have subsequently been located by his Department had reoffended; and if he will make a statement. [68677]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether his Department received correspondence prior to 1 April from *(a)* members of the Prison Service, *(b)* members of the public and *(c)* members of the Department and its agencies alerting it to the non-implementation of deportation rules for incarcerated foreign nationals; and if he will make a statement; [68678]

(2) what discussions his Department had with other governments on the deportation of foreign nationals during the period when he has identified failures in following procedures; [68680]

(3) what instructions were issued to departmental officials once the failure to deport incarcerated foreign nationals had been identified; when such instructions were issued; and if he will make a statement. [68681]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, where the Home Secretary sets out his analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates foreign national offenders have been released from prison without consideration for deportation since July 2005; for what crime each was originally imprisoned; and what crime each has committed since their release. [68717]

John Reid: I have updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of the 79 foreign national offenders released from prison without consideration for deportation who had been in jail for serious offences were originally convicted of sex offences; for what offences each was originally convicted; how many have been traced; how many have been detained; and how many have been served with deportation orders; [68719]

(2) on what date he gave police forces the details of the 1,023 foreign national offenders who had been released from prison without consideration for deportation; [68718]

(3) how many foreign national offenders had been served with deportation orders but were instead released into the community in each year since 1999; how many of these were *(a)* monitored, *(b)* tagged and *(c)* given probation orders; and what offence each had committed; [68730]

(4) how many of the foreign national offenders previously convicted of serious offences have been detained; for what type of offence each was originally convicted; and what the date of detention of each was. [68723]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals who have been released from UK prisons since 1999 have subsequently applied for asylum in the UK; and what the country of origin was of the offenders; [68725]

(2) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 37WS, on deportation and removal of foreign nationals, how many foreign national criminals were *(a)* permitted to be in the UK, *(b)* had exceeded their leave to be in the UK and *(c)* were in the UK illegally when they were convicted and imprisoned; [68577]

(3) how many deportation orders for foreign offenders in UK prisons are awaiting processing by the immigration and nationality directorate; when the cases were brought to the attention of the immigration and nationality directorate; and what crimes had been committed; [68726]

(4) how many foreign offenders have appealed against deportation orders served against them in each year since 1999; and how many of these appeals were successful in each year; [68729]

(5) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 37WS, on deportation and removal of foreign nationals, how many foreign national criminals have been detained; for what type of offence each was originally convicted; and what the date of detention was of each; [68576]

(6) how many foreign national offenders have been deported having served their sentence in UK prisons in each year since 1999; and what the average length of time taken from the immigration and nationality directorate receiving details of the case to the deportation order being issued was in each year. [68727]

John Reid: I have updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national offenders in UK prisons are due to be deported by 1 January 2007; and what the country of origin is of each. [68732]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the right hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report* 446, column 77WS, where the Home Secretary sets out his analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals released after incarceration since 1997 who were not deported were asylum seekers subsequently granted *(a)* right to remain and *(b)* UK nationality; [68746]

(2) whether any foreign nationals who were not assessed for deportation on release from prison have been identified as linked with *(a)* organised crime and *(b)* international terrorism; [68748]

(3) how many foreign nationals released after incarceration since 1997 have not been deported, including those who have been fully processed; and how many have reoffended; [68749]

(4) what the nationalities are of the foreign national prisoners he has identified as not having been deported after release. [68682]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department takes to prevent foreign nationals who have been deported from the United Kingdom returning to the country using false identities; and if he will make a statement. [68761]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Departments handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, where the Home Secretary sets out his analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether foreign nationals who were not assessed for deportation after release from prison have been identified by *(a)* national and *(b)* foreign agencies as sought for (i) possible extradition and (ii) helping police with their inquiries. [68766]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign criminals released from prison in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years have not been considered for deportation. [69295]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 9 May 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out in this statement the eight priority areas for management action to deliver our long term agenda for change on radically improving the system for deporting foreign national prisoners. The sixth point deals specifically with the position in Scotland and Northern Ireland concerning foreign national prisoners. We shall update the House with our progress on this point shortly.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions take place when an overseas prisoner sentenced for crimes committed in the UK is returned to his country of origin to complete the remainder of his sentence as to the date of the release of such a person from prison; and if he will make a statement. [71015]

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library the instructions issued to judges and magistrates regarding recommendations on deportation for convicted criminals. [72073]

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when departmental ministers were first informed of the failure to deport incarcerated foreign nationals; what the method was for such notification; and when he was first briefed. [68679]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the hon. Members to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, where the Home Secretary sets out his analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign national prisoners have been held beyond the date of their scheduled release pending removal or deportation in each of the last five years; [77580]

(2) how many foreign national prisoners have been the subject of administrative removal following their sentence in each of the last five years; [77581]

(3) how many foreign national prisoners have been the subject of a deportation order issued by the Immigration Service in each of the last five years. [77582]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to his oral statement of 26 April 2006 on the deportation and removal of foreign nationals, how many of the foreign nationals recently released who were placed on the sex offenders register have complied with the terms of their release. [67390]

(2) how many of the foreign nationals recently released convicted of murder have been subject to supervision orders on release; and how many have complied with the terms of those orders. [67391]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the releases of foreign prisoners announced in his written statement on 26 April 2006 took place in the Leeds and Yorkshire region. [67612]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign prisoners have been released from Bullingdon prison without being considered for deportation in the last 12 months; [67210]

(2) how many foreign prisoners who have completed their sentences and have not been voluntarily deported remain at *(a)* Bullingdon Prison and *(b)* HM prisons in England and Wales. [67211]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals are held at HMP Long Lartin; and what proportion of the prison's population this represents; [67236]

(2) how many foreign nationals released from HMP Long Lartin since February 1999 have *(a)* been deported and *(b)* not been deported; and for what crimes they have been imprisoned. [67237]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are detained at HMP Peterborough; what percentage of the total prison population at HMP Peterborough this

represents; how many foreign nationals were released from HMP Peterborough in the 12 months to 31 March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [67311]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what level of resources have been diverted to tracking down the 1,023 foreign prisoners released without being considered for deportation. [67466]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, where the Home Secretary sets out his analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals released from prison in each year since February 1999 have subsequently reoffended, broken down by category of those subsequent offences in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Gloucestershire; [67474]

(2) how many foreign national criminals have been released from Gloucestershire prisons in each year since February 1999, broken down by *(a)* prison and *(b)* offence; [67477]

(3) how many foreign national criminals are being held in prison in Gloucestershire, broken down by *(a)* prison and *(b)* offence. [67478]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his written statement of 25 April 2006, *Official Report*, columns 37-8WS, on deportation and removal of foreign nationals, (1) how many foreign national prisoners have been released without the appropriate consideration of deportation or removal who on conviction had a previous home address in a London borough, broken down by *(a)* borough and *(b)* offence; and if he will make a statement; [67563]

(2) how many foreign national prisoners have been released from each London prison without the appropriate consideration of deportation or removal, broken down by offence; and if he will make a statement. [67564]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 2 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are being held in Bronzefield Prison in Ashford, broken down by offence; when each is due for release; and how many have been recommended by a judge for deportation. [67571]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the prisons which have not referred serious offenders for consideration for deportation prior to release; and if he will make a statement. [67572]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether all prisons routinely refer foreign national prisoners for consideration for deportation and removal; and if he will make a statement; [67574]

(2) what assessment he has made of the reasons for the non-referral of foreign national criminals for consideration for deportation or removal; and if he will make a statement; [67575]

(3) what instructions were issued to prisons on the procedures to be followed in relation to foreign national criminals and their consideration for deportation or removal prior to September 2004; and if he will make a statement; [67470]

(4) what target the immigration and nationality directorate sets for the period within which cases of failed asylum applicants in detention for criminal offences which are referred to them should be reviewed. [67569]

(5) whether there is an individual officer in the Prison Service with responsibility for referring foreign national criminals for consideration for deportation or removal; and if he will make a statement; [67578]

(6) what steps the immigration and nationality directorate has taken to ensure that travel documentation for failed asylum applicants in detention for criminal offences is issued in a timely fashion. [67495]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, where the Home Secretary sets out his analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his oral statement, *Official Report*, on 26 April 2006, how many foreign prisoners were released from each prison before a decision had been taken on their deportation. [67587]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 1 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Hogg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals released from prison since 1 August 2005 have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of criminal offences, broken down by offence; [67616]

(2) how many of the foreign nationals released since 1 July 2005 were the subject of a judicial recommendation that consideration should be given as to their deportation; and for what offences offenders subject to such a recommendation were convicted. [67666]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 2 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inmates have been deported on release from prisons in the UK in each week of 2006 to date. [67686]

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners whose sentence included a recommendation for deportation have been *(a)* released and *(b)* released onto parole from Shepton Mallet prison since 1999; and how many were duly deported. [67756]

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 1,023 foreign prisoners released from prison between February 1999 and March 2006 without being considered for deportation prior to their release *(a)* came to the UK (i) on a visitor's visa, (ii) on a work permit and (iii) as asylum seekers known to the authorities but not granted asylum, *(b)* were not known to the authorities before their arrests and *(c)* were citizens of other EU countries. [68493]

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners whose last residential address was in Ilford North *(a)* should have been assessed for deportation, *(b)* were assessed for deportation and *(c)* were deported on release from prison in each of the last five years. [68528]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) on how many occasions staff from the immigration and nationality directorate failed to attend a prison to process the release of a foreign offender in each month since January 1999; and if he will make a statement; [68873]

(2) how many visits were made by staff from the immigration and nationality directorate to prisons in England and Wales to process the release of foreign offenders in each month since January 1999; and if he will make a statement. [68874]

John Reid: My predecessor and I have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the right hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official report*, column 77WS, where I set out my analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today I have also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many of the foreign nationals convicted of offences in the UK *(a)* considered for deportation and *(b)* recommended by the courts for consideration for deportation in each year since 1997 subsequently claimed asylum in the UK; [68884]

(2) how many of the foreign nationals given non-custodial sentences and for whom deportation was recommended to be considered were deported in each of the last five years. [68914]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 8 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases foreign nationals were convicted and given non-custodial sentences in each of the last five years. [68915]

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals released from prison in the East Riding of Yorkshire in each year since February 1999 have subsequently re-offended, broken down by category of subsequent offence; [69315]

(2) how many of the foreign nationals released from prison whose whereabouts are known to his Department have been identified as living in the East Riding of Yorkshire; and if he will make a statement; [69316]

(3) how many foreign national criminals have been held in prisons in the East Riding of Yorkshire in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* prison and *(b)* offence; and if he will make a statement. [69317]

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign prisoners have been released from jails in Sussex without having their cases reviewed for deportation; [69382]

(2) how many foreign prisoners released without having their cases reviewed for deportation were *(a)* arrested in Sussex and *(b)* gave Sussex as their last address. [69383]

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the foreign national offenders released from prison without consideration for deportation were last known to be resident in the North Wales police area. [69429]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners *(a)* held in UK prisons and *(b)* released within the past 12 months who were recommended for deportation are citizens (i) of the EU accession countries and (ii) of other EU countries. [69855]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 11 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners whose last residential address was in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend, West (i) were recommended for consideration for deportation, (ii) were assessed for deportation, (iii) were deported and (iv) were not deported on release from prison in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [70151]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals *(a)* are serving and *(b)* have completed prison sentences in Lancashire for (i) murder, (ii) manslaughter, (iii) grievous bodily harm, (iv) rape and (v) sexual offences against children; and how many of those released in each category (A) were deported after release in each of the last five years and (B) served half their sentence or less. [70265]

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals convicted of offences in the UK and sentenced to imprisonment have been convicted of further offences in this country having been released from prison in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [70752]

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners were held in *(a)* HMP Hewell Grange, *(b)* HMP Brockhill and *(c)* HMP Blakenhurst in each year since 1997; and how many of those in each prison were (i) considered for deportation and (ii) deported in each year. [71058]

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners have been released from prison but not deported, broken down by police authority. [71354]

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners were released without due deportation review process, broken down by prison; and if any prisoners were granted provisions to facilitate onward passage from the main gate. [71401]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the

Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convicted prisoners recommended for deportation were transferred to open prisons in the last 12 months; and how many of these prisoners *(a)* absconded and *(b)* have not been recaptured. [78712]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the foreign nationals detained at *(a)* Highdown and *(b)* Downview prison on 1 July 2005 had been released by 1 April 2006; and how many of those released have subsequently been deported. [68061]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the foreign prisoners released into the community without proper application of the deportation review process were illegal immigrants. [71447]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to ensure that those prisoners who *(a)* entered and *(b)* remained in the country illegally are deported on completion of their sentences; and if he will make a statement. [64270]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, where the Home Secretary sets out his analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what plans he has to identify the nationality of those prisoners whose nationality is not currently recorded; [73529]

(2) what the standard procedure is for identifying the nationality of offenders when they are *(a)* arrested, *(b)* sentenced and *(c)* admitted to prison; and if he will make a statement. [73530]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and his predecessor have provided regular updates to the House on all aspects of the recent events concerning the Department's handling of the deportation of foreign national prisoners who were released without consideration. In particular I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS, where the Home Secretary sets out his analysis of the Department, the eight priority areas set out for management action to rectify these and required organisational improvements. In a written ministerial statement today my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has also updated the House on the latest statistical position in respect of this matter.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his statement of 23 May 2006, on Prisoners: Foreign Nationals, how many of the *(a)* serious and *(b)* most serious offenders are held in a custodial setting; and what the term 'under our control' means. [74643]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals *(a)* are serving and *(b)* have completed in each of the past five years, prison sentences in Hampshire for (i) murder, (ii) manslaughter, (iii) grievous bodily harm, (iv) rape and (v) sexual offences against children; and how many of those released in each category were deported after release. [68483]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 11 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national

prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners have been released from prison in Suffolk in the last five years. [69818]

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which prison each foreign prisoner released but not deported was last held. [69915]

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners are being held in each prison in Greater London. [70068]

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals sought for deportation by his Department were released from *(a)* Cardiff, *(b)* Bridgend and *(c)* Swansea prisons during the period 2004 to 2006. [74551]

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals are held in prisons in West Sussex; and how many of these are liable for deportation on release. [74991]

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 1,019 foreign prisoners released without consideration for deportation are now under police control; and if he will make a statement. [77122]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on these matters today in a written ministerial statement, and the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) has written to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee today on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on foreign travel by his Department in each of the last eight years. [76062]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that the figures for overseas travel for Home Office civil servants since 1998 are as provided in the following table.

The rise in expenditure reflects increased activity in football disorder spending, increased spending due to world cup preparations and banning order operations (CRCSG); increase in overseas travel of Juxtaposed Controls officers and Air Line Liaison officers (IND).

Juxtaposed Controls were set up as part of the strategy to reduce asylum intake and became fully operational from September 2004. The Controls are based at the Channel Tunnel, the French Seaports of Calais, Dunkerque and Boulogne and the Eurostar terminals at Brussels, Paris, Lille and Frethun. The Juxtaposed Controls counter and deter illegal migration, focusing equally on preventing clandestine illegal entrants and fraudulent use of documents.

Juxtaposed Controls in Calais provide a significant layer of security, increasing pressure on facilitators and racketeers who profit from attempting to smuggle people through to the UK. Facilitators are handed to the French Border Control law Enforcement Agency PAF, and appear in court soon after.

	Overseas (£)
1998	885,401
1999	1,433,681
2000	1,383,602
2001	2,070,148
2002	2,350,067
2003	4,447,233
2004	5,845,214
2005	7,187,896

Forensic Science Service

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what dividends were paid by the Forensic Science Service to Government in each of the past five years. [80326]

Joan Ryan: The dividends paid by the Forensic Science Service to the Government in each of the past five years are set out in the following table:

Dividends paid	*£000*
Period to 4 December 2005	3,834
Year end 31 March 2005	1,438
Year end 31 March 2004	1,438
Year end 31 March 2003	1,438
Year end 31 March 2002	1,438

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each police force in Wales has spent on fees to the Forensic Science Service in each of the past five years. [80418]

Joan Ryan: The Forensic Science Service (FSS) is no longer an Executive agency of the Home Office but is now a limited company, wholly owned by the Home Office. As such, it is a commercial organisation operating in a competitive environment. The information requested concerning the income generated from individual police forces could have adverse commercial consequences for the FSS if released and could serve to benefit private forensic science service providers who compete for business against the FSS, but who are not subject to parliamentary scrutiny in the same way. I am therefore unable to provide a detailed answer. However, it is open to the hon. Member to take up her inquiry direct with the chief executive of the FSS who, I am sure, will be prepared to provide as much information as is consistent with the principles of commercial confidentiality.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the income received by the Forensic Science Service came from police forces in England and Wales in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [80419]

Joan Ryan: The percentage of the income received by the Forensic Science Service, which came from police

forces in England and Wales in each of the last five years, is displayed in the following table:

Forensic Science Service percentage income: police forces

	Percentage
Period to 4 December 2005	90.9
Year end 31 March 2005	90.1
Year end 31 March 2004	91.6
Year end 31 March 2003	92.8
Year end 31 March 2002	91.1

Gibraltar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Gibraltar residents have taken up residence in the UK in each of the last seven years. [56835]

Mr. Byrne: We do not collect data on Gibraltar residents who take up residence in the UK.

Knife Amnesty

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives have been handed in during the amnesty in *(a)* Kingston and Surbiton constituency, *(b)* South West London and *(c)* London. [80965]

Mr. Coaker: Figures for the number of items handed in during the first week of the knife amnesty were published on 16 June 2006. These figures are collected at police force level. The Metropolitan Police reported that 772 items had been surrendered in the first week of the knife amnesty. The total number of items handed in England and Wales was 17,715.

National Wildlife Crime Intelligence Unit

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely impact on the investigation of organised wildlife crime of the decision not to include the National Wildlife Crime Intelligence Unit within the new Serious Organised Crime Agency. [80768]

Mr. Coaker: During the creation of SOCA, discussions took place with stakeholders about the best arrangements for the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU). It was agreed this particular issue would be led by the police with other agencies working with them.

Research Budget

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the Department's budget was spent on researching new technologies in the last period for which figures are available. [76811]

Joan Ryan: For the latest Government-wide figures on the percentage of Government expenditure researching new technologies, I refer to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 21 June 2006 showing R and D expenditure broken down by department for 2003-04. The Home Office figure in that table did not separately identify or estimate the research expenditure on new technologies from the Government services category. Overall the table shows the Home Office spent 0.64 per cent. of its budget on R and D work in 2003-04.

Further breakdowns on planned expenditure on Science and Technology, in the Home Office and its agencies are set out in our latest Science and Innovation strategy 2005-08 available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/science-strategy. pdf?view=Binary

Analysis of net Government R & D expenditure by primary purpose and department: 2003-04

	Primary purpose A[1]: General support (£ million)	*As percentage of total department budget*	*Primary purpose B[2]: Government services (£ million)*	*As percentage of total department budget*	*Primary purpose C[3]: Policy support (£ million)*	*As percentage of total department budget*
Civil departments						
DEFRA	16.9	0.33	6.0	0.12	128.8	2.52
DfES	—	—	17.0	3.23	33.8	6.42
ODPM	0.3	0.01	3.2	0.07	26.9	0.61
DfT	0.1	0.00	10.6	0.16	41.0	0.61
DH (includes NHS)	2.8	0.00	557.6	0.95	31.4	0.05
DWP (formerly DSS)	—	—	12.1	0.01	6.4	0.01
HSC	—	—	—	—	14.1	7.24
HO	—	—	42.2	0.56	5.7	0.08
DCMS (formerly DNH)	6.2	0.22	0.8	0.03	7.4	0.26
DFID (formerly ODA)	—	—	214.9	5.49	0.0	0.00

Analysis of net Government R & D expenditure by primary purpose and department: 2003-04

	Primary purpose A[1]: General support (£ million)	*As percentage of total department budget*	*Primary purpose B[2]: Government services (£ million)*	*As percentage of total department budget*	*Primary purpose C[3]: Policy support (£ million)*	*As percentage of total department budget*
DTI (ex OST)	—	—	—	—	15.7	0.39
NI departments	—	—	1.6	0.01	19.1	0.16
SE (formerly SO)	17.5	0.13	52.2	0.38	20.5	0.15
NAW (formerly WO)	4.5	0.07	18.1	0.28	8.5	0.13
FSA	—	—	—	—	—	n/a
Other departments	1.3	0.00	13.3	0.04	11.4	0.04
Total	49.7	0.03	949.5	0.55	370.8	0.23
MOD	—	—	2,676.6	8.92	—	—
Total	3,597.5	1.58	3,733.9	1.64	421.6	0.19

	Primary purpose D4: Technology support (£ million)	*As percentage of total department budget*	*Total R & D (£ million)*	*As percentage of total department budget*
Civil departments				
DEFRA	29.2	0.57	181.0	3.55
DfES	1.2	0.23	52.0	9.88
ODPM	—	—	30.4	0.69
DfT	7.1	0.11	58.8	0.88
DH (includes NHS)	1.1	0.00	593.0	1.01
DWP (formerly DSS)	—	—	18.4	0.02
HSC	—	—	14.1	7.24
HO	—	—	48.0	0.64
DCMS (formerly DNH)	—	—	15.2	0.54
DFID (formerly ODA)	—	—	214.9	5.49
DTI (ex OST)	455.0	11.34	470.8	11.73
NI departments	—	—	20.6	0.18
SE (formerly SO)	38.3	0.28	128.5	0.93
NAW (formerly WO)	—	—	31.1	0.47
FSA	—	—	—	n/a
Other departments	4.2	0.01	30.2	0.09
Total	537.0	0.31	1,907.1	1.11
MOD	—	—	2,676.6	8.92
Total	610.4	0.27	8,363.4	3.68

n/a = not applicable.

[1] Primary Purpose A, general support for research-all basic and applied R & D which advances knowledge for its own sake; support for postgraduate research studentships (PhDs).

[2] Primary Purpose B, Government services-R & D relevant to any aspect of Government service provision (all defence included here).

[3] Primary Purpose C, policy support-R & D which Government funds to inform policy (excluding ppB and ppD) and for monitoring developments of significance for the welfare of the population.

[4] Primary Purpose D, technology support-applied R & D that advances technology underpinning the UK economy (but excluding defence). The category includes strategic as well as applied research, and pre-competitive research under schemes such as LINK.

Source:

ONS Government R & D Survey

Sexual Assaults (Recovery Centres)

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* rape crisis and *(b)* sexual assault recovery centres supported by his Department there are in England and Wales; and where they are located; [80735]

(2) what funding for *(a)* rape crisis and *(b)* sexual assault recovery centres his Department has provided in each financial year since 1997; [80736]

(3) what the *(a)* purpose is and *(b)* objectives are of (i) rape crisis and (ii) sexual assault recovery centres funded by his Department. [80737]

Mr. Coaker: Details of the names, locations and funding awarded to sexual assault referral centres and rape crisis organisations are provided in the following table. This information dates back to 2001-02 for rape crisis and to 2003-04 for sexual assault referral centres. Information preceding this is not readily available. The overall purpose of sexual assault referral centres is to deliver a holistic and high quality service to victims of rape and sexual assault including medical care, counselling and support, and to provide enhanced facilities for gathering evidence. Rape crisis provides a network of co-ordination, support and advocacy for member voluntary and community organisations. Each rape crisis centre and sexual assault referral centre will have its own objectives.

Funding for sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) and rape crisis centres

	Location	Amount (£)
SARC		
2003-04		
Rowan Centre	Walsall, West Midlands	50,000
Renton Clinic	Dartford, Kent	30,000
Millfield House	Codnor, Derbyshire	20,000
Rivergate Centre (now closed)	Peterborough, Cambridgeshire	20,000
Hampshire SARC (under development)	Portsmouth, Hampshire	50,000
Juniper Lodge	Leicester, Leicestershire	16,500
Reach	Newcastle, Northumbria	16,500
SAFE Centre	Preston, Lancashire	17,000
	Total	220,000
2004-05		
New Pathways—Willow House	Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales	70,000
Meadowfield Suite	Durham	70,000
Swindon Sanctuary	Swindon, Wiltshire	70,000
St. Mary's	Manchester, Greater Manchester	20,000
SAFE Centre	Preston, Lancashire	20,000
Haven Whitechapel and Haven Paddington	London	40,000
Millfield House	Codnor, Derbyshire	20,000
	Total	310,000
2005-06		
Project Amethyst (children)	North West London	50,000
St. Mary's (children)	Manchester, Greater Manchester	50,000
St. Mary's (adult)	Manchester, Greater Manchester	7,000
Calderdale Women's Centre (under development)	Calderdale, West Yorkshire	70,000
Kirklees (under development)	Kirklees, West Yorkshire	70,000
Cleveland (under development)	Middlesbrough, Cleveland	70,000
Laburnum House	Risca, Gwent	70,000
North Wales SARC (under development)	Colwyn Bay, North Wales	70,000
Lift Project (under development)	Hanley, Staffordshire	24,000
Juniper Lodge	Leicester, Leicestershire	20,000
Millfield House	Codnor, Derbyshire	26,098
New Pathways—Willow House	Merthyr Tydfil, South Wales	35,000
Haven Camberwell, Haven Paddington, Haven Whitechapel	London	55,500
SAFE Centre	Preston, Lancashire	18,408
Rowan Centre	Walsall, West Midlands	35,000
Meadowfield Suite	Durham	2,474
REACH (adult)	Newcastle, Northumbria	14,350
REACH (children)	Newcastle, Northumbria	20,000
Renton Clinic	Dartford, Kent	1,270
	Total	709,100
	Grand Total	1,239,100
Rape Crisis Branch		
2001-02		
Rape Crisis Federation	National	406,000
2002-03		
Rape Crisis Federation	National	432,000
2003-04		
Rape Crisis Federation	National	209,800
2004-05		
Colchester Rape Crisis Line	Colchester	35,450
Cornwall Rape and Sexual Abuse	Cornwall	8,120
Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse centre	Coventry	4,910
Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service	Doncaster	3,066
Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis	Grimsby	6,102
Merseyside Rape and Sexual abuse Centre	Merseyside	12,672
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	Warrington	5,995
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	Warrington	7,745
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	Croydon	27,080
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	North West Wales	7,685
Rape and Sexual Violence Project	Birmingham	12,500
The Rape Crisis Co-ordination Group	National	18,200
Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse C.S.	Southampton	3,700
South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre	South Essex	31,520
Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	Worcestershire	23,439
	Total	209,184

Funding for sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) and rape crisis centres

	Location	Amount (£)
2005-06		
Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis centre	Barnsley	40,000
Colchester rape Crisis line	Colchester	35,000
Cornwall Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	Cornwall	36,110
Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service	Doncaster	36,150
Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis	Grimsby	24,405
Manchester Rape Crisis	Manchester	30,000
Merseyside rape and Sexual Abuse Centre	Merseyside	22,500
Nottingham Rape Crisis	Nottingham	26,515
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Guildford	Guilford	40,000
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Warrington	Warrington	40,000
Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre Warrington	Warrington	35,000
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre Croydon	Croydon	40,000
Rape and Sexual Abuse support Centre North West Wales	North West Wales	35,000
Rape and Sexual Violence Project Birmingham	Birmingham	40,000
The Rape Crisis Co-ordination Group	National	30,000
Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service	Southampton	35,000
South Essex Rape and Incest Centre	—	30,000
West Cumbria Rape Crisis	Cumbria	35,000
Worcestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	Worcestershire	24,142
	Total	634,822
2006-07		
The Winchester RASAC	South East Winchester	30,000
South Essex Rape and Incest Crisis Centre	East of England (Thurrock Basildon and Brentwood)	30,000
Wycombe Rape Crisis	South East (South Buckinghamshire, Reading, Slough and Bracknell)	26,750
Doncaster Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre	Yorkshire and the Humber	30,000
Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre	East Midlands Nottingham	30,000
Aylesbury Vale Rape Crisis	South East Aylesbury	24,300
Bradford Rape Crisis and Sexual Assault Survivors	Yorkshire and the Humberside	30,000
Gloucestershire Rape Crisis Centre	South West Gloucestershire	10,000
Tyneside Rape Crisis Centre	North East Tyneside	29,988
Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis	Yorkshire and Humberside Grimsby and Scunthorpe	29,930
Rape Crisis Co-ordination Group England and Wales	National	30,000
Colchester Rape Crisis	East of England Colchester	30,000
Peterborough Rape Crisis Counselling Group	East of England Peterborough	20,000
	Total	350,968
	Grand Total Rape Crisis	1,194,974
	Grand Total Rape Crisis and SARCs	2,434,074

Note:
Rape crisis organisations (other sexual violence voluntary sector organisations were also given grants but are not detailed here as this information was not requested).

Violent Deaths

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been killed in England and Wales in each year since 1990 by the use of *(a)* a knife, *(b)* a gun and *(c)* another weapon. [78337]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to offences currently recorded as homicide that were caused by *(a)* a sharp instrument, which includes other sharp instruments as well as knives, *(b)* shooting, which includes crossbows as well as guns, and *(c)* all other methods.

Data on apparent method of killing are released annually in a Supplementary Volume to the 'Crime in England and Wales' publication. Information for the period 1990 to 2004-05 are given in the following tables.

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and sex of victim: England and Wales, 1990 to 2004-05[2]

Number

Apparent method	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Sharp instrument	178	217	218	182	231	243	197	200
Blunt instrument	74	62	50	66	55	78	68	71
Hitting, kicking, etc.	94	116	117	97	94	106	81	99
Strangulation[3]	81	94	79	89	104	83	77	64
Shooting[4]	59	50	52	71	63	66	47	58
Explosion	2	1	4	3	—	1	2	1
Burning	28	33	21	14	39	33	24	29
Drowning[5]	4	8	14	6	13	3	9	7
Poison or drugs[6]	9	19	11	9	17	16	28	17

Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and sex of victim: England and Wales, 1990 to 2004-05[2]

Number

Apparent method	*1990*	*1991*	*1992*	*1993*	*1994*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*
Motor vehicle[7]	12	13	9	9	5	6	2	12
Other	7	8	4	14	4	19	44	37
Not known	7	2	2	5	7	9	6	14
Total	555	623	581	565	632	663	585	609

Number

Apparent method	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Sharp instrument	202	201	212	214	261	266	234	236
Blunt instrument	68	65	70	76	60	47	68	61
Hitting, kicking, etc.	103	89	94	102	146	147	133	124
Strangulation[3]	61	78	56	148	77	64	67	60
Shooting[4]	52	46	61	72	97	75	69	77
Explosion	1	2	4	—	1	4	—	2
Burning	28	32	13	18	29	22	30	34
Drowning[5]	6	6	6	9	12	6	24	14
Poison or drugs[6]	17	47	53	32	33	201	22	30
Motor vehicle[7]	13	14	11	18	20	21	22	20
Other	38	43	41	68	37	51	47	45
Not known	19	23	53	14	31	49	77	117
Total	608	646	674	771	804	953	793	820

[1] As at 28 November 2005; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[2] Data taken from Home Office publications: 1994 to 2004-05 from HOSB 02/06; 1993 from HOSB 02/05; 1992 from HOSB 01/04; 1991 from HOSB 01/03; 1990 from CM 5312.
[3] Including asphyxiation. Year 2000-01 includes 58 Chinese nationals who collectively suffocated in a lorry en route into the UK.
[4] These figures may not agree with those in the firearms chapter because (a) figures include cases where the firearm was used as a blunt instrument and (b) homicide figures include shooting by crossbows and are compiled at a later date and take into account the results of police and court decisions.
[5] Year 2003-04 includes 20 cockle pickers who drowned in Morecambe Bay.
[6] Year 2002-03 includes 172 victims of Dr. Harold Shipman.
[7] Excluding death by careless/dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking.

War Criminals

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which convicted war criminals are serving sentences in the UK; how long a sentence each is serving; and where each is held. [80994]

Joan Ryan: There are two prisoners currently serving sentences of imprisonment in the UK for crimes falling within this description. Radislav Krstic is serving a 35 year sentence for crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia. The prisoner was transferred to the UK in 2004 in accordance with the Sentence Enforcement Agreement between the UK and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. Farayadi Sawar Zardad, serving a sentence of 20 years, was convicted in the UK of crimes committed in Afghanistan. It would be inappropriate for operational reasons to disclose the prisons in which they are held.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 3 July 2006

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Alcoholism

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will commission an inquiry into the effects of alcoholism on children and families and to explore possible solutions. [79327]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are aware that the quality of a parent-child relationship has a significant impact on the child's health and well-being. With this in mind, through the new provisions of the Children Act 2004 and 'Every Child Matters' Change for Children programme, we are building a much stronger statutory and multi-agency framework that will strengthen services for all children in need, and in need of protection, including those affected by alcoholism.

The effects of alcoholism are well understood and the Government are committed to working with local frontline services to support children and families affected.

A-levels

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the planned harder questions at A-level for advanced students will be *(a)* sat as separate exams and *(b)* included as additional questions on examination papers sat by all students. [81772]

Jim Knight: We received advice from QCA on A-level stretch and challenge last year and in January. Ministers agreed to trial three options: a separate section at the end of A-level papers; a separate paper; incorporate harder questions into all A2 papers and add to grading scale. QCA will begin to trial/model these options from the autumn through to February 2007.

The changes to A-levels will build upon the strengths of the existing qualifications in order to increase stretch and challenge, to provide greater differentiation in order to help universities choose between candidates with similar results.

BECTA

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the work of the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency. [80863]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 28 June 2006]:* In line with Government practice that some non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) were reviewed every five years, the Department conducted an overall assessment of the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA) which was published in March 2003. Copies of the report are lodged in the House of Commons Library.

Becta's work is assessed through the governance and programme management arrangements that the Department has in place, which include:

representation as an assessor on Becta's Board by the Department's Technology Group Director;

regular business reviews of Becta's delivery against the Department's priorities.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to replace the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency inclusion team with a new support team for special educational needs; and if he will make a statement. [80861]

Phil Hope: The British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA) is a non-departmental public body responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of my e-strategy priorities in education and children's services—which includes support for all learners including those with special educational needs. BECTA's internal organisational structures are a matter for the organisation.

Building Schools for the Future

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what guidelines he has issued to the local authorities asked to participate in the Building Schools for the Future programme on the renovation of sports facilities; [79705]

(2) what recent discussions he has held with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the renovation of school sports facilities; and if he will make a statement; [79706]

(3) whether schools which have received grants under the New Opportunities Fund for Physical Education and Sport are eligible for funding from the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [79707]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* The Building Schools for the Future programme adopts an area approach to transforming secondary provision. For each phase of the programme, local authorities are required to develop an educational vision in line with our guidance, which takes into account a range of policy areas, including PE and sport facilities, and community use. Our Building Schools for the Future guidance to local authorities covers the preparation of educational visions, joining up all potential sources of funding and the design of school buildings and facilities. All of our guidance documents make clear that schools and local authorities should consider the extent to which any proposed new or refurbished facilities will enable all pupils to take part in at least two hours each week of high quality PE and sport, and

if they want to, up to four hours including out of normal school hours. Authorities' plans are subject to rigorous challenge before projects can proceed to procurement.

Ministers from this Department meet regularly with our Culture, Media and Sport counterparts to discuss our joint schools' PE and sports strategy, including curriculum matters and the community use of facilities.

Schools which have received investment through other sources of funding such as the Big Lottery Fund (formerly the New Opportunities Fund) are still eligible for Building Schools for the Future investment. We encourage local authorities and schools in Building Schools for the Future to seek other sources of funding to join up with their projects. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Big Lottery Fund contribute to our guidance, which also seeks to ensure that investment from various sources remains complementary.

Child Care

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research into the child care market his Department has commissioned in the past 12 months; what research reports have been published; and if he will make a statement. [80313]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Department is highly committed to furthering our understanding of the child care market to enable the effective development and implementation of policy in this area.

To help achieve this the Department has commissioned a number of studies in this area in the past 12 months. These are:

2006-08 Survey of Childcare and Early Years Providers;

Evaluation of the London Childcare Affordability Pilot;

The Childcare Market.

The Department has also published the following research reports in this area:

A Longitudinal Study of Local Childcare Markets (June 2005);

Childcare and Early Years Provision: A Study of Parents' Use, Views and Experiences (March 2006);

2005 Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey (May 2006).

These reports are available on the DfES website at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/

City Technology Colleges

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many admission appeals there have been in each City Technology College in each year since they opened. [81462]

Jim Knight: City Technology Colleges (CTCs) are independent schools. The Department does not hold this information.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with the Treasury regarding the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007; and if he will make a statement. [81771]

Alan Johnson: I have had and will continue to have regular discussions with the Treasury about the key challenges and issues for the Comprehensive Spending Review period and about the work programme that the Treasury and my Department are engaged in as part of the Review.

Construction-related NVQs

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many women began construction-related NVQs at *(a)* Level 1, *(b)* Level 2, *(c)* Level 3 and *(d)* Technical Level in (i) England and (ii) Merseyside in each year since 2001-02, broken down by age; and how many completed those courses. [80608]

Phil Hope: 40 per cent. of apprentices are female but we recognise there are some major imbalances in different occupations. One of the ways we are addressing this is working with the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and sector bodies to improve information, broaden choice and explore more flexible Apprenticeship learning opportunities. These include new entry arrangements into Apprenticeships to help young people develop skills before they find an employer. We are also trialling Apprenticeships for more mature workers.

The LSC maintain a website detailing starts, leavers and completions of individual frameworks http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/partners/frameworks/apprenticeshipsdata/ However, published figures are not broken down to the level of detail requested. For this reason Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Libraries.

Letter from Rob Wye, dated 28 June 2006:

I am responding on behalf of Mark Haysom, due to him currently being on annual leave, to your Parliamentary Question that asked the number of completed Heavy Vehicle Fitter Apprenticeships in England and Greater Merseyside, broken down by gender in each of the last 5 years.

The Vehicle Fitting Apprenticeship framework was implemented on 1st September 2005. This is in effect its first year for apprentices to enrol onto and as yet there is no usable framework completion data at any geographical level.

Prior to 1st September 2005 there were more generic Apprenticeship frameworks in operation for the Retail Motor Industry. An analysis of these framework completions where the NVQ within the framework is for "Vehicle Fitting" shows the following results,

	Greater Merseyside		*England*	
	Female	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*
2002/03	0 (0%)	10 (100%)	0 (2%)	60 (98%)
2003/04	0 (0%)	10 (100%)	0 (1%)	120 (99%)
2004/05	0 (0%)	30 (100%)	0 (0%)	240 (99%)

Table 1: Automotive Industry Frameworks completed with a Vehicle Fitting NVQ as the main aim (Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 for reasons of disclosure)

Source:
LSC WBLILR.

Specific information regarding heavy vehicle fitting is not available at framework level or at NVQ qualification level, hence this response can only look at vehicle fitting in general.

The Learning and Skills Council publishes regular statistical information on Apprenticeships including framework completion data on its website (www.apprenticeships.org.uk). The information is provided for each Apprenticeship framework and as such the volume of completers nationally will be provided in future updates.

Consistent and high quality data is only available from the first full academic year following the commencement of the Learning and Skills Council in April 2001. For this reason the table above only shows information for the past three full academic years.

I trust this provides the information you require.

Departmental Guidance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many separate pieces of guidance to schools have been issued by his Department in each of the last nine years. [80039]

Jim Knight: The number of documents sent automatically to all primary and all secondary schools is detailed in the following table. Where a document has been sent to both primary and secondary schools it will appear in the totals for both.

	Primary	*Secondary*
1997-98	86	85
1998-99	96	115
1999-2000	146	164
2000-01	47	48
2001-02	55	54
2002-03	39	43
2003-04	31	38
2004-05	0	0

The Department only sends hard copy publications automatieally to schools in England in exceptional cases having stopped regular paper mailings in December 2004. Discussions with Head teachers and detailed research showed that schools wanted to be able to choose the printed publications they needed, when they needed them, and to be able to order multiple copies.

The online ordering system enables schools to choose whether to download electronic copies or order the paper based publications they need at the right time for them and in the multiples they require. This system is linked directly to the fulfilment service and an existing telephone ordering line. A fortnightly email service to schools informs them of new and important publications.

This has resulted in schools being able to order a wider variety of publications from the Department, putting schools in direct control of what they receive, when they receive it.

Departmental Information

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many documents were sent from his Department to head teachers of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) hard copy and (ii) via e-mail in the past 12 months. [80457]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Department sent 27 e-mails automatically to all primary and secondary schools within the last 12 months. These e-mails provided schools with a regular update on the information and resources available to them online and in hard copy. No hard copy documents were sent to all schools in the last 12 months.

The Department only sends hard copy publications automatically to all primary and secondary schools in England in exceptional cases having stopped regular paper mailings in December 2004. Discussions with head teachers and detailed research showed that schools wanted to be able to choose the printed publications they needed, when they needed them, and to be able to order multiple copies.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many circulars were sent by his Department to schools via email in the past 12 months. [80465]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Department sent 27 emails automatically to all primary and secondary schools within the last 12 months. These emails provided schools with a regular update on the information and resources available to them online and in hard copy.

The Department only sends hard copy publications automatically to schools in England in exceptional cases having stopped regular paper mailings in December 2004. Discussions with head teachers and detailed research showed that schools wanted to be able to choose the printed publications they needed, when they needed them, and to be able to order multiple copies.

The online ordering system enables schools to choose whether to download electronic copies or order the paper based publications they need at the right time for them and in the multiples they require. This system is linked directly to the fulfilment service and an existing telephone ordering line. A fortnightly email service to schools informs them of new and important publications. This has resulted in schools being able to order a wider variety of publications from the Department, putting schools in direct control of what they receive, when they receive it.

Edexcel

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils will sit at least one *(a)* GCSE, *(b)* AS and *(c)* A-level examination paper written by Edexcel in the summer of 2006; and what proportion that figure represents of all pupils taking each level of examination. [82003]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), through the National Assessment Agency, regularly collects during the examination series data from the unitary awarding bodies in England on the total number of candidates entered for GCE and GCSE examinations. It does not, however, hold data on how many individual pupils sit at least one GCSE, AS or A-level paper.

Provided as follows is the number of entries for each examination unit and the number of candidates seeking a qualification award in summer 2006. (The figures are provisional.)

	GCSE	GCE
Number of candidates seeking a qualification award in summer 2006	5,375,671	1,845,066
Number of candidates seeking an Edexcel qualification award	1,313,017	492,398
Percentage	24.43	26.67
Total number of unit entries for examinations in summer 2006	4,918,441	5,931,144
Total number of unit entries for Edexcel examinations	1,840,225	1,698,438
Percentage	37.41	28.64

Education Act 1996

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the operation of section *(a)* 444 and *(b)* 509 of the Education Act 1996; what recent representations he has received about the operation of this Act; and whether he has plans to amend this Act. [80417]

Jim Knight: These sections of the Education Act 1996 deal with school attendance and school transport. We believe that parents must take responsibility for their children's attendance at school. Where children do not attend school regularly, a prosecution or a penalty notice under section 444 may be needed if parents are not doing their best to ensure that their child attends school.

The Department receives representations from a range of sources, including pupils, parents, local authorities and MPs about the operation of sections 444 and 509. There is widespread agreement that the transport provisions are out of date.

The Education and Inspections Bill includes amendments to sections 444 and 509 of the Education Act 1996. These will confirm that it is for a parent to prove that they have a good reason for failing to ensure their child attends school. The Bill also extends the right to free transport for low-income groups, and clarifies local authority duties relating to school transport.

Education Legislation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* Green Papers, *(b)* White Papers and *(c)* Bills on education have been produced since May 1997. [80455]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The following table shows a list of Green and White Papers. Information on all Bills produced is not readily available, but a list of Acts on education is included.

	Title	Publication date
Green papers		
Cm. 3785	Excellence for all children—meeting special educational needs	22 October 1997
Cm. 3790	The learning age: a renaissance for a new Britain.	25 February 1998
Cm. 4164	Teachers—meeting the challenge of change	3 December 1998
Cm. 5050	Schools—building on success	12 February 2001
Cm. 5342	14-19 extending opportunities, raising standards	12 February 2002
Cm. 5810	21st century skills—realising our potential	9 July 2003
Cm. 6273	Parental separation: children's needs and parents' responsibilities.	21 July 2004
Cm. 6629	Youth matters	18 July 2005
Cm. 6702	Reducing re-offending through skills and employment	15 December 2005
White papers		
Cm. 3681	Excellence in schools	7 July 1997
Cm. 4392	Learning to succeed: a new framework for post-16 learning	30 June 1999
Cm. 5052	Opportunity for all in a world of change.	13 February 2001
Cm. 5230	Schools achieving success	5 September 2001
Cm. 5735	The future of higher education	22 January 2003
Cm. 6476	14-19 education and skills	23 February 2005
Cm. 6483	Skills: getting on in business, getting on at work	22 March 2005
Cm. 6677	Higher standards, better schools for all: more choice for parents and pupils	25 October 2005
Cm. 6768	Further education: raising skills, improving life chances	27 March 2006
Acts/Bills		
	Education (Schools) Act 1997	
	Education (Student Loans) Act 1998	
	Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998	
	School Standards and Framework Act 1998	
	Learning and Skills Act 2000	
	Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001	
	Education Act 2002	
	Higher Education Act 2004	
	Education Act 2005	
	Education and Inspections Bill	

Education Maintenance Allowance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students aged 16 years or above were receiving education maintenance allowances in each *(a)* school and *(b)* college in the City of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (i) at the start of the school year in 2005-06 and (ii) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [75214]

Mr. Dhanda: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate education maintenance allowances for the DfES and hold the information about take-up of the scheme. Mark Haysom, the council's Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked "how many students aged 16 years or above were receiving education maintenance allowances in each (a) school and (b) college in the City of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (i) at the start of the school year in 2005-06 and (ii) on the most recent date for which figures are available".

By the end of April 2006, 3,113 young people received one or more EMA payment with schools or colleges in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne area during the academic year 2005/06.

The attached table displays the data for EMA take-up for all schools and colleges in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne area at the end of October 05 and at the end of March 06. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payment in the academic year 2005/06.

School/college	*Take-up at September 2005*	*Take-up at April 2006*
Gosforth High School	185	207
Walbottle Campus Technology College	76	83
Walker Technology College	85	98
Benfield School	50	53
Kenton School	157	177
Heaton Manor School	106	120
West Gate Community College	45	51
St. Mary's Catholic Comprehensive School	35	39
St. Cuthbert's High School	64	69
Sacred Heart High School	111	121
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Church High School	10	15
La Sagesse School	10	10
Westfield School	8	10
Central Newcastle High School	16	18
Dame Allan's Boys' School	21	25
Royal Grammar School	28	30
Northern Counties School	9	9
Newcastle College	1,553	1,908
Trinity School	1	2
Sir Charles Parsons School	14	14
Thomas Bewick School	4	6
All Saints College	36	41
Newcastle Bridges School	1	2
Talbot House School Newcastle	0	0
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	0	0
Sage Academy of Performing Arts	4	5
Total	2,629	3,113

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many residents of Stroud constituency are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* in receipt of education maintenance allowance. [77821]

Mr. Dhanda: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate Education Maintenance Allowances for the DfES and hold the information about take-up of the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, has written to the my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Rob Wye, dated 28 June 2006:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked "how many residents of Stroud constituency are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* in receipt of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received EMA is available at Local Authority (LA) level, but not at constituency level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payment in the academic year 2005/06.

Projections of the number of young people eligible for EMA are formed by applying income distributions (derived from the Family Resources Survey) and expected numbers in full-time further education. When applied to individual localities the figures may be subject to some variation but they provide a useful estimate.

The following table displays the data for Gloucestershire.

Eligibility for EMA in 2005/06

	Gloucestershire LA
Projected number eligible	4,654
Actual take-up	3,821

[1] By end of June 2006.

In practice, not all eligible young people will take up EMA. For modelling purposes we therefore take account of what the actual take-up was in the previous year. In 2004/05 the take-up in Gloucestershire was 2,125 and on this basis we expected take-up in 2005/06 to be 3,850.

I trust this information is helpful.

English Language Support

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much funding his Department has provided for English as an additional language support in schools in *(a)* England and *(b)* the London borough of Newham in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07; [80627]

(2) whether his Department plans to increase funding for English as an additional language support in schools. [80628]

Jim Knight: Schools receive funding to provide English as an additional language (EAL) support to

their pupils through two sources: mainstream school funding and the ethnic minority achievement grant (EMAG).

Mainstream school funding is calculated to take account of the additional cost of support required by pupils, EAL needs.

Figures below for 2004-05 and 2005-06 represent the funding allocated through the EAL part of the education formula spending. The changes to school funding following the introduction of the dedicated schools grant in 2006-07 mean that it is no longer possible to identify the exact proportions of the overall funding allocated on the basis of EAL. For illustrative purposes, however, an estimate is provided below for 2006-07:

		£ million
Programme year	*England*	*Newham*
2004-05	257.651	11.081
2005-06	282.693	11.81
2006-07	305.000	12.400

Mainstream school funding through the dedicated school grant has increased by 6.8 per cent. per pupil in 2006-07 and 6.7 per cent. in 2007-08. Funding levels beyond 2007-08 are subject to the outcomes of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Each local authority receives an ethnic minority achievement grant (EMAG), which must be used to support underachieving minority ethnic pupils and pupils with EAL needs. Local authorities are required to pass 85 per cent. of their allocation to schools using a locally agreed formula. Newham's EMAG allocation has increased significantly and well above the rate of inflation over the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 and will increase further in 2007-08. Allocations beyond 2007-08 are subject to the outcomes of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

		£ million
	National	*Newham*
2004-05	162	2
2005-06	168	3
2006-07	178	3.9
2007-08	188	4.5

European Cultural Identity

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to promote *(a)* European cultural identity and *(b)* positive attitudes to (i) mathematics, (ii) foreign languages and (iii) the English language. [79930]

Jim Knight: Promoting cultural identity is an integral and important part of the way languages are taught and studied in England. Intercultural understanding is promoted at each key stage. For example, at Key Stage 2 intercultural understanding is one of the five key strands of the Key Stage 2 Framework for Languages. At Key Stage 3 the programme of study, produced by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), states that pupils should make progress in developing cultural awareness, and in QCA's Key Stage 4 document, "Modern foreign languages in the Key Stage 4 curriculum", it states that studying languages develops students' understanding and appreciation of different countries, cultures and communities, making students aware that they are citizens of the world as well as of the United Kingdom.

Citizenship teaching is compulsory at Key Stages 3 and 4. Pupils are taught about the world as a global community, and the political, economic, environmental and social implications of this, and the role of the European Union, the Commonwealth and the United Nations and about the United Kingdom's relations in Europe, including the European Union, and relations with the Commonwealth and the United Nations. Through the citizenship curriculum, pupils are also taught to think about political and cultural issues which could include a discussion about cultural identity. It is also possible for European cultural identity to be taught through the non-statutory framework for PSHE, which covers teaching about and developing a sense of their own identity.

Following on from the recommendations of the Adrian Smith report on mathematics, published in 2004, and our 14-19 White Paper, we have appointed a chief adviser for mathematics to be the champion of mathematics and lead in developing the mathematics strategy. We are establishing a National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics that will support the professional development of teachers of mathematics at every stage of their career. We are adopting a range of measures at GCSE and A-level to promote a positive attitude amongst pupils, teachers and employers to mathematics. For example, we will be targeting our support to ensure that the teaching of 'functional mathematics' is available to all; from this September, attainment of at least a 'C' grade in both Maths and English will be a key component of our understanding of the 5 good GCSEs benchmark; in the longer term, the curriculum and qualifications in mathematics for 14 to 19-year-olds will be revised as part of the wider reform programme; and finally, improvements planned for A-level as part of our 14-19 reforms will benefit all those embarking on A-level programmes.

Our national languages strategy 'Languages for All; Languages for Life—a strategy for England' outlines our positive approach to language learning and stresses the importance for society and the global economy for learners of all ages to acquire "the ability to understand and communicate in other languages". Our commitment to language learning is backed by considerable investment, and by the end of the financial year 2007-08 we will have invested £137 million in the promotion of, and support given to, language learning programmes at all stages of education.

English is a core subject and statutory from Key Stages 1-4. The national curriculum programmes of study for English set out the importance of English. English is a vital way of communicating in schools, in public life and internationally. In studying English, pupils develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Literature in English is rich and influential, reflecting the experience of people from many countries and times. It enables pupils to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to

communicate with others effectively. Pupils learn to become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama as well as non-fiction and media texts. The study of English helps pupils understand how language works by looking at its patterns, structures and origins. Using this knowledge, pupils can choose and adapt what they say and write in different situations.

In addition, both primary and secondary national strategies, through their work with schools and local authorities, provide strong and varied support to teachers. This support enables teachers to provide effective and tailored teaching that engages all pupils across the range of subjects and enables them to fulfil their potential. The national strategies provide a range of materials to support teachers, school librarians and others to ensure that their schools both provide high quality teaching and learning, and promote an environment which encourages children's enthusiasm for reading and writing and helps them achieve their potential. Reading for pleasure is essential as it increases children's chances of success and the Department is taking action on several fronts to encourage children and young people to read more. Both strategies have a specific remit for raising attainment in mathematics and English. The secondary strategy extends this remit to modern foreign languages.

Examination Boards

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what action his Department has taken against examination boards which have delivered *(a)* GCSE, *(b)* AS and *(c)* A-level examination papers containing errors or omissions to schools in each of the last nine years. [82269]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) is responsible for the regulation of awarding bodies in England. QCA expects awarding bodies to make sure that question papers do not contain any errors that might affect candidates. The regulator's code of practice for GCE and GCSE examinations requires awarding bodies to have procedures in place to ensure the suitability and accuracy of the papers. QCA monitors the awarding bodies to ensure they comply with the regulatory requirements.

QCA has set performance expectations for awarding bodies governing the quality and accuracy of the question papers they produce. These performance expectations allow QCA to monitor and report on awarding body performance each year. QCA has collected and reported the number of question papers containing errors or omissions since 2004 but does not hold data for previous years.

If a question paper does contain an error that requires correction, awarding bodies are expected to send an erratum notice to centres (schools and colleges) before the examination is sat to make sure candidates are aware of the errors.

Data on the number of question papers issued without errors in June 2006 will be finalised after the examination series and published by QCA in March 2007.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* errors in and *(b)* omissions from (i) GCSE, (ii) AS and (iii) A-level examination papers there were in each of the last three years. [82274]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) collects data each year from awarding bodies regarding the number of examination papers issued requiring correction including errors and omissions. These data are collected in the autumn following each examination series and are normally published in March the following year. Consequently, data on the summer 2006 examination series are not yet available.

In 2004 out of the 3,400 question papers produced by the England-based unitary GCE and GCSE awarding bodies (AQA, Edexcel and OCR) 83 question papers contained errors that required correction. This represents 2.4 per cent. of the total number of examination papers issued.

In 2005 out of more than 1,500 GCSE question papers 18 contained errors that required correction. Out of more than 1,700 GCE question papers 22 contained errors that required correction.

Although the figures quoted indicate the number of instances of papers that contained errors requiring correction, in nearly all cases centres were informed of the errors before the date of the examination. In both 2004 and 2005 centres were not informed about errors in nine GCSE, AS and A-level question papers. This represents 0.27 per cent. of the total number of question papers produced in 2005 and 0.26 per cent. of the total number of question papers produced in 2004.

Free Tuition

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many eligible adults have taken up the level 2 entitlement for free tuition, as announced in the White Paper, 21st Century Skills, broken down by *(a)* race, *(b)* gender and *(c)* disability; and what proportion of participants have dropped out. [75966]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* In October 2005, 122,000 adults aged 19+ were studying on full level 2 programs in LSC-funded FE colleges—this is an increase of 3.4 per cent. on the previous year. Approximately 70 per cent. of these students received free tuition because of the level 2 entitlement or because of other reasons.

The chief executive of the Learning and Skills Council, Mr. Mark Haysom, has written to the hon. Member with a detailed breakdown of level 2 entitlement recipients. A copy of his letter has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Rob Wye, dated 28 June 2006:

I am write on behalf of Mark Haysom, due to him currently being out of the office on annual leave, in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked how many eligible adults have taken up the level 2 entitlement for free tuition, as announced in the White Paper, 21st Century Skills, broken down by race, gender and disability; and what proportions of participants have dropped out.

Early information shows that in 2005/06 approximately 118,000 adult learners enrolled on a full level 2 qualification. Of these approximately 28,000 adults were on a first[1] full level 2 qualification and in receipt of tuition fee remission. Of these approximately 12,000 were claiming tuition fee remission specifically through the level 2 entitlement. It is important to note that the level 2 entitlement was rolled out nationally in 2005/06 within existing college budgets and with no major marketing campaigns. A breakdown of these figures by race, gender and disability is shown in the attached annex. The proportions for ethnicity and gender are in line with the proportions of these groups in further education as a whole.

The proportion of learners recorded as being in receipt of the level 2 entitlement who left their current learning aims in 2004/05 before completion or achievement was 15%. This is the only full year data that we have for the level 2 entitlement and only refers to learners in the two trialling regions of the North East and South East.

In 2006/07 the level 2 entitlement is a key element of the recently launched Train to Gain service and I would be happy to provide you with further data when this becomes available.

I trust this letter provides the information you require.

[1] Only for those adult learners where the prior qualifications information is known.

LSC-Funded adults in FE in 2005/06 on a first full level 2 and claiming tuition fee remission

Ethnicity	*Participation*	*Percentage of total participation*
Asian or Asian British	1,900	7
Black or Black British	2,400	8
Chinese	100	0
Mixed	700	2
White	22,100	78
Any other	550	2
Not known/not provided	650	2
Total	28,400	100

LSC-Funded adults in FE in 2005/06 on a first full level 2 and claiming tuition fee remission

Gender	*Participation*	*Percentage of total participation*
Female	16,350	58
Male	12,050	42
Total	28,400	100

LSC-Funded adults in FE in 2005/06 on a first full level 2 and claiming tuition fee remission

Disability	*Participation*	*Percentage of total participation*
Visual impairment	50	0
Hearing impairment	150	1
Disability affecting mobility	100	0
Other physical disability	50	0
Other medical condition (for example epilepsy, asthma, diabetes)	350	1
Emotional/behavioural difficulties	50	0
Mental ill health	150	1
Temporary disability after illness (for example post-viral)	—	0
Profound complex disabilities	—	0
Multiple disabilities	100	0
Other	250	1
No disability	24,400	86
Not known/information not provided	2,750	10
Total	28,400	100

Notes:
1. Results are rounded to the nearest 50.
2. Volumes <10 are suppressed.

Source:
F01 2005/06 ILR.

Further Education Colleges

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average change is in funding for further education colleges in *(a)* England, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each county for (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [80139]

Bill Rammell: I announced last October as part of our post-16 funding strategy—Priorities for Success—that planned expenditure for further education would increase to £4.8 billion in 2006-07 and £4.9 billion in 2007-08, a 3 per cent. increase in funding compared to 2005/06 baselines. These figures cover both 16-18 and adults but do not include work-based learning, Personal Community and Development Learning (PCDL) or additional funds for the roll out of Train to Gain, of which we expect colleges to receive a significant proportion.

Providers should now have received confirmed further education funding allocations from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) for 2006/07. The LSC will be writing to all further education providers shortly with a more detailed analysis of the 2006/07 allocations and this information will also be available on the LSC website.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what formula was used when setting the funding allocations for further education colleges for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what criteria were used in deciding on the formula. [80140]

Bill Rammell: The process of setting funding allocations began last October when we announced our funding strategy, Priorities for Success. The strategy made clear that higher participation among young people must have the highest priority, alongside helping disadvantaged adults gain basic and Level 2 skills for employability. The allocations for 2006-07 are based on the principles that we outlined in Priorities for Success. The LSC have published a number of documents detailing how these principles would be applied in practice and the funding formula used to determine allocations is set out in the LSC's document "Funding Guidance for Further Education in 2006/07".

The original Priorities for Success strategy laid out a clear path for funding priorities leading into 2007-08. We intend to provide an update to Priorities for Success in October 2006 and funding allocations will continue to be based on the principles outlined.

Head Teachers

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average annual wage was of *(a)* secondary and *(b)* primary head teachers in each year since 1997. [79878]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the average salary of full-time head teachers in nursery, primary and secondary schools in England and Wales in each March from 1997 to March 2003, the latest year for which information is available.

Annual salary of full-time head teachers, March 1997 to March 2003

	Nursery/primary	Secondary
1997	30,050	41,520
1998	31,110	43,060
1999	32,510	44,870
2000	35,130	48,230
2001	37,330	50,820
2002	39,420	53,960
2003[1]	41,730	57,460

[1] Data are provisional.

Source:
Database of Teacher Records (DTR)

For both nursery/primary and secondary heads, the average salary has increased by 19 per cent. in real terms over the period.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average length of time served in post by head teachers in England was according to the most recently available figures. [80014]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1704W, on head teachers, what percentage of all teachers in the leadership group retired early in *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04 and *(c)* 2004-05. [80534]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the percentage of teachers in the leadership group who retired early (defined as before the normal pension age of 60 on premature, actuarially reduced (ARB) or ill health grounds) in each year from 2002-03 to 2004-05, the latest information available.

Proportion of leadership group teachers in the maintained sector in England retiring early[1], 2002-03 to 2004-05

	Percentage
2002-03	2.8
2003-04	3.1
2004-05	2.7

[1] Head, deputy and assistant head teachers awarded premature, actuarially reduced or ill health retirement benefits from the Teachers' Pensions Scheme.

Note:
Data are provisional.

Source:
Database of Teacher Records (DTR) and Pensioner Statistical System.

Inclusion Agenda

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support his Department gives to *(a)* teachers, *(b)* academics, *(c)* therapists and *(d)* psychologists who are supporting the Inclusion agenda in state (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools; and if he will make a statement. [80862]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 28 June 2006]:* The Department provides substantial support to schools and those who work with them in delivering an inclusive education that meets the needs of all children, through the funding it provides for schools and local authorities, the funds it provides for the Training and Development Agency for Schools and the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and the guidance it issues. The extent of the Government's commitment to supporting children in schools is illustrated by the fact that since 1997-98, total funding in England has increased nationally, by £1,170 per pupil from £2,940 in 1997-98 to £4,110 per pupil in 2005-06. This represents a rise of nearly 40 per cent. per pupil.

Lifelong Learning

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which UK non-governmental organisations have been funded by the project lines set to be combined in the Integrated Action Plan in the Field of Lifelong Learning. [80738]

Bill Rammell: The following list contains the names of UK non-governmental organisations (ie bodies which are not education institutions) funded in 2005 by the Leonardo da Vinci and Socrates programmes which will be replaced by the Lifelong Learning Programme from 2007. This is the latest year for which complete details are available.

A.D.A.P.T. (Action by Differently Abled People in Tynedale)
Age Concern Calderdale
All cultures together in education (ACTE)
An Eochair
Arch
Ballybeen Women's Centre
Banbury Homes—Foyer
Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre
British Dyslexia Association
Business Boffins Ltd.
Coventry and Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce
Cresco Trust Ltd.
Dyslexia North West
ECTARC
Emerald Group Publishing Ltd.
ENGAGE
European Multicultural Foundation
Free Form
Furniture Matters
Grampus Heritage and Training Ltd.
Institution of Mechanical Engineers
INTERGEN

InterMinds
Learning Link Scotland
My Time Ltd.
National Children's Bureau
Northern Ireland Childminding Association
NTP Ltd.
Pathways: Inspirational development Ltd.
Plain English Society Ltd.
Radio Regen
Red2Green
Sherico Care Homes Ltd.
SWAPwest
The Forum Trust Ltd.
The Foundation for European Initiatives
The Prince's Trust
The Smallpiece Trust
The Straight Talking Project
The Vauxhall Centre
Third Age Foundation
Toucan Europe
Tourist Board Training
TWIGS (Training for work in communities)
U-Too Community Business Ltd.
WCCVS
WEA Reach Out Project
Westden Rural Links
Workers' Educational Association
Yorkshire and Humber Development Consortium

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many UK *(a)* institutions and *(b)* academics have been funded by the project lines which are to be combined in the Integrated Action Plan in the field of lifelong learning. [80739]

Bill Rammell: The most recent data available for 2004/05 show that 156 UK higher education institutions benefited from the Erasmus programme. 1,304 teacher visits took place under the programme. This will become a part of the new action programme in the field of lifelong learning from the beginning of 2007.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the teaching on non-EU languages as part of the EU integrated action plan in the field of Lifelong Learning. [80740]

Bill Rammell: The proposed Lifelong Learning programme will support the teaching of non-EU languages. It will provide for community funds to support projects and the production of materials for teaching and learning world languages such as Chinese, as well as the languages of our minority ethnic communities and indigenous regional languages such as Welsh and Gaelic. This is in line with our own national languages strategy, and support offered nationally by our new voluntary languages recognition scheme, the languages ladder.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the development of the *(a)* Jean Monnet programme and *(b)* Erasmus Mundus programme as part of the EU integrated action plan in the field of lifelong learning. [80741]

Bill Rammell: We welcome the continuation of the Jean Monnet project under the new action programme in the field of lifelong learning and believe that it can continue to be of direct benefit to UK higher education institutions by providing funding towards academic posts and course modules. The Erasmus Mundus programme is a separate programme running until 2008 and there are currently no plans to integrate it in the new action programme in the field of lifelong learning.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the involvement of non-EU countries as part of the EU integrated action plan in the field of lifelong learning. [80742]

Bill Rammell: The European Union's proposed action programme in the field of lifelong learning seeks to contribute to the development of the Community as an advanced knowledge society by fostering interchange cooperation and mobility between education and training systems. Intercultural dialogue and exchange are key elements of the programme, and so membership is rightly not limited to the EU member states, but also includes the EEA countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway), Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. In addition, Switzerland and the countries of the Western Balkans will be able to participate once bilateral agreements are concluded. Finally, the Jean Monnet sub-programme allows participation of higher education institutions in any other third country.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the Integrated Action Plan in the Field of Lifelong Learning with sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996, with particular reference to the teaching of viewpoints on European integration; and if he will make a statement. [80743]

Bill Rammell: The European Union's proposed action programme in the field of lifelong learning seeks to contribute to the development of the Community as an advanced knowledge society by fostering interchange cooperation and mobility between education and training systems.

The programme has no bearing on sections 406 and 407 of the Education Act 1996. The programme does not promote partisan political activities. DFES policy is to teach about the nature and roles of all democratic institutions, including the European Union, as well as the UK Parliament, United Nations, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and the Commonwealth.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what legal obligations arise for his Department from Article 1 (3)(C) of the Integrated Action Plan in the Field of Lifelong Learning; and if he will make a statement. [80744]

Bill Rammell: The Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing an action programme in the field of lifelong learning is legally binding on member states, as are all decisions. Article 1(3)(C) of the Decision states that a specific objective of the programme is to help improve the quality, attractiveness and accessibility of the opportunities for

lifelong learning available within member states, which is in line with DfES policy. As Article 4 of the Decision makes clear, the Lifelong Learning Programme is aimed at supporting and supplementing action at member state level, and fully respects the responsibility of member states for the content of their education and training systems.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the proposed Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Key Competences for Lifelong Learning; and whether he plans to incorporate them into the national curriculum. [79931]

Bill Rammell: This Recommendation forms part of EU Education Ministers' response to the Lisbon Agenda and makes a reasonable and well balanced addition to the tools which the 25 member states have at their disposal when looking how best to modernise and reform their education and training systems.

The UK's policies already incorporate many aspects of this Recommendation and we have no plans to change the national curriculum in the light of the Recommendation.

Office of the Independent Adjudicator

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Office of the Independent Adjudicator in solving disagreements between students and universities; and if he will make a statement. [80595]

Bill Rammell: The provisions of the Higher Education Act 2004 require the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA) to produce an annual report which must include information about:

- the complaints referred under the scheme;
- the decisions and recommendations made by reviewers;
- the extent to which recommendations made by the reviewers have been followed; and
- the way in which the operator has used the fees paid in connection with the scheme.

We receive and monitor this information regularly and I will make an assessment on the basis of the OIA's annual report which will be published later this year.

Older People (Skills Training)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* grants and *(b)* training schemes are available through his Department (i) for people over 55 years and (ii) for people in retirement to learn new job skills. [80745]

Phil Hope: In England the priorities for public funding of adult learning are to help those adults without the skills for life and employability, regardless of age. Tuition in literacy and numeracy is free and there will be an entitlement to free tuition for a first full level 2 qualification across England from September this year for all adults irrespective of age. All adults can access a wide range of training courses offered by further education college and other FE providers where, currently, on average 72.5 per cent. of the tuition costs of courses are met by public funding through the Learning and Skills Council. In addition all those on income related benefits and their families are eligible for free tuition on further education courses.

There is also financial support to meet the costs of learning, such as books, equipment, child care and transport; it is discretionary, disbursed by colleges and targeted on the most disadvantaged and needy regardless of age. The Adult Learning Grant offers an entitlement of up to £30 per week to individuals on low income undertaking a first full level 2 or level 3 qualification. From September 2006 this will be available to adults aged 19 plus in 24 of the 47 LSC areas, and nationally from September 2007.

Part-time Students

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people started studying for a degree on a part-time basis in each of the last 10 years. [81342]

Bill Rammell: The available information is given in the table.

Part-time entrants to first degree courses at English HE institutions, 1995/96 to 2004/05

Academic year	*Entrants at English HEIs (excluding the Open university)*	*Entrants at the Open university*[1]
1995/96	28,600	28,135
1996/97	27,460	n/a
1997/98	26,240	n/a
1998/99	28,460	n/a
1999/2000	28,110	n/a
2000/01	25,395	n/a
2001/02	26,990	n/a
2002/03	27,565	n/a
2003/04	27,700	25,680
2004/05	26,075	32,030

[1] Figures for the Open university have been listed separately as in some years we are unable to identify first degree students from all undergraduate students (as all undergraduate students are recorded as studying for 'undergraduate credits') and in some years we are unable to identify entrants.

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people completed a degree via part-time study in each of the last 10 years. [81343]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table.

First degree qualifications obtained from part-time study at English HE institutions

Academic year	*Qualifications*
1995/96	22,130
1996/97	22,350
1997/98	22,000
1998/99	22,650
1999/2000	21,975
2000/01	23,205
2001/02	23,630
2002/03	24,780
2003/04	24,425
2004/05	27,215

Notes:
1. Figures exclude students obtaining qualifications from dormant modes of study.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many women aged *(a)* 18 to 24, *(b)* 25 to 34, *(c)* 35 to 44 and *(d)* 45 years and over are enrolled in part-time study at universities in England. [81344]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the following table.

Part time female enrolments at English HE institutions[1], 2004/05

Age[2]	*PG*	*1st degree*	*Other UG*	*Total*
<18 years	5	15	710	730
18 to 24 years	10,290	18,420	22,110	50,825
25 to 34 years	40,820	35,015	51,605	127,440
35 to 44 years	32,790	36,015	57,285	126,090
45+ years	27,425	25,410	60,260	113,090
Total	111,330	114,875	191,975	418,175

[1] Including the Open University.
[2] As at 31 August 2004.

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

PE Teachers

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many trained physical education teachers there were in England in each of the last five years. [81219]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of teachers teaching by subject and qualification is collected for England in periodic staffing surveys the last of which was conducted in November 2002.

The following tables provide the available information.

D8 Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A-level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentage

	Degree[3]	*BEd*	*PGCE*	*Cert Ed*	*Other Qual.*	*No Qual.*	*Total teachers (Thousand)*
Mathematics	42 ± 3	15 ± 2	9 ± 2	7 ± 1	2 ± 1	24 ± 2	28.2
English	51 ± 3	15 ± 2	7 ± 1	6 ± 1	1 ± 1	20 ± 2	29.4
Combined/General science	62 ± 3	12 ± 2	10 ± 2	4 ± 1	1 ± 1	11 ± 2	28.3
Biology[4]	71 ± 5	7 ± 3	11 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± 1	7 ± 3	5.6
Chemistry[4]	72 ± 5	6 ± 3	12 ± 4	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	7 ± 3	5.2
Physics[4]	63 ± 6	11 ± 4	15 ± 4	3 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 3	4.7
Other sciences[4]	10 ± 6	4 ± 4	5 ± 4	- ± -	- ± -	80 ± 8	1.6
French	54 ± 3	7 ± 2	10 ± 2	3 ± 1	2 ± 1	23 ± 3	16.0
German	47 ± 5	6 ± 3	13 ± 4	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	30 ± 5	6.9
Spanish	37 ± 7	8 ± 4	19 ± 6	- ± -	3 ± 2	33 ± 7	3.6
Other modern languages	18 ± 8	- ± -	9 ± 7	- ± -	3 ± 4	71 ±10	1.4
Design and technology[5]	26 ± 3	20 ± 3	7 ± 2	21 ± 3	2 ± 1	24 ± 3	20.9
ICT[5, 6]	13 ± 2	6 ± 1	8 ± 2	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	69 ± 3	18.9
Other/Combined technology[5]	30± 10	13 ± 8	16 ± 7	18 ± 9	2 ± 3	20 ± 9	1.6
Business studies	30 ± 5	11 ± 4	9 ± 3	4 ± 2	3 ± 2	43 ± 5	6.5
Classics	33 ± 7	- ± -	2 ± 4	2 ± -	- ± -	63 ± 7	1.0
History	57 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	6 ± 2	- ± -	23 ± 3	13.7
Religious education	22 ± 3	8 ± 2	8 ± 2	4 ± 1	2 ± 1	57 ± 4	14.2
Geography	53 ± 4	9 ± 2	6 ± 2	5 ± 2	1 ± 1	25 ± 3	13.7
Other social studies	35 ± 5	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	2 ± 1	- ± 1	54 ± 6	4.9
Combined arts/humanities/ social studies	5 ± 3	4 ± 2	7 ± 3	1 ± 1	1 ± 1	83 ± 5	5.3
Music	59 ± 5	15 ± 4	5 ± 2	6 ± 3	2 ± 2	13 ± 4	6.3
Drama	25 ± 4	10 ± 3	12 ± 3	6 ± 2	2 ± 1	45 ± 5	8.1

D8 Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Highest post A-level qualifications[1] held in the subjects they teach[2] to year groups 7-13, England

Percentage

	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other Qual.	No Qual.	Total teachers (Thousand)
Art and design	54 ± 4	10 ± 3	7 ± 2	9 ± 3	1 ± 1	20 ± 4	9.3
Physical education	25 ± 3	31 ± 3	6 ± 2	13 ± 2	2 ± 1	22 ± 2	21.4
Careers education	2 ± 2	1 ± 2	3 ± 3	4 ± 4	3 ± 4	87 ± 7	1.5
PSHE[6]	1 ± -	1 ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	61.4
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	95 ± 2	7.1
Citizenship	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± 1	- ± -	94 ± 2	9.0
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	32.8
Total[2, 7]	33 ± -	10 ± -	7 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	44 ± -	388.4

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:
Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

D9 Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Proportion of subject periods taught to year groups 7-13 holding a post A-level qualification[1] in that subject[2], England

Percentage

	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other Qual.	No Qual.	Total teachers (Thousand)
Mathematics	52 ± 1	17 ± -	10 ± -	8 ± -	1 ± -	12 ± -	630
English	62 ± 1	15 ± -	6 ± -	6 ± -	1 ± -	9 ± -	650
Combined/General science	65 ± 1	13 ± -	10 ± -	5 ± -	1 ± -	6 ± -	610
Biology[4]	76 ± 1	6 ± 1	10 ± 1	3 ± 1	- ± -	5 ± 1	60
Chemistry[4]	80 ± 1	5 ± 1	8 ± 1	1 ± -	2 ± -	5 ± 1	50
Physics[4]	73 ± 2	9 ± 1	9 ± 1	2 ± 1	- ± -	6 ± 1	50
Other Sciences[4]	11 ± 2	3 ± 1	4 ± 1	- ± -	- ± -	82 ± 2	20
French	61 ± 1	8 ± -	10 ± -	4 ± -	3 ± -	15 ± 1	300
German	59 ± 1	8 ± 1	13 ± 1	1 ± -	3 ± -	16 ± 1	110
Spanish	43 ± 2	13 ± 1	22 ± 2	- ± -	4 ± 1	18 ± 2	50
Other modern languages	27 ± 2	- ± -	8 ± 2	- ± -	1 ± 1	63 ± 2	20
Design and technology[5]	30 ± 1	25 ± 1	7 ± -	23 ± 1	2 ± -	13 ± -	480
ICT[5, 6]	22 ± 1	11 ± 1	11 ± 1	3 ± -	4 ± -	49 ± 1	210
Other/Combined technology[5]	37 ± 3	11 ± 2	12 ± 2	28 ± 3	6 ± 1	6 ± 2	20
Business studies	35 ± 1	11 ± 1	12 ± 1	6 ± 1	4 ± 1	33 ± 1	90
Classics	71 ± 2	- ± -	2 ± 1	1 ± -	- ± -	26 ± 2	10
History	70 ± 1	10 ± 1	6 ± -	6 ± -	- ± -	8 ± -	250
Religious education	44 ± 1	12 ± 1	11 ± 1	6 ± 1	3 ± -	24 ± 1	190
Geography	69 ± 1	10 ± 1	7 ± -	5 ± 1	1 ± -	9 ± 1	240
Other social studies	54 ± 2	7 ± 1	3 ± -	1 ± -	- ± -	35 ± 2	60
Combined arts/humanities/ social studies	6 ± 1	10 ± 1	11 ± 1	- ± -	3 ± 1	70 ± 2	50
Music	66 ± 1	18 ± 1	4 ± -	7 ± 1	2 ± -	4 ± -	140
Drama	43 ± 1	14 ± 1	11 ± 1	9 ± 1	2 ± -	22 ± 1	120
Art and design	65 ± 1	11 ± 1	7 ± -	8 ± 1	1 ± -	8 ± 1	210
Physical education	35 ± 1	37 ± 1	5 ± -	15 ± 1	2 ± -	6 ± -	420
Careers education	3 ± 1	5 ± 2	7 ± 2	13 ± 4	4 ± 2	68 ± 5	10

D9 Teachers in Service: Full-time teachers in maintained secondary schools—Proportion of subject periods taught to year groups 7-13 holding a post A-level qualification[1] in that subject [2], England

Percentage

	Degree[3]	BEd	PGCE	Cert Ed	Other Qual.	No Qual.	Total teachers (Thousand)
PSHE[6]	2 ± -	2 ± -	2 ± -	2 ± -	1 ± -	92 ± 1	150
General studies	1 ± 1	2 ± 1	1 ± 1	- ± -	- ± -	95 ± 1	20
Citizenship	2 ± 1	2 ± 1	3 ± 1	- ± -	- ± -	93 ± 2	20
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—	220
Total[2, 7]	51 ± -	15 ± -	8 ± -	8 ± -	2 ± -	17 ± -	5,460

'-' = zero or less than 0.5.

[1] Where a teacher has more than one post A-level qualification in the same subject, the qualification level is determined by the highest level reading from left (Degree) to right (Other Qual.). For example, teachers shown under PGCE have a PGCE but not a degree or BEd in the subject, while those with a PGCE and a degree are shown only under Degree.

[2] Teachers are counted once against each subject which they are teaching.

[3] Includes higher degrees but excludes BEds.

[4] Teachers qualified in combined/general science are treated as qualified to teach biology, chemistry, or physics. Teachers qualified in biology, chemistry or physics are treated as qualified to teach combined/general science.

[5] Teachers qualified in other/combined technology are treated as qualified to teach design and technology or information and communication technology. Teachers qualified in design and technology or information and communication technology are treated as qualified to teach other/combined technology.

[6] Information and Communication Technology is abbreviated as ICT and Personal Social and Health Education is abbreviated as PSHE.

[7] 'Other' not included in total percentages.

Source:

Secondary Schools Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2002.

Pupil Data

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the collection by schools of pupils' personal data, with particular reference to fingerprints. [82201]

Beverley Hughes: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 504W, to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr. Gibb).

Race Equality

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of the statutory duty to promote race equality in schools. [78948]

Jim Knight: Ofsted, as the inspectorate for children and learners in England, routinely evaluates and reports to the Department on the work carried out by schools in eliminating unlawful racial discrimination. Ofsted inspection reports have found schools' compliance with the specific duties has improved since the introduction of the statutory duty which came into force for schools in 2002. In 2005 Ofsted published a thematic inspection report Race Equality in Education identifying good practice in schools and Local Authorities. The report found areas of strength in promoting racial harmony and raising ethnic minority achievement in schools but weakness in effectively handling racist incidents.

We are working closely with the Commission for Racial Equality and Ofsted to support schools in taking forward the requirements of the Act.

School Closures

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what criteria have to be met before a rural primary school can be closed; what process has to be followed by *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the local education authority; and what right of appeal parents have at each stage of the process. [81003]

Jim Knight: Changes to local school organisation, including school closures, are decided under local decision-making arrangements. Ministers have no role in the process. Individual proposals are determined by the local authority if they published the proposals and there are no objections. In all other cases the proposals are decided by the local School Organisation Committee (SOC) or the schools adjudicator, if the SOC cannot reach a unanimous decision.

SOCs and schools adjudicators must have regard to Decision Makers' Guidance issued by the Secretary of State when deciding proposals. The guidance includes a presumption against the closure of rural schools and sets out a range of factors that must be considered for the different types of proposals. For rural school closures the factors include: whether the case is strong and in the best interests of educational provision in the area; the overall effect of the closure on the local community; the transport implications and whether the possibilities of federated or extended schools to increase viability have been considered.

Where a local authority or governing body plan to close a school they must first consult interested parties, allowing sufficient time for people to consider the proposal and respond. Then, after considering views, and if they wish to proceed, the proposer must publish statutory proposals. Following publication and a six-week representation period the proposal will be decided by the appropriate decision maker. Once statutory proposals have been approved there is a duty for them to be implemented.

Parents are able to register their views on a proposal during the consultation and representation periods. Any comments made during the representation period

are taken into account when the final decision is taken on the proposal. More information can be found on the Department's School Organisation website at www.dfes.gov.uk/schoolorg

School Sports

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will take steps to increase the amount of time allocated to sport in schools in the national curriculum; [81220]

(2) what recent research he has commissioned into the types of physical education taught in schools. [81221]

Jim Knight: Head teachers are responsible for curriculum planning and it is for them to decide how much time they devote to physical education and sport in the national curriculum. The Department for Education and Skills shares an ambitious PSA target with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to increase the percentage of five to 16-year-olds who take part in at least two hours high quality PE and school sport each week, to 75 per cent. by 2006 and on to 85 per cent. by 2008. The long term aim, by 2010, is for all children to be offered at least four hours of sport every week. This will comprise at least two hours high quality PE and sport at school and the opportunity for at least a further two to three hours beyond the school day, delivered by a range of school, community and club providers.

The annual National School Sport Survey is our prime tool for measuring progress towards these targets. The results of the 2004/05 survey showed that schools in school sport partnerships provided, on average, 15 different sports for their pupils. These ranged from football, which was provided by 97 per cent. of schools, to less traditional sports like rowing, bowls and squash. The results of the survey were published in September 2005 and copies were placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Schools Budget

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to his Answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1373W, on school finance, when he expects the information to be available. [80625]

Jim Knight: In my reply to the hon. Member's earlier question to which he refers I explained that the Department is awaiting a complete dataset relating to the 2006-07 financial year. The Department now has the full dataset but is in the process of validating it. I will write to the hon. Member once the checks have been completed.

Sustainable Communities

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made towards implementing the recommendations of the Egan review of skills for sustainable communities. [79288]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

Sir John Egan was commissioned in April 2003 by my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister to review the skills and training required to deliver sustainable communities. His "Review of Skills for Sustainable Communities" was published in April 2004. His key recommendation was the formation of a national centre to drive forward a new integrated approach to skills development.

The Government responded by establishing the Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC) to improve the skills, knowledge and behaviours needed to deliver and maintain sustainable communities across the country. The ASC's aim is to challenge the tendency to adopt a silo approach by encouraging greater cross-profession and cross-organisation working. It focuses in particular on broader, generic skills such as project management, visioning, communication, partnership working and community engagement.

It is not a major training provider but rather looks to influence other providers and to lead the market where gaps exist. Through the establishment of a learning framework and resource hub, it will inform and spread best practice across the range of sustainable communities' issues and professions.

The ASC is also working with partners in the EU to identify generic skills gaps across Europe and share good practice between member states. It will host a European Skills Symposium in Leeds in November 2006.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to his answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1763W, on abortion, if he will require organisations which he funds to sign a statement that they do not support or participate in coercive abortion or involuntary sterilisation as a condition to further funding; and if he will make a statement. [81161]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not provide funds to organisations that support or participate in coercive abortion or sterilisation. We do not intend to request organisations which are funded by DFID to sign such a statement.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the average cost to his Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80487]

Mr. Thomas: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/

Peers correspondence. The Report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS.

The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only by incurring a disproportionate cost.

Darfur

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what resources his Department will be providing as its commitment to the Darfur-Darfur dialogue. [81313]

Hilary Benn: DFID is already providing support for the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA), of which the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC) forms a part. The DDDC will play an important role in promulgating the DPA and starting the process of reconciliation in Darfur. We are already engaging on publicity work and capacity building for the African Union and the rebel faction which signed the agreement. We are encouraging the African Union to begin holding meetings of the preparatory committee for the DDDC and we stand ready to support it if asked to do so by the organisers.

Ethiopia

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of the withdrawal of British direct budgetary support to the Ethiopian Government on the human rights situation in Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement. [80617]

Hilary Benn: We withdrew our direct budget support because the Government of Ethiopia breached one of the three commitments underlying our aid partnership—respect for human rights. As set out in our 2005 conditionality policy, a violation of any one commitment could lead to aid being interrupted, withdrawn or delivered in a different way.

We have, therefore, not carried out a formal assessment of the impact of the withdrawal of British budget support on the human rights situation in Ethiopia; however, we are determined to see an improvement. We monitor the human rights situation closely, and many of those detained last November have now been released and an inquiry into the events of June and November 2005 has also been launched by the Government of Ethiopia. We await its conclusions.

All donors have agreed that the development partnership needs a greater focus on governance and human rights. This involves developing programmes to support governance reforms, but it also involves insisting on an open dialogue between government and donors on governance issues. This has begun.

In order to minimise the impact of withdrawing general budget support on the poor, we have developed with the World Bank a new Protection of Basic Services (PBS) grant. The aim is to protect and promote the delivery of basic services by local government in Ethiopia while making the administration of local services much more transparent and accountable to people at the local level.

EU Aid (Water and Sanitation)

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the effectiveness of the EU's aid efforts on water and sanitation. [79560]

Hilary Benn: The EU, that is the 25 member states and the European Commission, is the largest donor on water and sanitation in Africa, spending over £1.4 billion in the sector in 2003-04. The EU Water Initiative was set up to co-ordinate these efforts, identify gaps and ensure that the money we spend is used more effectively to deliver services to the poor. The UK attaches great importance to more and better aid for water and sanitation, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where the MDG targets for access to these basic services are so off track.

There has, however, been concern that political commitment to the EU Water Initiative has declined and that it is not delivering its objectives. A further problem is that with very limited monitoring and reporting mechanisms it has not been sufficiently accountable to its stakeholders. We have therefore raised these issues in the EU Water Initiative Steering Group and are now working with a number of other member states to reinvigorate the initiative, including developing proper indicators for monitoring and improving the focus of work in partner countries. We hope this will lead to renewed political commitment and better implementation on the ground.

The EU Consensus on Development, agreed during the UK Presidency, referred to the EU Water Initiative and the importance of increased aid more broadly. In addition, the EU-Africa Strategy also included a reference to access to water supply and sanitation. In raising the political profile of water and sanitation through these policy documents, we hope that other member states will be encouraged to increase their support to the sector, particularly as their levels of development funding increase.

Health Worker Migration

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect on health services in developing countries of health worker migration from those countries to the UK. [81830]

Hilary Benn: International health worker migration is a complex issue and one that the UK takes seriously. Some low-income countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, have less than one health worker per 1,000 population. The proportion of African doctors who leave is very significant. Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Zambia lose between a third and a half of the doctors they train to international migration. This rapid increase in health worker migration has been partly due to staff leaving their country for greener pastures. As a result the UK has been criticised for employing workers from developing countries. However, poor working conditions, poor salaries and a lack of training and opportunity for advancement have meant that many staff in developing

countries leave the public health service. In addition to this, loss of staff through AIDS has depleted many health services.

The UK NHS has responded by putting in place policies to prevent active international recruitment of health care professionals. The UK is the only developed country to have a code of practice preventing its national health service from targeting health care professionals from developing countries. While the code on its own cannot address all the root causes of migration, it plays an important role in ensuring that recruitment is undertaken in an ethical, managed way. In addition to this, DFID supports efforts to strengthen health services in many countries, including to increase human resources. For example, DFID is providing £100 million over six years to support the Government of Malawi's health sector programme, which includes doubling the number of nurses and tripling the number of doctors over the next six years.

Iraq

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much the UK has allocated to the Iraqi health care system since 2003. [81011]

Hilary Benn: Improving health care is a priority for Iraq's reconstruction and for the Iraqi people's quality of life. In the health sector, DFID has given funding directly to specialist organisations. Since 2003, we have provided:

£5 million to the World Health Organisation for emergency medical supplies, support to clinics and hospitals in Baghdad and Basra, and support to the Iraqi Government's Ministry of Health.

£30 million to the UN Trust Fund, which was earmarked for spending on health, education, water, sanitation, electricity, refugees, mine action, governance and electoral support.

£40 million to the World Bank Trust Fund, which funds reconstruction work in a number of areas including health.

£85 million to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF, in response to the UN Emergency Appeals launched in March and June 2003, to help avert major humanitarian crisis, and to assist in the restoration of essential services, including primary and child health care.

£32 million to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent (IRRC) movement for their Humanitarian Appeals from 2003 to 2006, for emergency rehabilitation and repair of health, water and sanitation facilities.

£7.2 million to NGOs for their post-conflict humanitarian work in Iraq, in a number of sectors including health and nutrition.

During 2004-05, DFID also supported the secondment of a senior adviser from the UK's Department of Health, who provided technical assistance to the Iraqi Ministry of Health in Baghdad.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of Iraq's progress towards the UN Millennium Development Goals. [81012]

Hilary Benn: Monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is the responsibility of the UN, and DFID uses their official assessments. The recently published United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report is a comprehensive account of progress to date on each of the goals worldwide, and how great an effort remains necessary to meet them. It can be found at:

http://unstats.un.org/unsd/mi/mi_dev_report.htm

It is difficult to assess progress towards the MDGs in Iraq accurately, due to lack of official data. However, UNICEF is currently conducting a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey in Iraq, which will collect data on the MDGs. The results of this survey, expected to issue by the end of 2006, will enable the Government of Iraq and the international community to take better stock of Iraq's progress towards the MDGs. DFID's most recent analysis of the available data on the MDGs in Iraq, conducted in February 2006, identifies the following:

Child malnutrition rose from 12 per cent. in 1991 to 16 per cent. in 2000.

Primary school completion rates fell from 62 per cent. in 1988 to 56 per cent. in 1999.

Women's representation in Parliament fell from 11 per cent. in 1990 to 8 per cent. in 2003. But in Iraq's new Parliament, elected in December 2005, just over 25 per cent. of representatives are women.

Under-5 mortality rose from 50 deaths per 1,000 births in 1990 to 125 deaths per 1,000 births in 2003.

Numbers of children immunised against measles rose from 80 per cent. of children in 1990 to 90 per cent. of children in 2003.

The number of births attended by health staff rose from 54 per cent. in 1989 to 72 per cent. in 2000.

Deaths from tuberculosis (TB) rose from 21 deaths per 100,000 in 1990 to 33 deaths per 100,000 in 2003.

The proportion of people with access to drinking water remained stable at around 83 per cent. between 1990 and 2004.

The proportion of people with access to sanitation fell from 81 per cent. in 1990 to 64 per cent. in 2004.

Gender equality remained stable between 1990 and 2002, at around 82 girls for every 100 boys in primary school.

The proportion of slum dwellers in Iraqi cities remained stable between 1990 and 2001 at 43 per cent.

Iraq's forest cover has remained stable between 1990 and 2000, at around 2 per cent.

In all cases, the end year quoted is the last year for which data were available.

Reproductive Health

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the level of British contributions to *(a)* each multilateral aid and development agency and *(b)* agencies concerned with abortion and reproductive health issues (i) is in 2006-07, (ii) was in 2005-06 and (iii) is planned for 2007-08. [80206]

Mr. Thomas: The 2005-06 estimated outturn of the level of core DFID contributions to each of the multilateral aid and development agencies is given in the following table. Core commitment figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are still under negotiation individually.

Entries highlighted * indicate organisations involved in the provision of reproductive health services or programming. Exact reproductive health expenditure data for each agency cannot be provided without incurring a disproportionate cost.

Total DFID Multilateral Contributions	2005-06 (Estimated outturn) (£000)
DFID Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department	
Conflict and Humanitarian Fund*	1,900
Humanitarian Response*	78,400
Other Conflict and Humanitarian Projects*	1,800
International Humanitarian Organisations*	98,800
Good Humanitarian Donorship Facility	—
Post-Conflict Reconstruction Unit	3,700
Global Conflict Prevention Pool	16,600
DFID United Nations and Commonwealth Department	
UN Development Programme*	45,000
UNESCO (Subscription)*	11,900
IFAD	9,000
FAO (Subscription)	12,300
WHO Core Grant*	12,500
UNICEF*	19,000
UNFPA Core Grant*	20,000
UNAIDS*	16,000
Other UN Institutions*	19,000
Policy Partnerships	3,900
DFID Multilateral Contributions to Europe Trade and International Financial Institutions	
DFID European Union Department	
European Development Fund (Resource)*	234,400
Other EU Programmes*	4,600
EU Attribution (UK share)*	657,000
DFID International Financial Institutions Department	
African Development Fund*	—
Asian Development Fund*	—
Caribbean Dev Bank Special Dev Fund*	—
IFF for Immunisation (GAVI)	80
Reg Dev Banks (Cap Sub)	850
Technical Cooperation for Development Banks*	2,900
IDA13*	364,800
IDA14*	—
IMF Funds*	23,900
International Financial Architecture	70
HIPC Trust Fund Contributions	11,100
HIPC 100% Bilateral Policy	3,300
100% Multilateral Debt Relief	40,000
Other IFI Programmes	2,000
Trade-related technical cooperation	9,800
Private Sector Infrastructure	32,400

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the current strength and quality of the Afghan National Army; and if he will make a statement. [81139]

Des Browne: Around 28,200 Afghan National Army soldiers have been trained and equipped under a US-led development programme. The five Afghan National Army regional commands are now operational. Afghan troops, supported by the UK's operational mentor and liaison team, have already performed well alongside UK forces in the south of Afghanistan.

The international community is investing significant resources in increasing the Afghan National Army's capability still further. The UK's contribution to this includes non-commissioned officer and junior officer training in Kabul, and an operational mentor and liaison team in Helmand.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the technological capabilities of the weaponry used by *(a)* the Taliban and *(b)* al-Qaeda in Afghanistan. [81140]

Des Browne: We continuously monitor the weaponry used by insurgent forces in Afghanistan. To date a wide range of weapons have been used including small arms, rocket-propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices. Mostly these are low technology weapons and components that are widely available.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the possible threat posed by the infiltration of experienced insurgents of the Iraq conflict into Helmand province. [81141]

Des Browne: There is no credible evidence that insurgents or terrorists from Iraq have infiltrated into Afghanistan.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the order of battle is for the deployment of UK forces in Afghanistan. [81409]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend, the then Secretary of State for Defence (John Reid), on 26 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1529-33, which outlines the UK forces order of battle in Afghanistan.

In addition I also refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statements made by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for the Armed Forces on 25 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 35WS, announcing the extension to March 2007 of six UK Harriers to provide support to both the International Security Assistance Force and Operation Enduring Freedom and, on 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 67-68WS, announcing the deployment of a further 130 personnel from the RAF Regiment to provide a specialised force protection capability at Kandahar Airfield.

As with all deployments, any significant changes to this will be announced in the House in due course.

Armed Forces (Overseas Recruitment)

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which countries provide servicemen and women for the British armed forces; and what agreements govern their terms and conditions of service. [82011]

Mr. Watson: With the exception of Gurkhas, to be accepted for employment in the UK Armed Forces an applicant, at all times since birth, must have been British or a Commonwealth citizen, or a Republic of Ireland national. A waiver of these requirements may be granted, in exceptional circumstances, to applicants who are British or Commonwealth citizens, or Republic of Ireland nationals, at the time of their application. With the exception of Gurkhas, all personnel serve under the same terms and conditions of service regardless of nationality.

British Army Gurkhas are recruited in Nepal and remain Nepalese citizens throughout their service, serving under their own Gurkha terms and conditions of service, which have evolved over the years and are based on the provisions of the Tri-Partite Agreement of 1947 between the Governments of UK, India and Nepal. They are currently the subject of a wide-ranging review.

Army

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 12W, on the Army, how many of each type of vehicle and aircraft are *(a)* operational and *(b)* available for immediate deployment. [65523]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 26 April 2006]:* The number of vehicles and aircraft which were operational at the end of March 2006 is shown in the table. "Operational" is defined as equipment that is not in depth maintenance or in storage and it includes equipment deployed in operational theatres. The Army manages its armoured fleet in accordance with the principles of whole fleet management which enables armoured vehicles to be made available in sufficient numbers to meet operational requirements as they arise.

The numbers of aircraft capable of immediate operational deployment are shown in brackets.

	Number	
Combat Vehicle Reconnaissance Tracked (CVR) (T) All variants	[1]1,085	—
Fighting Vehicle 430 (FV430) Series	1,324	—
Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle (All variants)	735	—
Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank CR2 (MET)	345	—
SAXON	579	—
Lynx	79	(55)
Attack Helicopter (Apache)	40	(31)
A109	3	(2)
Gazelle	57	(38)

[1] Includes 31 held by STRIKE Command.

Army Recruitment and Retention

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total *(a)* outflow to civilian life and *(b)* recruitment was of the regular (i) infantry, (ii) Royal Artillery, (iii) Royal Engineers, (iv) Royal Corps of Signals, (v) Royal Armoured Corps, (vi) Household Cavalry, (vii) Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers and (viii) Army Medical Services in each year since 1997. [81133]

Mr. Watson: The information is as follows:

Outflow to civil life from UK Regular Army since 1997 by financial year

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Officers									
Infantry	230	220	180	200	170	200	190	220	220
Royal Artillery	80	90	90	90	100	70	70	80	70
Royal Engineers	80	80	60	70	90	60	70	70	100
Corps of Royal Signals	70	80	70	80	80	50	50	60	60
Royal Armoured Corps	60	70	50	50	50	40	50	50	50
Household Cavalry	10	10	10	10	10	0	0	10	10
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	50	70	70	50	60	50	50	40	60
Army Medical Services	90	110	80	80	70	90	70	90	90
Officer Designates	20	180	160	170	130	110	90	120	60
Other Ranks									
Infantry	4,440	5,760	5,800	5,000	4,910	4,720	4,710	4,600	4,290
Royal Artillery	1,040	1,310	1,240	1,130	1,030	1,070	1,140	1,100	960
Royal Engineers	1,230	1,240	1,120	1,020	1,090	1,110	1,230	1,350	1,330
Corps of Royal Signals	1,330	1,250	1,080	1,240	1,080	950	960	1,010	970
Royal Armoured Corps	550	740	690	710	620	700	730	660	700
Household Cavalry	120	140	120	120	150	140	160	140	110
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	1,070	1,060	1,040	1,090	980	1,170	1,110	1,260	1,220
Army Medical Services	320	380	330	340	360	340	330	420	390

Intake to untrained strength UK Regular Army since 1997 by financial year

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total Officers and Officer Designates	870	670	1,040	850	820	880	880	680	730
Other Ranks									
Infantry	4,940	5,820	5,800	5,220	4,970	5,040	4,690	3,490	3,500
Royal Artillery	1,030	1,370	1,340	1,040	980	920	1,000	630	770
Royal Engineers	1,120	1,150	1,070	1,140	1,290	1,520	1,090	940	1,470
Corps of Royal Signals	1,290	1,190	1,230	1,090	970	1,130	1,020	770	760
Royal Armoured Corps	590	820	710	700	700	740	580	280	600
Household Cavalry	130	160	130	120	100	90	140	100	80
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	940	900	950	1,060	1,280	1,500	1,430	1,070	1,260
Army Medical Services	300	390	400	370	370	430	440	370	400

Total officers and officer designates intake to untrained strength can only be shown as most officer cadets are not allocated an Arm and Service until completion of training at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

UK Regular Army includes nursing services and excludes full-time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and Mobilised Reservists.

The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to nearest 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Atomic Weapons Establishment

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff have been recruited to the Atomic Weapons Establishment sites at Aldermaston and Burghfield since July 2005, broken down by employment area; what plans there are for future recruitment in each such area; and if he will make a statement. [79948]

Mr. Ingram: In the period July 2005 to end March 2006, a total of 504 staff (including 180 to replace natural wastage) were recruited to the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston and Burghfield in the following areas:

	Number
Science	99
Engineering	250
Technical Support	57
Business Services	98
Total	504

A further 46 staff were recruited up to 31 May 2006. In the two financial years ending 31 March 2008, AWE plc plans to recruit a total of around 700 personnel in broadly the same proportions as the categories described above. The company has not formulated any firm plans for recruitment beyond this period.

Bearskins

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 996W, on bearskins, which companies have been involved in producing alternatives to real bearskins; for what reasons each alternative was not successful; and if he will establish a timescale for phasing out the use of real bearskins. [80358]

Mr. Ingram: Several faux fur manufacturers have made samples available to the Ministry of Defence. Between 1998 and 2004 the companies involved were:

N&MA Saville Associates

Dawson Fabrics (also known as Fleece Fabrics Ltd.)

Dawson International

Saluki

BY Furs

Tyber.

After this date all samples were provided by People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). PETA has not given the Department the names of the companies they have used. The trial process is on-going. The faux fur has been unsuccessful for a number of reasons: it could not replicate the movement of real fur when tested on parade; there were problems with increasing weight experienced under normal wet weather conditions; it did not retain its shape; and it reacted adversely to atmospheric static.

The Department has no current timescale to phase out the use of bearskins but alternatives will be considered if and when they are found to be suitable.

Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of his Department; what commitment he has made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81063]

Mr. Watson: 2004-05 carbon emissions from energy use in Ministry of Defence buildings and facilities on the defence estate were 2 per cent. below the 1999-2000 baseline level. Equivalent figures for 2005-06 are not yet available. However, they will be published in the MOD's Sustainable Development in Government Report 2005-06, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House.

More widely, this Department supports and was closely involved with the development of the targets in the new Framework for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate, announced by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 12 June 2006. These targets include achieving carbon neutrality on the Government office estate by 2012 and a reduction in carbon emissions from our office-based estate of 30 per cent. by 2020.

Colombia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to provide the Government of Colombia with military support, in each of the next three years. [80359]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence plans to provide military assistance to Colombia over the next three years at a similar level and in similar areas to the assistance it has provided in the previous three years. The provision of assistance continues to be dependent on our being satisfied that no one receiving UK training is engaged in illegal activities.

Current UK military assistance to Colombia is concerned with British military education, with a strong emphasis on human rights and with training the Colombian armed forces in the disposal of a variety of explosive devices. We are also supporting their process of Military Justice Reform. We have provided some bespoke training to members of the Colombian armed forces engaged in counter-narcotics.

Defence Export Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when Alan Garwood's successor as Head of Defence Export Services is expected to be named; when he or she will take up the appointment; and if he will make a statement. [80855]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence and Mr. Garwood have agreed that, under the terms of his appointment, he will remain in post until September 2007.

It is anticipated that the process to select his successor will begin late in 2006.

Defence Training Review

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the merits of an in-house bid as part of the Defence Training Review. [81845]

Mr. Watson: An in-house bid was assessed as not being a viable option for the Defence Training Review. It would not have provided the significant capital investment required to transform specialist training. In addition this route would not provide the technical innovation, performance discipline and risk transfer delivered through a public-private partnering/PFI solution.

Defensive Aids Suite

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his definition is of a defensive aids suite, with particular reference to the A400M. [64792]

Mr. Ingram: A defensive aids suite can comprise one or a combination of the following:

Directional Infra-Red Counter Measures
Missile Approach Warning Systems
Radar Warning Receiver
Countermeasures Dispensing System
Large Aircraft Infra-Red Counter Measures

Defensive counter-measures are under constant development in response to emerging threats.

I am withholding information on the precise combination on defensive aids that will be employed on the A400M so as not to prejudice the security of our armed forces.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long it takes to switch a defensive aids suite between A400M airframes; and what the cost is. [64827]

Mr. Ingram: For reasons of operational security I am withholding information regarding how long it would take to transfer DAS from one airframe to another. The costs of such an exercise are not yet known.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of his Department. [80090]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence's finance director is Trevor Woolley. He holds a Masters degree in History from Cambridge University and has substantial financial management experience in MOD at senior level across a range of posts within head office and in managing the finances of one of our largest top-level budgets.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many women of minority ethnic origin are employed by his Department. [81235]

Mr. Watson: The total number of women of minority ethnic origin employed by the Department as at 1 April 2006, is shown as follows.

Female personnel by ethnicity minority declaration as at 1 April 2006

	Number of females
Civilian[1,2]	810
Military[3,4,5]	1,090
Total	1,900

[1] Data in the table exclude locally engaged civilians, and Royal Fleet Auxiliary personnel for whom ethnicity data are not available.
[2] Represents the number of female employees who self-declared that they were a member of an ethnic minority group. Of a total of 32,170 female civilians working for the Department as at 1 April 2006, 5,430 had not declared their ethnicity.
[3] UK regular forces include nursing services and exclude full-time reserve service personnel, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists. It includes trained and untrained personnel.
[4] Due to the introduction of a new personnel administration system for RAF, all RAF data for 1 April 2006 are provisional and subject to review.
[5] Ethnicity figures are based on those with a known ethnic origin. Figures shown are full coverage estimates of the number of ethnic minorities that would be expected if ethnicity were known for all personnel.
Note:
All numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in his Department are carbon neutral; and if he will make a statement. [81393]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence is participating in the Government's Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF) to meet the Government's commitment to offset carbon dioxide emissions arising from ministerial and official air travel. MOD is collecting flight mileage for head office travel to provide the data for GCOF.

Disciplinary Action

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what instructions have been issued to those responsible for posting of individual service personnel regarding the system for the monitoring and vetting of potential instructors who may have been subject to allegations of disciplinary action involving *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment. [79842]

Mr. Watson: The posting of individual service personnel is considered by the armed forces on a case-by-case basis. Every effort is made to ensure that all the relevant facts, including career and disciplinary records, are taken into account. Work is under way to review the checks that are carried out on personnel applying for instructor posts to ensure that best practice is applied across the three services.

Equal Opportunities

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* rules of procedure are for equal opportunities investigation teams. [79915]

Mr. Watson: I will write to my hon. Friend enclosing the terms of reference for equal opportunities investigation teams and will place copies in the Library of the House. The teams operate in accordance with MOD Harassment Complaints Procedures (JSP 763).

Far East Civilian Internees

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment process he will use to judge the claims for the ex-gratia payment by those former Far East civilian internees who do not qualify under the 20-year rule; and how many such claims he expects there to be. [81194]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* It is not possible to make a reliable estimate of how many unsuccessful claims will remain after they have been reviewed against the changes that were announced by my predecessor on 28 March 2006. However, for those cases that do not meet the aforementioned eligibility criteria for a payment under the scheme, we are working with a relevant charity to see how we might be able to support them in their work to provide assistance in cases of hardship. It is too early to say what form this might take but I expect to have concluded this work shortly.

Field Hospitals

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which chemicals may be used *(a)* to impregnate, (b) to restore, (c) to protect and (d) to disinfect tentage used in field hospitals; [78545]

(2) how many field hospital tent units are stored in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* Germany; and what plans he has to change the numbers. [78546]

Mr. Watson: There are a total of seven complete field hospital modular tent systems for use by UK land forces, which would all normally be stored in the UK. The current in-service field hospital tentage is programmed for replacement in 2010 and the future requirement for exact numbers and type is yet to be determined.

For tent material procured before 2000 the type of chemical used to provide rot-proofing is Pentachlorophenol Laurate (PCPL). Tentage purchased after 2000 uses an agent known as Mystox TRP. Mystox TRP is also currently used to provide protection for fire-retardancy and waterproofing. Both treatments are compliant with current EU and UK health and safety legislation. Field hospital tentage is not routinely subject to disinfection.

Global Positioning System Re-Radiators

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his assessment is of the significance of global positioning system re-radiators for *(a)* the defence industry and *(b)* British defence capability, with particular reference to the development of (i) the Bowman system and (ii) the Typhoon aircraft. [81195]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* Global positioning system (GPS) re-radiators provide GPS signals on exactly the same frequencies as the GPS satellites by receiving and re-transmitting the signals from the GPS satellites. They therefore can have a benefit in extending GPS coverage to areas where the GPS satellites cannot provide coverage due to the attenuation of satellite signal.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and *(b)* Ofcom regarding the licensing of global positioning system re-radiators; and if he will make a statement. [81196]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* The Ministry of Defence has had no discussions with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on the licensing of global positioning system (GPS) re-radiators.

The MOD has recently discussed the licensing of GPS re-radiators with representatives from Office of Communications (Ofcom), the Civil Aviation Authority and the Department for Transport.

MOD has stated to Ofcom that it considers there may be significant interference problems if GPS re-radiators are licence-exempted.

MOD has further stated to Ofcom that it considers the approach used by the US National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) with regard to GPS re-radiators may be appropriate in the UK. The NTIA allowed GPS re-radiators to be used in the US by federal agencies (Government and Government Agencies) at fixed locations.

Gurkhas

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the cost of compensating all living Gurkhas who have completed their service for pay received below levels provided to British servicemen and women serving at the same time. [81939]

Mr. Watson: No estimate has been made. Gurkhas serve under their own terms and conditions of service, which we maintain are fair and appropriate to their unique status.

Since 1997, universal addition to Gurkha pay has ensured that they receive the same take-home pay as their British counterparts. This also applied to Gurkhas serving in the UK since 1972; those serving elsewhere received the appropriate cost of living allowance.

Health Questionnaires

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the implementation of his April 2004 policy of seeking completed health questionnaires filled in by the general practitioner of each recruit arriving at phase 1 training establishments; what percentage of recruits were accompanied by such documentation on arrival; what percentage of recruits have completed phase 1 training without having their health needs assessed and recorded; and when and by what method he expects to review the effectiveness of this policy. [79843]

Mr. Watson: Once an individual applies to join the Army, a British Army health questionnaire is sent to the applicant's general practitioner for completion. Almost all Army recruits arrive at their phase 1 training establishment with a completed health questionnaire. A small number of questionnaires may be slightly delayed and arrive shortly after. No trainees complete phase 1 training without having their health needs assessed and recorded.

The Army is currently trialling a policy whereby once an applicant has passed selection, a copy of the applicant's general practitioner records are requested for scrutiny by occupational clinical staff. Evaluation of this process will be carried out and made available to the other two services.

Improvised Explosives

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British casualties have been caused by improvised explosive devices during the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. [79991]

Des Browne *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The Ministry of Defence holds records only of people killed or injured while in its direct employ, not of all British citizens in operational theatres. As at 28 June 2006, 25 UK service personnel have been killed in Iraq and one in Afghanistan as a result of improvised explosive devices.

Aggregate medical records typically detail the type of injury sustained, not necessarily the cause of injury. Centrally available records show that around 230 UK military and civilian personnel have been treated at UK medical facilities in Iraq for wounds received as a result of hostile action. Details of such casualties are published on the MOD website on a monthly basis. In Afghanistan, records show a total of 10 personnel injured by improvised explosive devices. Further details are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Inquest Proceedings

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions in the past two years *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Army and *(c)* members of the armed services were represented at inquest proceedings; and what his estimate is of the cost on each occasion. [79869]

Mr. Watson: Where the Ministry of Defence is legally represented at inquests no distinction is made between the Department and the three armed services. Legal representation for the Department will normally subsume individuals unless there is a conflict of interest between the position of the Department and that of the individual. In the event of such a conflict

the individual would be responsible for the cost if they chose to be legally represented.

On one occasion in the past two years, on the basis of legal advice, MOD provided separate legal assistance for two individuals even though there was no conflict of interest.

During the period 22 June 2004 to 21 June 2006 the MOD was legally represented at 17[1] inquests as follows:

Inquest		£
Sapper Passmore	July 2004	18,417.07
Cpl Rees	August 2004	6,835.83
Mrs. Heather Bell	October 2004	56,798.03
Cpl Pears	November 2004	15,236.16
LBdr Walmsley	November 2004	10,589.17
MEM Benton	February 2005	20,615.50
Lt Christie	May 2005	22,092.90
Pte Shipley	August 2005	14,901.56
Cdre White[1]	October 2005 April 2006	7,910.54
Lt Col Van der Horst	November 2005	26,039.94
LBdr Wilson	December 2005	7,501.54
Cpl Neill	November 2005	2,751.85
WO2 White	January 2006	29,774.50
Mr Hugh Paton	February 2006	94,320.80
Pte Collinson	February 2006	152,343.46
Sgt Hamilton Jewell Cpl Aston Cp Long Cpl Miller LCpl Hyde LCpl Keys	March 2006	72,815.61

[1] Two inquests were held in Gibraltar and England

Iraq

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK personnel injured in Iraq since 2003 have been treated in each *(a)* British and *(b)* Coalition hospital in (i) the Middle East and (ii) Cyprus; and what type of injury was sustained in each case. [74970]

Des Browne: In total, 386 UK personnel serving on Telic were treated at the Role 3 Facility in Cyprus, 19 of whom returned to their units in theatre after treatment. The remaining 367 personnel were sent back to the UK either for additional treatment or to their units. Of the 386 personnel, 33 were treated for wounds received as a result of hostile action and 353 for disease and non-battle injuries. All personnel treated at the medical facility in Cyprus are included in the aeromedical evacuation reporting published on the MOD website.

As far as we know, no UK personnel injured in Iraq were treated in any other British or Coalition hospital in the Middle East outside the Telic area of operations.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what injuries were entered into individual unit logs for those units involved in Operation Telic. [74977]

Des Browne: A unit's operational records should include copies of all routine documentation produced during an operational tour.

Since October 2005 units have been specifically tasked to provide a daily update of all injuries to personnel and vehicles from major causes. Prior to this, units were not specifically tasked to do this and the information recorded for the early phases of Operation Telic is therefore not comprehensive and has not been extracted from the rest of the documentation produced by the unit. Further detail relating to the period prior to October 2005 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British soldiers have served in Iraq over the last three years. [80854]

Mr. Ingram: Since March 2003, there have been 112,000 UK deployments on Operation Telic. This figure includes individuals who have deployed on more than one occasion.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which national contingents are assisting the British Army in Multinational Division (South East) in Iraq; and what their force totals are. [81135]

Des Browne: The approximate troop contributions from current partner nations deployed in Multinational Division (South East) in Iraq are listed as follows:

Nation	*Troops*
Australia	550
Czech Republic	100
Denmark	530
Italy	[1]1,800
Japan	600
Lithuania	50
Romania	600
United Kingdom	7,200

[1] Roulement is ongoing

In addition, Portugal (two troops) and the Netherlands (one) currently have liaison officers working within MND(SE) Headquarters.

Joint Personnel Administration

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many former RAF personnel *(a)* pensions payments and *(b)* redundancy payments have been missed since 20 March 2006 under Joint

Personnel Administration; and how many are still awaiting payment; [79658]

(2) how many complaints have been received from members of the armed forces about Joint Personnel Administration; [79659]

(3) why RAF personnel were not paid correctly under Joint Personnel Administration; and what action his Department has taken to rectify that situation; [79660]

(4) what he has identified as the main obstacles to the full roll-out of Joint Personnel Administration; and what steps his Department is taking to overcome these obstacles; [79824]

(5) how many *(a)* salary and *(b)* expense payments to serving RAF personnel have been missed since 20 March under Joint Personnel Administration; and how many are still awaiting payment; [79663]

(6) how many people will be remunerated by the Joint Personnel Administration once it is fully rolled out to all services. [79665]

Mr. Watson: Due to the increased numbers of those leaving the RAF in April as a result of the recent redundancy exercise, coupled with the roll-out of JPA at the same time, it was not possible to process all terminal grant payments, special capital payments and pension payments within the normal five days target. During April and May some 1,830 awards were processed for those leaving the RAF, of which 1,395 were paid outside of the five-day target from being discharged. However, in all but six cases payments were made within 30 days, with the remainder paid shortly thereafter. There are now no outstanding payments.

The first JPA payroll in April successfully delivered pay, including allowances and charges to the vast majority of RAF personnel (42,104 out of 48,743). The 6,639 pay inaccuracies (over and underpayments) were caused by several factors: some were due to existing data errors transferred over from the legacy systems, some were input errors, and some were discrepancies in flying pay. The majority of flying pay was correctly paid by 2 May; a small number of RAF personnel were paid their April entitlement in their May payments. The second (May) payroll has been much more successful with only some 1,175 personnel still affected by pay inaccuracies.

Some salary payments were late as a result of the simultaneous introduction of a new system of overseas bank payments. Overseas payments were achieved within a few days of the due date and alternative local cash payments were arranged. There have also been some difficulties with the automated payment of expenses for official journeys. In April these affected nearly 4,000 personnel and in May approximately 600.

The total number of personnel JPA will pay once it is fully rolled out is approximately 280,000. The Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency has received some 14 pieces of ministerial correspondence on behalf of constituents. As at 21 June 2006 there have been no formal grievances from individual users about JPA.

Full roll-out of JPA is dependent upon the Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) programme. Alternative business processes are being developed for those who will not have self-service access when JPA goes live to their service.

Military Organisations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the work of the *(a)* Air Warfare Centre, *(b)* Army Intelligence Corps and *(c)* RAF Intelligence Branch; where each is based; how many individuals work for each; and what the rank is of the most senior officer. [81215]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1385W, in respect of the work of the Army Intelligence Corps. The Corps is based at the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre at Chicksands. The Corps' strength is 1,625 and its most senior officer is a Brigadier.

The Air Warfare Centre is headquartered at RAF Waddington and has outlying units both in the United Kingdom and overseas. Its current strength is 1,060 people, both service and civilians. Its role is to provide timely intelligence-led integrated mission support to Defence-wide units for operations and training. The rank of the most senior officer is Air Commodore.

The role of the RAF intelligence specialisation is to provide operationally focussed air intelligence in support of air operations in peace and war. It does not have a single base, but is spread throughout the Ministry of Defence, RAF commands and units. Its policy branch is based within the Air Warfare Centre at RAF Waddington. There are 285 officers in the RAF Intelligence Branch and 885 non-commissioned personnel in the RAF intelligence trade. The rank of the most senior RAF officer in the Intelligence Branch is Group Captain.

Missile Defence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of *(a)* the threat to the UK of long-range missiles being developed by (i) North Korea, (ii) Iran, (iii) China and (iv) other countries and *(b)* by when such missiles might be militarily deployable. [79949]

Des Browne: We continually monitor the capabilities of non-NATO nations to target the United Kingdom with long-range missiles.

North Korea has an active programme to develop long-range missiles which could have the potential to reach the UK. It is unlikely to have a militarily deployable capability against the UK within the next five years.

Iran already has short and medium-range missiles in service, and its potential for developing long-range missiles which could reach UK has been recognised for some time. It is unlikely to have a militarily deployable capability against the UK within the next 10 years.

China has a deployed force of Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) which could reach the UK.

In relation to other countries, Russia has numerous deployed Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles, Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles and Cruise missiles, which could reach the UK.

Nuclear Deterrent

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to publish a consultation paper on the future of the UK's nuclear deterrent; and if he will make a statement. [81610]

Des Browne: I have nothing further to add to the statements made by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1468, and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 253.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the unpredictability of future threats to the United Kingdom between 2020 and 2050 as a factor in deciding whether to build a new generation of the nuclear deterrent. [81841]

Des Browne: Work by officials is under way to prepare for decisions, which will be taken later this year, on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent. This work includes an analysis of possible future risks and threats over the potential life of any replacement for Trident. It is, however, too early to draw any conclusions.

Nuclear Weapons

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Government spent in relation to their nuclear weapons in each of the last five years. [80833]

Des Browne: Trident is our only nuclear weapons system. Since the Trident nuclear deterrent became operational in 1994, annual expenditure for capital and operating costs, including the costs for the Atomic Weapons Establishment, has ranged between 3 and 4.5 per cent. of the annual defence budget.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will answer question *(a)* 64792 and *(b)* 64827, tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth South on 18 April 2006. [80760]

Mr. Ingram: I have answered questions 64792 and 64827 today.

Public Pensions (Transferability)

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures the Department has put in place to assist pension transferability of public pensions for members of the armed forces pension scheme. [79772]

Mr. Watson: All public service schemes pay cash equivalent transfer values to other pension schemes in respect of accrued rights in compliance with pensions law. Under the fair deal for staff pensions, there is a requirement to transfer pension rights when employments are transferred to the private sector under public-private partnerships/public finance initiatives. Public service scheme members can also transfer accrued pension rights by way of the Public Sector Transfer Club. The club is a network of public and private sector occupational pension schemes which makes it easier for employees who move between employers covered by separate participating schemes to transfer their accrued pension rights.

RAF Air Tankers

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions RAF air tankers have undergone non-emergency *(a)* first, *(b)* second, *(c)* third and *(d)* fourth time maintenance outside the UK in the last five years; where the maintenance took place; for what reasons the locations were chosen; and what the cost of the maintenance was in each year. [80053]

Mr. Ingram: The RAF currently operates Tristar and VC10 aircraft to provide both a strategic air refuelling (AR) and air transport (AT) capability. Some airframes can be used in either the AR or AT role.

Scheduled "forward" (formerly first line) maintenance for the VC10 and Tristar aircraft is undertaken within the UK. When deployed on operations some forward maintenance is carried out at RAF bases overseas. However, records for this work are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Scheduled "depth" (formerly second, third and fourth line) maintenance for the VC10 is undertaken within the UK and for the Tristar has been carried out under contract by Gulf Aircraft Maintenance Company (GAMCO) in Abu Dhabi since 1997. GAMCO won this contract in open competition.

The cost of providing scheduled depth maintenance to Tristar aircraft that can operate in either the AR or AT role is set out in the following table. Information for 2001 is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the table does include the projected cost for 2006.

	Number of aircraft	*Total cost (£ million)*
2002	2	1
2003	4	1
2004	6	1
2005	6	3
2006	5	2

Records Management

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what rules are in the Joint Service Defence Records Management Manual concerning retention of *(a)* records concerning changes of policy and instructions and *(b)* documentation on the reasons for changes made. [79838]

Mr. Watson: Joint Service Publication 441—the Defence Records Management Manual—identifies effective methods of storing information in a coherent manner and of reviewing and disposing information in an efficient and cost-effective way in order to comply with the Public Records Acts 1958 and 1965. The

principle is that material of historic value should be identified for permanent preservation, and that other material should be destroyed as soon as there is no business need for it. The wide variety of activities within the Department means that many decisions must be taken locally. However, the manual includes in an illustrative list of records likely to warrant permanent preservation, those that:

Illustrate the formation/evolution of Defence policy

Contain important decisions relating to the organisation, disposition or use of the armed forces

Show the reasons for important decisions or actions or provide precedents.

Royal Navy (Catering)

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget is per person per day for meals for Royal Navy personnel serving at sea. [79751]

Mr. Watson: The Daily Messing Rate is based on a "basket" of food items, and is constructed by applying prices obtained from the main MOD Food Supply Contractor to the HM Ships ration scale. The June 2006 Budget is £2.14, and this is supplemented by further allowances dependent on a number of factors, for example the size of the ship's company, and the length of time for which the ship is at sea, to a maximum of £3.36. On average, for a ship at sea, the budget per person, per day is approximately £2.27.

School Cadet Forces

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the announcement on 27 June on the creation of six new state school cadet units, what discussions he had with the Department for Education and Skills on this matter. [81777]

Mr. Watson: The list of candidate schools for the pilot Combined Cadet Force expansion scheme has been developed with the full assistance of officials at the Department for Education and Skills as outlined to the house on 27 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1267.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the announcement on 27 June on the creation of six new state school cadet units, how much of the funding will come from the private sector. [81778]

Mr. Watson: The pilot scheme will receive initial funding of £800,000 in 2007-08 to establish the six new units. None of this funding will come from the private sector.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the number of people who are willing to support and take part in state school cadet schemes. [81779]

Mr. Watson: As a Ministry of Defence sponsored voluntary youth organisation that does not advertise it is extremely difficult to assess the number of individuals willing to support the combined cadet force scheme. Identification of suitable volunteers to operate a combined cadet force contingent is the responsibility of the school's head teacher. To date the Department is aware of nine state schools that have expressed an interest in forming combined cadet force contingents and have sufficient volunteers to support the contingents. This is in addition to the volunteers supporting the 52 state schools CCF already established.

Second World War Disability Pensions

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the case of Mr. Banta Singh, former member of the Hong Kong and Singapore Royal Artillery, whose appeal for the reinstatement of his service disability pension was rejected in April 2006. [74109]

Mr. Watson: I have arranged for Mr. Singh's case to be reviewed by the Army Discretionary Awards Panel.

Suicide Vulnerability

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many trainees have been discharged in the past 12 months as a result of an adverse assessment under the Suicide Vulnerability Risk Management Policy. [79841]

Mr. Watson: None.

Training (Supervisory Care)

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the guidance note relating to working with under-18-year-olds was distributed to commanding officers in each of the services; by what means this note was promulgated; to how many recipients it was sent; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [79845]

Mr. Ingram: The Guidance Note on Care for the Under 18s was issued to the Principal Personnel Officers (PPOs) of the three armed services on 12 July 2005. The PPOs then promulgated this guidance to commanding officers.

A copy of the Guidance Note was placed in the Library of the House on 21 July 2005.

Work and Pensions Select Committee

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what actions have been taken by his Department to implement Work and Pensions Select Committee recommendations since the 2001-02 Session; and if he will make a statement. [78855]

Des Browne: The information requested by the hon. Member is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the recommendations set out in the Defence Select

Committee and other Select Committee reports are given very careful consideration by Defence Ministers and Ministry of Defence officials and we seek to implement them when we can. The Government Response to Select Committee reports makes clear whether the Committee's recommendations are accepted.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Digital Audio Broadcasting

12. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the future of digital audio broadcasts in the UK. [81374]

Mr. Woodward: Digital audio broadcasting (DAB) listening in the UK continues to grow. Over 3 million DAB sets have been sold and a wide variety of stations exist catering for many tastes. Ofcom has proposed further sound multiplexes to allow for additional DAB stations, both nationally and locally. They will publish a statement on the timetable for licensing these in the near future. Many people also listen to digital radio via the internet and digital TV platforms.

Junk Food Advertisements

14. **Mary Creagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she has made an assessment of Ofcom's proposals to restrict junk food advertising on television aimed at children. [81376]

Mr. Woodward: The Government welcome Ofcom's consultation on options to strengthen the rules on broadcast food promotion to children. We will consider Ofcom's proposals in the light of the responses to their consultation and discuss these with them.

Tourism

15. **Mrs. Moon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment she has made of the impact of tourism on economic growth in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [81377]

Mr. Woodward: Tourism is estimated to have contributed 3.4 per cent. to the UK economy, in terms of gross value added (GVA), in 2003. Industry turnover in this year was £74 billion.

Average growth of the tourism sector between 1999 and 2003 (the last year for which complete data are available) was 2.2 per cent. per annum. This is in line with the growth of the wider economy.

17. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate she has made of the contribution of tourism to the UK economy; and if she will make a statement. [81379]

Tessa Jowell: Tourism is estimated to have contributed 3.4 per cent. to the UK economy, in terms of gross value added (GVA), in 2003. Industry turnover in this year was £74 billion. Average growth of the tourism sector between 1999 and 2003 (the last year for which complete data are available) was 2.2 per cent. per annum. This is in line with the growth of the wider economy.

Freesat

16. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people receive Freesat. [81378]

Mr. Woodward: According to the most recent estimates published by Ofcom on 7 June, there are around 645,000 free-to-view digital satellite homes in the UK.

London Olympics

18. **Mr. Piara S. Khabra:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what steps the Government are taking to extend the benefits of the 2012 London Olympics to all of London. [81380]

Tessa Jowell: We are working with the Greater London Authority (GLA) to ensure that the benefits of the Olympics leave a lasting legacy in the five Olympic boroughs, in London as a whole, and in the rest of the UK.

Just to give two examples, one specific and one longer-term, 75 per cent. of the staff currently employed on the Olympic site are from London, and, in the run up to the Games, £18 billion will be spent on London's transport system.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether the plan for the London 2012 Olympics spectrum allocation has changed since the announcement of the success of the UK's bid; [82014]

(2) which body is responsible for overseeing the spectrum allocation for the 2012 Olympics; when it is expected to produce a plan for spectrum allocation; and what the cut-off date is for testing the new technologies; [82015]

(3) how much spectrum has been reserved for new technologies likely to be in place by the 2012 Olympics; and on what basis that calculation was made. [82025]

Mr. Woodward: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom), as independent regulator for the communications sector. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which officials in her Department *(a)* are responsible for Olympics-related activity and *(b)* sit on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group for the Olympics. [81559]

Mr. Caborn: Jeff Jacobs, Chief Executive of the Government Olympic Executive, is responsible for Olympics-related activity within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and is Chair of the Inter-Departmental Steering Group.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking towards ensuring that the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games benefit the whole of the United Kingdom. [81576]

Mr. Caborn: The Government are determined to ensure that the whole of the UK can contribute to and benefit from the Olympic games and Paralympic games in 2012.

A Nations and Regions Group (NRG) has been established to provide leadership and strategic direction in ensuring that the whole of the UK is engaged with and benefits from the games in 2012. Each nation and region is represented on the NRG and has been tasked with developing a delivery plan to ensure that these opportunities are realised.

Furthermore, a 2012 road show is being staged, in conjunction with the London Organising Committee for the Olympic games, which will visit every nation and region in the UK this summer. The road show was organised together with London 2012's Nations and Regions Group to ensure that there is a wide and diverse coverage of events and locations from within each region and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Following the Secretary of State's letter to all MPs in May, details of where the road show is going have now been posted on the DCMS website: http://www.culture.gov.uk/global/press_notices/archive_2006/2012_roadshow_itinerary.htm.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what arrangements have been made to improve the facilities at Bisley for the Olympics in 2012; and how much funding has been allocated; [80931]

(2) what facilities are being erected at Woolwich which are connected to the 2012 Olympic shooting events due to take place at Bisley. [80932]

Mr. Caborn: As the shooting events for the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will be held at Woolwich Arsenal, currently there are no arrangements to further improve facilities at Bisley for the Games.

However, Sport England provided £6 million in lottery funding to improve the shooting facilities at Bisley for the Manchester Commonwealth Games in 2002.

Advertising Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1407W, on advertising, what the reason was for the increase in expenditure on advertising between 2004-05 and 2005-06. [77194]

Mr. Lammy: The increase in expenditure on advertising between 2004-05 and 2005-06 was due a one-off information campaign directly targeted at small independent businesses, to help them understand the provisions of the new Licensing Act. This included advertising in the regional and specialist press throughout England and Wales.

Betting Companies

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to meet sports governing bodies to discuss the use of their fixtures and data by betting companies. [81093]

Mr. Caborn: I have met with representatives of the Football Leagues on a number of occasions to discuss this issue, most recently earlier this month. I have also discussed this matter in detail with the British Horseracing Board.

Channel 4

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the Government's strategy for Channel 4. [81234]

Mr. Woodward: As indicated in the BBC Charter Review White Paper published in March this year, the Government are clear that Channel 4 has a vital role to play, alongside the BBC, in the provision of public service broadcasting for the future. We are keen that it should continue to fulfil that role and are considering forms of assistance such as asking the BBC to provide Channel 4 with financial help towards meeting its capital switchover costs and Channel 4's desire to secure a limited amount of additional digital terrestrial capacity from the BBC. The Government will also take a close interest in the conclusions of Ofcom's proposed review of Channel 4's financial prospects.

Delisted Buildings

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which buildings have been delisted in the last 10 years. [81023]

Mr. Lammy: I am arranging for a list, showing the buildings that have been delisted between 1 January 1996 and 31 December 2005, to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which Bills introduced in the last 30 years have contained provisions to delist listed buildings. [81024]

Mr. Lammy: There have been no previous Bills containing provisions to de-list listed buildings.

Digital Coverage

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps she is taking to increase digital coverage in rural areas. [81838]

Mr. Woodward: The vast majority of households in rural areas can receive digital TV services via digital satellite, terrestrial or cable. Take-up of digital TV is 61 per cent. in rural areas. Digital switchover will happen across the whole country between 2008 and 2012 in the following order.

	Rural Area
2008	Border
2009	West Country, HTV Wales, Granada
2010	HTV West, Grampian, Scottish Television
2011	Yorkshire, Anglia, Central
2012	Meridian, Carlton/LWT (London), Tyne Tees, Ulster.

After switchover UK digital terrestrial television coverage will match the current analogue coverage of 98.5 per cent.

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the proposed date is for digital television switchover in each parliamentary constituency in the UK. [81104]

Mr. Woodward: Digital switchover is being rolled out in relation to ITV regions and will happen between 2008 and 2012 in the following order:

	ITV region
2008	Border
2009	West Country, HTV Wales, Granada
2010	HTV West, Grampian, Scottish Television
2011	Yorkshire, Anglia, Central
2012	Meridian, Carlton/LWT (London), Tyne Tees, Ulster

I will soon be writing to hon. Members to give them more details on switchover implementation.

Draft Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what draft Bills have been produced by her Department since October 2005; how many were *(a)* examined and *(b)* are planned to be examined by (i) a departmental Select Committee and (ii) a Joint Committee; what draft Bills are still to be produced by her Department; when each is expected to be published; how many clauses each has; and if she will make a statement. [81273]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not produced any draft bills since October 2005. Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be indicated in the Queen's Speech.

Engagements

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the time and date was of the appointments from his ministerial diary cancelled by the hon. Member for St. Helens, South since his appointment to her Department. [81846]

Mr. Woodward: My office does not maintain records of cancelled appointments.

Cancellation of appointments from time to time is regrettable though often unavoidable due to my ministerial obligations and commitments to Parliament. When appointments are cancelled they are, where possible, rearranged at an appropriate time and as much notice as possible is given to minimise disruption to others.

Fixture Lists

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if her Department will bring forward measures to ensure sports can gain copyright to their fixture lists as recommended by the Independent Sports Review. [81103]

Mr. Caborn: The first step following publication of the review is for all interested parties to consider its recommendations very carefully before deciding whether these should be implemented and, if so, how.

My officials and legal advisors are consulting with other Government Departments, the football authorities and other interested sporting bodies. I intend to respond formally to the review in September.

Football

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department has made an assessment of the possible implications for English football of the European Court of Justice judgment in September 2004 on the use of databases. [81094]

Mr. Caborn: The professional football leagues report that the European Court of Justice ruling will cost them in excess of £6 million from lost income. The Government are working with the leagues to help them identify sources of replacement funding.

Gambling

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will strengthen regulations governing internet poker. [81457]

Mr. Caborn: Yes. The Gambling Act 2005 will regulate British-based internet gaming operators for the first time.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will discuss with Ofcom increased regulation of the sponsorship of television programmes by gambling companies. [81458]

Mr. Woolward: In relation to broadcasting, Parliament has given Ofcom the duty of setting standards for the sponsorship of radio and television programmes.

Under the Gambling Act 2005 Ofcom will continue to set, review and revise standards for the sponsoring of television programmes by gambling operators. I understand that Ofcom, the Broadcast Committee of Advertising Practice and the Gambling Commission are in discussion about the future regulation of this area to ensure consistent and appropriate standards across media.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will discuss with the banking industry possible measures to tackle misuse of credit and debit cards by underage people on internet gambling websites. [81459]

Mr. Caborn: While the final responsibility for age verification rests with the online gambling industry, Ministers and officials have met several times with international financial institutions to discuss these issues. We will build on, and develop, these relationships to inform our international summit on remote gambling to explore the development of international standards on social responsibility.

We are also supportive of the efforts that the industry is making to engage the banking sector.

Global Positioning System

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with Ofcom regarding the licensing of global positioning system re-radiators. [81197]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* No discussions have taken place with Ofcom regarding this issue. To date Ofcom has not licensed the use of GPS repeaters. However it is currently engaged on a project to examine the possibility of the legitimate use of this type of apparatus.

Golf

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she plans to visit this year's Open Golf Championship at Royal Liverpool Golf Club. [81703]

Mr. Caborn: Neither my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State nor I have plans to visit this year's Open Golf Championship at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in July.

I understand that this year's tournament will be the 135th Open and the 11th time the Club has hosted what is one of the greatest golf tournaments in the world. I wish all the competitors, in particular our British golfers, every success.

Green and White Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list in date order *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by her Department since October 2005. [81272]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport produced a White Paper entitled "A Public Service for All: the BBC in the Digital Age" [Cm. 6763] on 14 March 2006.

Kingsbridge Amateur Theatrical Society

Mr. Anthony Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, if she will attend a performance by the Kingsbridge Amateur Theatrical Society. [81373]

Mr. Lammy: Amateur theatre plays a unique role in the UK's cultural life and I recognise the importance of amateur groups such as the Kingsbridge Amateur Theatrical Society.

Arts Council England funds a number of organisations who support voluntary and community groups including the Voluntary Arts Network, which supports over 300 organisations across the country.

Neither the Secretary of State nor I have any plans to attend a performance by the group.

Libraries

Ann Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support her Department is making available for library facilities for older people. [82434]

Mr. Lammy: Responsibility for the provision of day to day library services lies with the 149 library authorities in England. Emphasis may differ slightly from authority to authority but older people benefit from library services which are available to all library users. Services include silver surfer sessions, help with charges such as reservations and fines, services to the housebound and homes for the elderly and provision of materials in accessible formats.

People's Network services funded through Framework for the Future strategy programme are of particular benefit including (i) 'Enquire' service, giving round the clock real-time access to advice from librarians and (ii) 'Read' service, an on-line tool for finding interesting books for individual readers. Both these services particularly benefit people who find difficulty in visiting their library.

Live Music

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government are taking to support live music and encourage the participation of young people. [81375]

Mr. Woodward: In 2004 we established the Live Music Forum to promote live performance. It has brokered the creation of music-making spaces for young people in Wrexham and in Camberwell, and is looking at ways of adapting and rolling out those models.

We also support young people's music making through the Music Manifesto and through the national charity Youth Music, with £10 million per year of National Lottery funding, which has reached over 1 million young people to date.

London Bombings

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which constituencies are home to survivors of the 7 July London bombings. [80464]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* My Department holds full address details for 240 survivors of the London bombings. From that information, we believe these survivors live in the following constituencies:

Aberavon
Aylesbury
Barking
Barnsley
Battersea
Beaconsfield
Beckenham
Bethnal Green and Bow
Billericay
Bracknell
Braintree
Brent East
Brent North
Brentwood and Ongar
Bromley and Chislehurst
Broxbourne
Buckingham
Cannock Chase
Cardiff West
Chingford and Woodford Green
Chipping Barnet
Christchurch
Cities of London and Westminster
Croydon Central
Croydon North
Croydon South
Dartford
Denton and Reddish
Ealing, Southall
Edmonton
Eltham
Enfield North
Enfield, Southgate
Epping Forest
Erith and Thamesmead
Esher and Walton
Finchley and Golders Green
Hackney North and Stoke Newington
Hackney South and Shoreditch
Hammersmith and Fulham
Hampstead and Highgate
Harrow East
Harwich
Hemel Hempstead
Hendon
Hertford and Stortford
Hertsmere
Hitchin and Harpenden
Holborn and St Pancras
Hornchurch
Hornsey and Wood Green
Hove
Huddersfield
Huntingdon
Ilford North
Ilford South
Islington North
Islington South and Finsbury
Leeds East
Leeds West
Lewisham West
Lewisham, Deptford
Maidenhead
Maidstone and The Weald
Maldon and East Chelmsford
Manchester, Blackley
Manchester, Gorton
Mid Bedfordshire
Mid Sussex
North East Bedfordshire
North East Hertfordshire
North Tyneside
North West Cambridgeshire
Northampton North
Norwich North
Orpington
Peterborough
Poplar and Canning Town
Preston
Putney
Rayleigh
Reading West
Regent's Park and Kensington North
Romford
Rugby and Kenilworth
Rutland and Melton
Saffron Walden
South Cambridgeshire
South Norfolk
South West Hertfordshire
St. Albans
St. Helens South
Stevenage
Stockport
Stroud

Surrey Heath
Tooting
Tottenham
Wallasey
Walthamstow
Warwick and Leamington
Watford
Wealden
Wellingborough
Welwyn and Hatfield
Wimbledon
Witney
Worcester

National Lottery

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what data are used to assess deprivation for the purposes of the policy directions given by the Government to the Big Lottery Fund on the proportion of the funds that are to be disbursed to Wales. [81659]

Mr. Caborn: Decisions about the allocation of the funding between the nations of the UK are made by the Big Lottery Fund, not the Government. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Carmarthen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price) on 16 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 952W, and to the subsequent letter from the chief executive of the fund, copies of which have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

School Sport

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress is being made in meeting the two hour sport participation target for school children. [81606]

Mr. Caborn: The National School Sport Strategy Public Service Agreement overall objective is to increase the percentage of 5 to 16-year-olds who spend a minimum of two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport, within and beyond the curriculum, to 75 per cent. by 2006 and 85 per cent. by 2008.

The 2004-05 school sport survey confirmed the National School Sport Strategy is making good progress—overall, 69 per cent. of pupils in partnership schools participate in two or more hours of high quality PE and school sport each week, an increase of 11 per cent. since the 2003-04 survey. The 2005-06 survey is in progress and the results will be published in the autumn.

Sports Facilities

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public funding is available to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* other providers for the improvement of sports facilities. [81767]

Mr. Caborn: By the end of 2006, Government and the national lottery distributing bodies will have committed £1 billion to develop new or refurbished public sports facilities through programmes such as the Community Club Development Programme (CCDP), Active England and New Opportunities for PE and Sport. A further £40 million is available for CCDP in the period 2006-08.

Over the next three years, we expect around £1 billion to be available for investment by local authorities on sports services, including sports facilities, and the Building Schools for the Future initiative will provide local education authorities with £6.5 billion for capital investment in secondary schools, part of which will go towards sports facilities.

Terrorism Relief Fund

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she has consulted *(a)* representatives of the travel insurance industry and *(b)* other insurers on the Terrorism Relief Fund. [82258]

Tessa Jowell: I am due to meet shortly with representatives of the travel insurance industry and hope to do this before the summer recess.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) on what basis payments from the Terrorism Relief Fund will be made; and whether they will be made retrospectively; [82287]

(2) if she will make a further statement on the Terrorism Relief Fund before the House rises for the summer adjournment. [82288]

Tessa Jowell: I continue to work in consultation with the British Red Cross and victims' groups on the details of exactly how the fund will operate.

I hope to be able to make a further announcement in the coming months.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act

26. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent representations the Electoral Commission has received regarding section 5 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. [81389]

Peter Viggers: Section 5 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 requires the Electoral Commission to report on the administration of certain elections and referendums. The Commission informs me that it is currently reviewing the way in which it carries out its responsibilities under this section. Following consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, responses have been received from 46 individuals and organisations.

Voter Participation

28. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Commission is taking to increase participation by young people in elections. [81391]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it undertakes advertising and other work to increase participation in elections amongst young people. This includes developing educational resources, training youth workers and teachers and making grants to organisations working with young people.

Transparency

Simon Hughes: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what plans the Committee has to meet in public and publish records of all its meetings in full. [81390]

Peter Viggers: The Speaker's Committee has no present plans to meet in public, or to change its practice of publishing summary records of its meetings.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Deputy Prime Minister

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Leader of the House if he will take steps to establish a Select Committee with responsibility for overseeing the role of the Deputy Prime Minister. [81934]

Mr. Straw: No.

Parliamentary Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House if he will make it his policy to make copies of deposited papers available in the *(a)* Vote Office and *(b)* Printed Paper Office at the same time as copies are deposited in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [81238]

Mr. Straw: Departments regularly deposit papers in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members and Peers. It is for Departments to assess the level of interest in a deposited paper and in cases where there is likely to be wider interest to provide sufficient copies of the document to the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office accordingly.

Departments are always happy to provide copies of deposited papers to Member and Peers on request.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church Repairs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the take-up was of grants to pay for church repairs in 2005-06. [81837]

Sir Stuart Bell: In 2005-6, the English Heritage/Heritage Lottery Fund joint scheme offered new grants and enhancements to existing grants which together totalled £24,465,309. As far as I am aware, all the offers were accepted.

In addition, grants totalling £999,000 were offered to 26 cathedrals and 24 of these offers (worth £971,000) were accepted.

£12,498,019 was also paid out in England in reimbursement of VAT under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

Tithe Redemption Annuities

Robert Key: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what factors were taken into account when deciding that tithe redemption annuities should cease to be payable. [80964]

Sir Stuart Bell: In 1976 the Government announced that as there were sufficient funds in the tithe account to service the existing redemption stock and, as the costs of administering the scheme were high, tithe redemption annuities should be extinguished. Final payments were to be made in 1976 and 1977. Legislative effect was given to this in the Finance Act 1976. The Board of Inland Revenue handled the matter on the Government's behalf.

WALES

Customs Services

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he last met Treasury Ministers to discuss *(a)* the customs coverage at ports and along the coast of Wales and *(b)* the impact of the disbandment of the Maritime and Aviation Intelligence Team on Wales; and if he will make a statement. [80360]

Mr. Hain: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a wide range of issues.

HM Revenue and Customs keeps the deployment of officers under constant review. Officers are deployed according to risk and, depending on the risk, are stationed at ports either on a permanent or visiting basis.

The work of the Maritime and Aviation Intelligence Team has been subsumed by other intelligence units. These changes have been found to be more efficient and productive. As a consequence Wales will benefit from

improved intelligence relating to imported smuggled goods, whatever method of transport and point of entry is used.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) if he will list the draft Bills produced by his Department since October 2005; how many were examined or are planned to be examined by *(a)* a Departmental Select Committee or a combination of Select Committees and *(b)* a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament; and if he will make a statement; [81652]

(2) if he will list in date order the *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by his Department since October 2005. [81651]

Mr. Hain: None.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the unnumbered command papers produced by his Department in each session since 1976; how *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if he will make a statement. [81654]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office was established on 1 July 1999 and has not presented any unnumbered command papers to Parliament since that time.

Welsh Police Forces

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what estimate he has made of the effect on overall police *(a)* numbers and *(b)* funding in Wales of the proposed amalgamation of the four Welsh police forces. [79606]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The case for the amalgamation of the four police forces in Wales which was published in March suggested that such a force would have 7,613 officers and would lead to total annual savings of around £16 million.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent estimate he has made of the cost of unifying the four police forces in Wales. [79628]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The estimated set-up cost of a strategic police force for Wales is £35 million. We are committed to paying 100 per cent. of reasonable set-up revenue and capital costs, net of reasonable savings. The precise projected level of these costs and savings is a matter for negotiations currently taking place.

Long-term savings made possible by the merger are currently estimated at around £16 million a year.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent so far on amalgamating the four police authorities in Wales. [79630]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The costs to the Home Office relating specifically to amalgamation of police forces in Wales cannot be identified separately.

The costs, if any, that police forces and police authorities in Wales have incurred is a matter for the bodies concerned.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office

24. **John Mann:** To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission what assessment the Commission has made of whether the National Audit Office has sufficient resources available to enable it to examine the value for money of claims handling agreements for miners' compensation. [81387]

Mr. Alan Williams: The Comptroller and Auditor General has decided to include an examination of the Coal Health Compensation Schemes in his 2007-08 value for money programme, which will be considered by the Public Accounts Committee on 12 July. Work is planned to begin later this year. The forward National Audit Office programme is a matter for the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Public Accounts Committee.

PRIME MINISTER

Bus Loans

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister whether his Government has lent a double decker bus to *(a)* organisations, *(b)* political parties, *(c)* campaigns and *(d)* other governments; and if he will make a statement. [81903]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not held centrally.

Engagements

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Prime Minister whether any Cabinet Ministers plan to be in Germany on official business on *(a)* 8 and *(b)* 9 July. [81866]

The Prime Minister: For security reasons, the future engagements of Cabinet Ministers are announced as and when appropriate.

EU Finance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Prime Minister whether he was consulted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer before representations were made to the European Commission in the week commencing 19 June to re-open discussions about the UK abatement. [81821]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

GovNet Expo 2006

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost is to the Government as a whole of supporting GovNet Expo 2006. [79218]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not held centrally.

Guantanamo Bay

Keith Vaz: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with other heads of government at the recent European Council on the Guantanamo Bay detention facility. [80356]

The Prime Minister: There was no discussion of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility at the June European Council.

Israel

Richard Burden: To ask the Prime Minister whether he raised the cases of Tom Hurndall and James Miller with Prime Minister Olmert during his recent visit to the UK; and if he will make a statement. [82162]

The Prime Minister: I raised the cases of James Miller and Tom Hurndall with Israeli Prime Minister Olmert during his recent visit to London. The British embassy in Tel Aviv and consular officials in London continue to follow both cases closely and to offer the families of both men consular assistance.

New Aircraft

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Prime Minister what the projected total cost is of purchasing new aircraft for his use and that of members of the Royal Family; what the annual *(a)* running costs and *(b)* costs of cabin staff and pilots' salaries are expected to be; and if he will make a statement. [80113]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, on 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 19-21WS.

Special Envoy

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister for what reason he deemed it necessary to appoint a special envoy to be his representative solely to the Sultan of Brunei. [81020]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1614-15W.

United Arab Emirates

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Prime Minister whether he has visited the United Arab Emirates on official business since May 1997. [81897]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999, the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information on the number of officials accompanying Ministers on overseas visits is included in the list. All Ministers' travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the ministerial code, and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers". Information for the year 2005-06 will be published as soon as it is ready.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Child Access

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many parents with care have been imprisoned in the last five years for ignoring court orders and obstructing access to children by their non-resident parent. [80343]

Ms Harman: Information on how many parents with care have been imprisoned in the last five years for ignoring court orders and obstructing access to children by their non-resident parent is not recorded. However, the figures in the following table show the number of people remanded in custody. These cases include those sentenced to prison and those kept in police cells. The table also shows the number of people remanded on bail or for medical reports.

Financial Year	*Bail*	*Custody*	*Medical Reports*	*Total*
2001-02	158	352	9	519
2002-03	203	504	16	723
2003-04	217	616	8	841
2004-05	225	565	10	800
2005-06	253	576	2	831

The figures in the table are from the county and High Courts only and relate to the breach of Family Law Act 1996 orders.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the average cost to her Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which

figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80475]

Vera Baird: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members, peers' correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS. The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Foreign Travel

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how much was spent on foreign travel by her Department in each of the last eight years. [76054]

Vera Baird: The costs for foreign travel (in each year since 1997) are not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts without incurring disproportionate costs.

The Department has published rules for official travel in its staff handbook, and all travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the "Civil Service Management Code". In respect of overseas travel by Ministers, since 1999 the Government published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. The Government also published annually the cost of all Ministers visits overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House and they report information for the financial years 1995-96 to 2005-06. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers", copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Operation Payback

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of Operation Payback; whether it has operated in *(a)* Redbridge and *(b)* Waltham Forest; and if she will make a statement. [78556]

Ms Harman: The last Operation Payback initiative (Operation Payback 3) took place between 15 and23 October 2005. Operation Payback 3 was undertaken by all 42 HMCS areas including north-east London, which covers Redbridge and Waltham Forest.

A reduction in financial penalties outstanding of £2.09 million can be specifically attributed to Operation Payback 3. In total, the three Operation Paybacks undertaken to date have reduced court debt by over £4.5 million.

TRANSPORT

A120(T)

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the conclusions were of the stage 1 study into the improvements of the A120(T) in relation to the proposed Bathside Bay development in Harwich; when a decision will be made on formal planning permission; and if he will make a statement. [81100]

Dr. Ladyman: Planning permission for the Bathside Bay development was granted on 29 March this year—subject to final approval of an appropriate road scheme by Ministers.

The developer-funded study into options to improve the A120(T) in relation to the proposed development is still under way. It is expected to be completed in September. In the light of this, the Secretary of State will decide which, if any of the road options, should be put to public consultation, which could then take place early next year.

Aviation (Climate Change)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the relative impact on climate change of night flights and day flights when other factors are the same. [80662]

Gillian Merron: No assessments have been made of the relative impacts of night and day flights on climate change. The Department keeps up to date with and seeks to extend its knowledge on climate change issues, including the recent study published by the University of Reading. Further work and scientific understanding of the effects of aviation contrails and particularly cirrus cloud is required to enable aviation to minimise its climate impact through technical advances and policy measures.

Bus Fares

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the practice of some bus companies which require local authorities to reimburse them under the national travel scheme on the basis of two single fares rather than a return fare where this would be applicable; what estimate he has made of the resulting cost to local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [80761]

Gillian Merron: None. The main principle which applies to reimbursement is that bus operators are 'no better/no worse off' as a result of taking part in concessionary fares schemes. Reimbursement for lost revenue should be based on the average amount each concessionary traveller would have paid in the absence of the scheme (the average equivalent full fare).

It is for each Concessionary Travel Authority and its bus operators to reach local agreement on the appropriate "average fare". Reimbursement payments

are subject to audits of ticket sales data and, if the authority requires further information, on-bus surveys of patronage.

Commuter Delays

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what average delay was experienced by commuters in each of the last 12 months on overland trains into London. [78627]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held by the Department in the format requested.

Motorways

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many kilometres of motorway have been resurfaced with quiet noise surface in each year since 1997; and how many kilometres were so resurfaced before they reached the normal life requirement for renewal in each year. [81065]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of lane kilometres of motorway laid with quieter surfacing in each calendar year since 1997 is set out in the following table:

Calendar year	*Lane kilometres of motorway resurfaced*
1997	36.4
1998	160.8
1999	280.7
2000	557.5
2001	330.1
2002	430.3
2003	818.5
2004	402.7
2005	362.9
2006 to date	112.8

Source:
Information taken from the Highways Agency Pavement Management System (HA-PMS) as at 27 June 2006.

As our priority has been to maintain a safe and serviceable network, no resurfacing works have been undertaken ahead of maintenance requirements.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the relevance to the United Kingdom of the Austrian vignette scheme for charging for motorway use. [81067]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department monitors closely the development and operation of road tolling and pricing schemes throughout the world, including the Austrian lorry charge. We recognise that the experience of running road charging schemes in other countries may provide valuable lessons for the United Kingdom as we continue to consider how a system of national road pricing might be developed. At the same time, our analysis takes into account the fact that schemes in other countries are inevitably tailored to meet local circumstances.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passenger kilometres were travelled on each motorway of the United Kingdom in each of the last five years. [81086]

Dr. Ladyman: The information is not available.

Olympics

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what undertakings were entered into with the organisers of the Olympic Games concerning the journey time between Heathrow and Weymouth; what the journey time is; and what plans there are to meet those undertakings. [81088]

Gillian Merron: In the Candidature File, submitted to the International Olympic Committee in November 2004, London 2012 estimated a journey time of 2 hours 20 minutes for the 206 km journey. It is now for the Olympic Delivery Authority, in preparing its Olympic Transport Plan, to set out the detailed transportation arrangements for each Olympic venue.

Peterborough Station

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the recent increase in car parking charges at Peterborough railway station; [81824]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the increase in car parking charges at Peterborough railway station on the Government's *(a)* transport plan and *(b)* policy to encourage more people to use public transport; [81825]

(3) what research he has commissioned on the impact of the level of car parking charges at railway stations on rail usage; and if he will make a statement. [81826]

Derek Twigg: Car parking charges are not regulated and are a commercial matter for the train operating company concerned. The Department for Transport has not commissioned research into the level of car parking charges at railway stations.

Road Traffic Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the operation of the Road Traffic Act 1988; and what statutory instruments have been made under this Act. [81247]

Dr. Ladyman: The main purpose of the Road Traffic Act 1988 was to consolidate and replace earlier road traffic legislation in the overall interest of improving road safety. As amended, it remains the principal statute on this area of the law, regulating a wide range of road traffic issues, including driving standards, the construction and use of vehicles and driver licensing and instruction.

A considerable number of statutory instruments have been made under the Act since it came into force and a complete list could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, as I explained in my answer to the hon. Member on 12 May 2006 *Official Report*, columns 652-53W, a consolidated version of the Act, published by Butterworths, is available online

to Members of this House. This includes details of all the secondary legislation made under each provision of the Act.

Seat Belts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* lives which will be saved and *(b)* injuries which will be reduced by the enactment of the Draft Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) (Amendment) Regulations 2006; when these regulations will be brought into force; what recent discussions he has had with (i) motoring organisations and (ii) the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Transportation Safety on the wearing of seat belts; and if he will make a statement. [81248]

Dr. Ladyman: An estimate of the reduction of casualties which may be achieved by these regulations is given in the regulatory impact assessment available on-line at http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_rdsafety/documents/page/dft_rdsafety_611256.hcsp .

The draft regulations were laid before Parliament on 14 June with a date for coming into effect of 18 September 2006. Motoring organisations and the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Transportation Safety responded to the public consultation on the proposed changes carried out in 2005. A summary of the responses is available on line at: http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_rdsafety/documents/page/dft_rdsafety_611255-03.hcsp#P71_12154.

Sleepy Drivers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road accidents were caused *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly as a result of the driver of a motor vehicle driving (i) while feeling drowsy and (ii) falling asleep while driving in each year since 1996, broken down by (A) age group, (B) sex and (C) region; [81259]

(2) what research his Department *(a)* has undertaken, *(b)* plans to undertake and *(c)* has evaluated into (i) the (A) age and (B) number of (1) males and (2) females who drive while feeling drowsy, (ii) the frequency of driving while drowsy and (iii) the number of road accidents caused because the driver was drowsy; and if he will make a statement; [81260]

(3) what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to encourage persons aged 17 to 24 years of the dangers of driving while feeling drowsy; and if he will make a statement. [81261]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 28 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 153W, to the hon. Member for South Swindon (Anne Snelgrove). The Department's research reports are published at www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_rdsafety/documents/divisionhomepage/032513.hcsp. Research Reports 21, 22 and 52 are relevant to driver sleepiness and report 43 is relevant to accident contributory factors. Research into motorcycle rider fatigue and accident risk is ongoing. The Department's publicity programme on driver tiredness is aimed at drivers of all ages.

Special Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role is played by special advisers in answering parliamentary questions asked of his Department. [80650]

Gillian Merron: Special advisers conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Birds

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1526W, on birds, whether Essex county council has concluded its investigation into Pegasus Birds; and if he will make a statement. [79488]

Mr. Bradshaw: The investigation was completed in April 2006. The investigating officer's report concluded that, despite procedural irregularities at the facility, the quarantine procedures for imported birds worked, and avian influenza was successfully detected. Following recommendations from the investigation, both the director and manager of Pegasus Birds received written cautions.

Both DEFRA and Essex Trading Standards learnt from the experience. DEFRA commissioned an independent review of avian quarantine for captive birds, which was published on 15 December 2005. The Government response to the review is available on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/control/avianquarantine/gov-strategy/index.htm.

Climate Change

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many young ambassadors for climate change have been identified under the Climate Change Communication Initiative; [80709]

(2) how much has been spent under the Climate Change Communication Initiative, broken down by project. [80710]

Ian Pearson: Nine champions have been chosen in the Climate Change Champions Competition 2006, one from each region in England.

In February 2005, funding of £12 million for the period 2005-06 to 2007-08 was announced for the

Climate Change Communication Initiative, with £6 million of that being made available for Climate Challenge Fund projects. This month, the Government announced that awards would be made to 53 projects under the fund (totalling £2.6 million in 2006-07 and £2.2 million in 2007-08). A breakdown is provided in the following table. A number of further projects are currently under discussion. More information is available at: www.climatechange.gov.uk.

		2006-07	2007-08	£ Total
AE001	IVCA Ltd	66,140.00	72,250.00	138,390.00
AE007	Cambridge Carbon Footprint	5,160.00	0.00	5,160.00
AE008	Scouts Association	13,789.00	19,435.00	33,224.00
AE009	National Trust	103,700.00	10,000.00	113,700.00
AE010	Forkbeard Fantasy	25,100.00	52,598.00	77,698.00
AE011	The National Energy Foundation (NEF)	142,000.00	153,300.00	295,500.00
AE012	National Federation of Women's Institutes	27,600.00	27,600.00	55,200.00
AE013	School Councils UK	80,700.00	14,700.00	95,400.00
AE014	Global Action Plan	49,230.00	—	49,230.00
AE015	British Association for the Advancement of Science	30,000.00	—	30,000.00
AE016	WMnet: West Midlands Regional Broadband Consortium	75,000.00	85,000.00	160,000.00
AE134	Forum for the Future	123,566.00	47,940.00	171,506.00
AE040	New Economics Foundation	103,834.00	145,311.00	249,145.00
AE041	Royal Geographical Society	29,000.00	69,750.00	98,750.00
AE042	Yigal Allon Educational Trust	49,480.00	—	49,480.00
EE003	Cambridge Carbon Footprint	16,284.00	17,750.00	34,034.00
EE013	Ipswich Borough Council	44,098.00	—	44,098.00
EE023	University of East Anglia	16,245.00	—	16,245.00
EM002	Bolsover Drama Group	—	6,850.00	6,850.00
EM003	The Wellingborough Partnership	6,700.00	—	6,700.00
FM020	Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities' Energy Partnership	207,500.00	171,500.00	379,000.00
LON012	The Friends of Finsbury Park (FoFP)	14,434.00	—	14,434.00
LON013	Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	18,450.00	3,550.00	22,000.00
LON024	Greater London Authority	229,500.00	187,500.00	417,000.00
LON039	London Borough of Bromley	30,000.00	31,000.00	61,000.00
LON041	London Sustainability Exchange (LSx)	40,856.00	98,277.00	139,133.00
LON071	London Borough of Sutton	73,000.00	75,750.00	148,750.00
NE003	Langdon Beck YHA	18,300.00	—	18,300.00
NE012	Sunderland City Council	20,500.00	15,000.00	35,500.00
NE021	Helix Arts	40,941.00	51,931.00	92,872.00
NW010	Sustainability Northwest	22,061.00	17,810.00	39,871.00
NW013	Rite2no-young people's climate change project/Parklands High School	7,396.00	32,414.00	39,810.00
NW046	Liverpool World Centre	29,210.00	38,671.00	67,881.00
SE032	The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford	78,000.00	122,000.00	200,000.00
SE070	The National Energy Foundation (NEF)	98,750.00	86,000.00	184,750.00
SE075	Thames Valley Energy Centre	13,590.00	0.00	13,590.00
SW004	Dartmoor National Park Authority	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00
SW023	Westden	12,700.00	16,150.00	28,850.00
SW042	Devon Development Education	35,750.00	39,917.00	75,667.00
SW051	Centre for Sustainable Energy	139,928.00	73,303.00	213,231.00
SW093	Community Energy Plus	28,990.00	56,330.00	85,320.00
WM001	Stoke on Trent City Council	50,771.00	47,949.00	98,720.00
WM008	WMnet: West Midlands Regional Broadband Consortium	95,000.00	95,000.00	190,000.00
WM020	Castle Vale Community Housing Association	16,100.00	0.00	16,100.00
WM026	The Rural Media Company	40,700.00	1,300.00	42,000.00
WM031	Winterbourne Botanic Garden	10,150.00	0.00	10,150.00
WM033	Tide-Teachers in Development Education	27,000.00	21,250.00	48,250.00
WM038	Big Brum Theatre in Education Company	13,355.00	—	13,355.00
YH010	Stockholm Environment Institute	26,115.00	33,642.00	59,757.00
YH023	Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust	57,000.00	40,000.00	97,000.00

		2006-07	2007-08	£ Total
YH026	Calderdale Sustainability Forum Ltd.	53,266.00	44,375.00	97,641.00
YH049	Kingston Upon Hull City Council	42,689.00	68,728.00	111,417.00
YH053	Taleem Youth Forum	9,390.00	—	9,390.00
—	Total	2,616,518.00	2,192,031.00	4,808,549.00

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely impact of *(a)* home information packs and (b) the home condition report on improving energy efficiency. [77963]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The home condition report within the pack will provide buyers and sellers with an assessment of the energy efficiency and carbon emissions of the home, as well as advice on measures that can be taken to improve these. This will enable buyers to consider energy efficiency in choosing their new home, and will give sellers and new owners reliable advice on how to make improvements. This and other information in the home condition report will raise awareness of energy efficiency and property condition and are expected to contribute to an overall improvement in housing stock and reduced carbon emissions.

Environmental Prosecution

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many notices of environmental prosecution have been issued to the Government since 1997. [80767]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency issue formal enforcement notices and carry out prosecutions; these are two different forms of enforcement activity.

Neither form has been issued to the Government since 1997.

Environmental Special Grants

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* value was of each special grant awarded to City of York council for environmental purposes since 1997. [78947]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* As well as the annual funding allocation under Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services (EPCS) block of the revenue support grant, City of York council has received a number of additional grants from DEFRA to support improvements in local waste management, provide household incentives for recycling and develop kerbside recycling and composting. The following table shows the breakdown of the funds provided and projects supported.

Funding type	*Funding description*	*Funding start date*	*Funding end date*	*Funding amount (£)*
Local Authority Support Unit Direct Consultancy Support	Procurement: partnership development	1 April 2004	31 March 2005	36,015
National Waste Minimisation and Recycling Fund (Round 3)	Recycling centre project: household waste recycling centre	1 April 2004	31 March 2006	350,000
Grant to relieve spending pressures	Grant to local authorities targeted to relieve spending pressures on waste management in 2004-05	1 April 2004	31 March 2005	50,700
Recycling awareness	Funding from the waste and resources action programme as a partner with North Yorkshire authorities in raise awareness of recycling	1 April 2004	31 March 2006	18,500
Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant	Capital: £82,006.62 Revenue: £63,782.92			145,790
Local Authority Support Unit Direct Consultancy Support	York and North Yorkshire Waste Management Partnership (YNYWMP) and Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (JMWMS)–revision and development	1 April 2005	31 March 2006	72,182

Funding type	Funding description	Funding start date	Funding end date	Funding amount (£)
Household Incentives	4 x 6 month pilot schemes: four incentive pilots for a six month period starting October 2005. All authorities will run the first two pilots but can elect to undertake the third and fourth	1 April 2005	31 March 2006	23,400
Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant	Capital: £193853 Revenue: £193853	1 April 2006	31 March 2007	38,7705
Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant	Capital: £203037 Revenue: £203037	1 April 2007	31 March 2008	406,075

It will take some time for the Department to gather information on any further special grants which have been awarded to City of York council for environmental purposes since 1997. I will write to the hon. Member with any additional information.

Marine Bill

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the introduction of the draft Marine Bill; and whether he plans to submit it for pre-legislative scrutiny; [77816]

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, when he expects to publish a draft Marine Bill; and whether he plans to submit it for pre-legislative scrutiny; [77579]

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what the timescale is for the introduction of the draft Marine Bill; and if he will make a statement; [80146]

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, whether a draft Marine Bill will be published in the current parliamentary session. [80562]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA published a consultation document on 29 March 2006 that outlined the Government's thinking in a number of key areas that will be addressed by a Marine Bill. The consultation period was three months. We will need to take the consultation responses into account before taking a decision on the timing of and arrangements for further consultation on detailed proposals or a draft Bill. Introduction of a Marine Bill will follow later in this Parliament, subject to the availability of Parliamentary time.

Renewable Energy (Residential Properties)

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grants his Department makes available to enable people to have access to *(a)* solar heating and *(b)* other forms of renewable microgeneration in residential properties. [80561]

Ian Pearson: The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has the lead responsibility for renewable energy and microgeneration. The DTI-funded Clear Skies Programme was replaced by its Low Carbon Buildings Programme on 1 April 2006, which will operate for three years. The programme is managed by the Energy Saving Trust and provides grants for solar heating and other microgeneration technologies alongside energy efficiency measures to householders, community organisations, the public sector and business.

Single Payment Scheme

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of claimants are waiting to receive *(a)* their Single Farm Payment in full and *(b)* any Single Farm Payments; and what the total value of payments is which remain to be paid. [79896]

Barry Gardiner: The following figures are calculated against a claimant population for the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) of 120,000 claims and are, consequently, likely to overstate the true position as the total number of claimants who will receive a payment will be somewhat lower. This is because account has to be taken of duplicate claims, consolidation of multiple claims into single business claims, voluntary withdrawals, claimants not activating entitlements and claims subject to 100 per cent. penalties.

At close of business on 27 June 2006, approximately 31,500 claimants have yet to receive their full payment. This represents 26 per cent. of an estimated 120,000 claims, approximately half of which have received a partial payment.

Approximately 14,500 claimants (12 per cent. of an estimated 120,000 claims) have yet to receive any payment. Most of these claims are worth less than €1,000.

Out of a total available fund of an estimated £1.5 billion, £1,415,817,581.80 has already been paid to farmers.

Work is continuing by the Rural Payments Agency to pay as many claims as possible using a variety of methods by the end of the payment window on 30 June.

Sustainable Food Strategy

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition of "significant" was used when setting the aim of significantly reducing the environmental costs of domestic food transportation by 2012 in the sustainable food strategy. [79439]

Mr. Bradshaw: The word "significant" was used in its common meaning, i.e. important or meaningful. The food industry sustainability strategy provides for a process to be set up with industry

"to consider the practical implications associated with it securing significant reductions (say 20 per cent. by 2012) in the level of external costs associated with the domestic transportation of food."

An industry-led champions' group will consider the feasibility of this proposed target and determine what additional measures might be necessary to achieve it.

Waste Management

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether the Waste and Resources Action Programme Real Nappy Initiative aimed to divert 35,000 tonnes of waste *(a)* in each year from 2003 to 2006 and *(b)* in total; [78531]

(2) how much disposable nappy waste has been diverted by the Waste and Resources Action Programme's Real Nappy Initiative; and what its targets are for such diversion. [80253]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Real Nappy initiative target was to convert an additional 155,000 households to real nappy use by April 2006, and in the process divert 35,000 tonnes per annum of disposable nappy waste from landfill.

WRAP reports annually on its overall progress in meeting targets, including work under the Real Nappy initiative. It is scheduled to report on its achievements for the business plan period up to 2006 soon. At the outset of the programme, 91 per cent. of expectant parents said they intended to use disposable nappies. Work done for the Environment Agency suggested the figure may be higher at 94 per cent. WRAP intends to survey parents again at the end of the programme and to establish the change in intended behaviour. An estimate of the diversion will be made and published by WRAP at that time taking account of the survey and other quantitative evidence.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what controls are in place to monitor waste intended for recycling to ensure that it is not re-routed to a landfill site. [79913]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no evidence of large-scale or repeated landfilling of recyclables, but material collected for recycling is occasionally sent to landfill if it is badly contaminated.

It is not in the interest of local authorities to send recyclable material to landfill because of the requirement to meet statutory recycling targets for household waste, tough landfill diversion targets for municipal waste, and the need to avoid the increasing cost of landfill.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will report on local authority pilot projects funded by his Department on waste minimisation incentives. [78534]

Mr. Bradshaw: The results of the household incentive pilot schemes will be available in the next few weeks.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to announce whether he will introduce variable charges for waste production. [79892]

Mr. Bradshaw: We have no current plans to introduce charging for household waste. The Government are considering what further steps are needed to tackle household waste as part of the review of the Waste Strategy, which will be published later this year. We are also looking at the spending pressures local authorities face, with regard to waste management, ahead of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Variable charging is one of a number of tools that could be used to encourage waste minimisation and recycling of household waste. Local authorities already have powers to run incentive schemes or require householders to separate their waste for recycling. Recent research shows that at least half of English local authorities have run, or are running, some form of incentive scheme and some, such as Barnet, require householders to separate their recycling.

Many countries, including some in the European Union, have introduced successful household waste charging schemes, achieving reductions in waste arisings and increases in the separation of waste for recycling.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will introduce national compulsory recycling schemes. [79779]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA has no plans to introduce a national compulsory recycling scheme. It is up to each local authority to decide how to go about meeting the challenging recycling targets in their local area.

Compulsory recycling will not be suitable for all local authorities, but DEFRA will watch those that try such schemes with interest. As part of the review of the Waste Strategy, we are continuing to investigate options for influencing householder behaviour, with particular emphasis on positive incentives to help authorities encourage householders to reduce, re-use and recycle their waste.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases have been migrated from the old rules system onto the new rules system and then back onto the old rules system. [77977]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently unavailable, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases have been migrated from the old rules system onto the new rules system and then back onto the old rules system.

The original system (CSCS) runs cases on the old scheme rules only. The new system (CS2) run cases on the new scheme rules; and also old scheme cases linked to a new scheme pulled through to the new system, although still operating on old scheme rules.

Currently, the only way for cases to be transferred from the old system to the new system is through reactive migration, which happens where an old scheme case has a link to a new scheme application and is therefore transferred from one system to the other. There were 322,000 old scheme cases operating on the new computer system in March 2006.

An old scheme case that has been transferred from the old system to the new system is only converted to the new scheme where there is a relevant link with a new scheme application. Relevant links are ones where the new application will have a financial impact on the linked case. At the end of March 2006, around 41,000 previously old scheme cases had been converted into the new scheme, and were thus also operating on the new computer system.

There is currently no policy for converting cases from the new rules and system back to the old scheme.

I hope you find this helpful.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children have non-resident parents with a Child Support Agency liability. [79704]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the right, hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds dated 3 July 2006:

In reply to your parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently on leave, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many children have non-resident parents with a Child Support Agency liability.

At the end of March 2006 there were 1,507,000 children that had a non-resident parent with a Child Support Agency liability. This includes nil liabilities.

I hope you find this useful

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the software to handle the migration of old system cases onto the new system was delivered to the Child Support Agency. [80402]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently unavailable, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, when the software to handle the migration of old system cases onto the new system was delivered to the Child Support Agency.

There are two parts to the process of moving from the old computer system (CSCS) to the new system (CS2); firstly migration of the cases across the computer systems and secondly the conversion of those cases from the old scheme to the new scheme.

The software to enable bulk migration of cases from the old computer system to the new computer system was delivered in May 2005. The Initial Conversion software to enable the conversion of cases from the old scheme to the new scheme was delivered in March 2006. These are both necessary to support migration and conversion. However, before bulk migration and conversion could take place defects in the new computer system would need to be resolved. A number of software releases have been scheduled for between now and the end of 2007, designed to remove the large majority of existing defects. A large data cleansing exercise would need to be completed to support successful conversion.

I hope you find this useful.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will answer the letter of 20 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. and Mrs. V. Brown, transferred to him by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [77588]

Mr. Hutton: I replied to the right hon. Member's letter on 26 June 2006.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average cost to his Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80493]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members' peers' correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS.

The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Crisis Loans

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many crisis loans have been *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted in each local authority area in Scotland in each of the last five years. [80851]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The table gives information for Scotland as a whole.

Crisis loans in Scotland

	Applications	*Number Initial awards*
2001-02	308,000	213,000
2002-03	312,000	222,000
2003-04	327,000	226,000
2004-05	303,000	209,000
2005-06	326,000	224,000

Notes:
1. Data is not available by local authority, but only by Jobcentre Plus district (or, before Jobcentre Plus districts were used for the administration of the social fund, by social fund district).
2. Very substantial district boundary changes took place in Scotland over the period November 2002 to April 2003 and again from November 2004 to January 2005, with one further change in January 2006. It is therefore not possible to compare data over five years for any area smaller than Scotland, except for the area now covered by the Jobcentre Plus district of Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Departmental Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list those Government Bills sponsored by his Department that are still to be introduced during the 2005-06 Session. [78857]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government will bring forward in this Session the welfare reform legislation set out in the Queen's Speech on 17 May 2005 to reform support for housing costs and establish benefits, which will facilitate a return to employment while offering long-term support for those unable to work.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list those Government Bills sponsored by his Department that he has bid for in the next session of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [78858]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given by the Leader of the House on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, Column 1431W.

Disabled Staff

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on adaptations and equipment for disabled members of staff in each year since 2003. [79933]

Mrs. McGuire: Any DWP employee requiring equipment and adaptations receives the support they need to undertake their duties. Information on the amount spent by the Department on equipment and adaptations for disabled staff is not collected. Currently, costs are attributed to individual local budgets relevant to the individual employee and are included in the overall costs of furniture/equipment within that business unit.

Flags

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many days since May 1997 the St. George's flag has been flown from his Department's buildings. [77733]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The Department for Culture, Media and Sport issue the guidance for flying flags on Government buildings, which includes the list of dates, to Government Departments every year, usually at the end of December. This includes flying the St. George's flag on St. George's day, 23 April, and the European flag on Europe day, 9 May. It also informs Government Departments as and when there are any additional flag flying days. The Department for Work and Pensions will adhere to this guidance.

The guidance can be found on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website at www.culture.gov.uk/flagflying.

The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001. Therefore the St. George's flag has been flown five times from Department's buildings.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on flying the *(a)* St. George's flag and *(b)* EU flag from departmental buildings. [77734]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The Department for Culture, Media and Sport issue the guidance for flying flags on Government buildings, which includes the list of dates, to Government Departments every year, usually at the end of December. This includes flying the St. George's flag on St. George's day, the 23 April, and European flag on Europe day, 9 May. It also informs Government Departments as and when there are any additional flag flying days. The Department for Work and Pensions will adhere to this guidance.

The guidance can be found on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website at www.culture.gov.uk/flagflying

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will ensure the Union flag is flown from his Department's buildings on every day the offices are open. [77735]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The Department for Work and Pensions follows the rules and guidance on flag flying issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. These rules are approved by the Queen on advice from the Department. There are no plans at present to change the number of days flags can be flown from Government buildings.

Guidance can be found on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website at www.culture.gov.uk/flagflying.

Pensions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on *(a)* improving protection for employees' pension schemes and *(b)* increasing the amount held in the Pension Protection Fund. [76019]

James Purnell: Both the Secretary of State and I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues in the Treasury to discuss a range of pension issues. Recent discussions led to our being able to announce a significant extension to the financial assistance scheme, increasing the total funding to £2.3 billion.

The Pension Protection Fund is not funded by Government, but by industry levy.

Winter Fuel Payments

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people had their 60th birthday after the qualifying week for winter fuel payments and therefore did not receive a winter fuel payment for that year in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in each year since 1997. [81660]

James Purnell: Figures are not provided for the first three years of the winter fuel payment scheme as payment was linked to receipt of a qualifying benefit rather than to a qualifying age. The following table shows the number of people turning 60 after the end of the qualifying week but before the end of the calendar year for each winter from 2000-01.

	England	*Wales*
2000-01	120,000	10,000
2001-02	130,000	10,000
2002-03	150,000	10,000
2003-04	160,000	10,000
2004-05	150,000	10,000
2005-06	160,000	10,000

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.
Source:
Government Actuary Department population projections (principle-based).

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments/Open Space

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to planning *(a)* guidance, *(b)* circulars and *(c)* regulations relating to (i) allotments and (ii) building on land classified as open space since 1997. [78331]

Yvette Cooper: Current planning policy guidance on allotments and open space is set out in PPG17: Open Space, Sport and Recreation, published in 2002. This provides enhanced protection from development for all types of open space. In particular, PPG17 indicates that open space should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken that has clearly shown that the open space is surplus to requirements. It also includes specific policies to protect playing fields from development. These policies are supported by the Town and Country Planning (Playing Fields) (England) Direction 1998 which gives the Secretary of State for Communities and local government the power to call in planning applications affecting playing fields where local authorities have not resolved Sport England's objections.

Allotments are included in the typology of open spaces to which the policies in PPG17 to protect open space apply. In addition, statutory allotments are protected via section 8 of the Allotments Act 1925 which requires that local authorities seek the Secretary of State's consent for disposal or appropriation to another use. Consent cannot be given unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that certain criteria are met. Clarified criteria were issued to local authorities in February 2001.

The options for consolidating existing allotments legislation were considered following the DETR Select Committee Report, "The Future of Allotments", in 1998, and it was decided that the best way to clarify the legislation was by promoting best practice. A good practice guide on the management of allotments and a guide for plot holders were published in 2001.

Arm's Length Management Organisations

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of arm's length management organisations which will not achieve the decent homes standard by 2010. [71025]

Yvette Cooper: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced on 7 June that we will negotiate extensions to the 2010 deadline with individual arm's length management organisations where it would be beneficial to have longer to deliver their decent homes programmes. For those starting late on the programme and for local authorities where the scale of the work is significant to deliver mixed communities or more new build, or where there are performance issues, or to ensure value for money in procurement, we will negotiate individual delivery timescales. However, the vast majority of social landlords will still be expected to ensure all homes are decent by 2010.

Competent Persons Scheme

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in implementing the competent persons scheme; and if she will make a statement. [81031]

Angela E. Smith: The first competent persons schemes were introduced in 2002 to reduce the administrative burden of the Building Regulations by allowing self-certification of compliance with the relevant Building Regulations by enterprises and individuals judged as competent, as an alternative to submitting a building notice or using an approved inspector. The aim was to enhance compliance, reduce costs for firms, promote training and competence within the industry, tackle the problem of non-compliant builders and assist local authorities with enforcement of the Building Regulations.

The schemes were extended to cover electrical safety in 2005. In April 2006, in support of the new higher standards of energy efficiency required by Part L, further schemes were introduced to cover the installation of bathrooms and bathroom fittings, plumbing, heating systems and hot water service systems, ventilation and air conditioning, lighting systems, electric heating systems and associated controls, air pressure testing of buildings, carbon dioxide emission rate calculations and the installation of replacement windows and doors.

Council Housing

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on the recent Court of Appeal decision in the cases of Hassan Ismael and Nimco Abdi against the London borough of Barnet. [66828]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

In the case of London borough of Barnet *v.* Abdi and Ismael, the applicants were both EEA nationals who were economically inactive and were not "qualified persons" for the purpose of regulation 5 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2000. The status of "qualified person" under those regulations relates to whether or not a person has a right to reside in the United Kingdom under European Union law, for example as a worker. The Court of Appeal found that the applicants were subject to immigration control as they did not have a right to reside. This would have meant the applicants were eligible for homelessness assistance under the housing rules which then applied to persons subject to immigration control, in a way that was not intended.

To close this loophole, the Government have made regulations to narrow the classes of eligibility for social housing and homelessness assistance for persons subject to immigration control. The effect of this is to ensure that nationals from the European Economic Area (EEA) who are economically inactive and do not have a right to reside in the UK are not eligible for social housing and homelessness assistance in England (unless, exceptionally, they fall into one of the other classes of eligibility that relate to persons subject to immigration control). The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Amendment) Regulations 2006 came into force on 20 April.

The new regulations reinforce the measures introduced in May 2004, and will help ensure that people cannot come to the United Kingdom simply to get access to the social welfare system.

Engagements

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will visit Wellingborough to discuss future housing and infrastructure developments. [75057]

Yvette Cooper: As I explained in my answer of 18 April 2006, we consider that Wellingborough plays an important part in the growth proposals for North Northamptonshire. We are kept regularly updated on development of the plans to take these forward and I chair the regular Milton Keynes and South Midlands Inter Regional Board. In addition, officials are closely involved with the borough council and other partners in bringing forward housing, growth and other agendas. There have already been a number of ministerial visits to North Northamptonshire and more are planned. DCLG Ministers are more than happy to discuss housing development and infrastructure provision in Wellingborough during future visits to Northamptonshire.

Green Spaces

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to protect green spaces in urban areas. [72553]

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to improve inner-city green spaces. [75572]

Yvette Cooper: This Government's programmes for improving urban parks and green spaces are set out in our reports "Living Places—Cleaner, Safer, Greener" (ODPM 2002), and "Sustainable communities: building for the future" (ODPM 2003).

Available evidence shows that the programmes are working. For example, public satisfaction in parks and green spaces rose by 8 per cent. to71 per cent. between 2001 and 2004 (ODPM, 2004). The National Audit Office's recent report on the performance of our programmes also found that:

"84% of urban local authorities believe the quality of their park is stable or improving. This compares to less than 44% in 2000. In 2000 more than 55% of urban local authorities considered their historic green spaces were declining in quality. This had fallen to 16% in 2005".

It also concluded that:

"Initiatives led by the Office of Deputy Prime Minister have helped to reverse the decline in the quality of urban green space in many of England's urban neighbourhoods".

(NAO March 2006).

Home Improvements

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses in Morley and Rothwell have had improvements under the decent homes standard scheme; and what the cost of such improvements has been. [80584]

Yvette Cooper: Information is collected at local authority level only. Leeds metropolitan borough (including Morley and Rothwell) reports that in 2004-05 (the latest year for which information is available), 34,388 local authority-owned homes were included in their capital programme for that year at a cost of £77 million. The work carried out includes: incremental improvement of non-decent stock (only a proportion of which will become decent as a result of elemental works); prevention of homes becoming non-decent; and wider housing and environmental improvements to estates. The total expenditure on this type of works in Leeds over the period 2001-02 to 2004-05 was £199 million[1]. However it is not possible to state how many homes have been improved as a result of this total expenditure since 2001-02 as the majority of dwellings will have had work undertaken on them under more than one programme.

[1] *Source:*

Business Plan Annual Monitoring returns.

Home Information Packs

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department *(a)* has spent to date and *(b)* plans to spend to promote awareness of home information packs. [74479]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have a duty to inform property professions, stakeholders and home buyers and sellers about the forthcoming change in the law. Expenditure for the 2005-06 financial year was £706,000. This includes the cost of an extensive trade advertising campaign to raise awareness of the June 2007 implementation date within the home buying and selling professions.

Planned expenditure of £2,500,000 for 2006-07 includes continued awareness raising within the professions and a national and regional advertising campaign to raise awareness of home information packs among consumers, during the dry run.

In 2007-08 we expect to run a major information campaign for consumers which would include marketing, advertising and publicity. The extent of the campaign and the level of investment will be decided later in the year on the basis of the experience of the dry run.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the principle of caveat emptor will continue to apply to house purchasers in relation to home information packs; whether standard conditions of sale in house purchase contracts will be able to exclude the vendor from any future liability as a result of information contained in home information packs after contracts have been exchanged; and whether members of the public will have electronic access to full individual reports stored in the Home Condition Report Register. [75412]

Yvette Cooper: The principle of caveat emptor will continue to apply.

Sellers are unlikely to be the source of most of the documents required for home information packs—it is the author who remains liable for the contents of individual documents. Where the seller has made statements or representations in the pack, the lawfulness of any attempt to exclude liability for such statements would be for a court to decide. However, it is expected that the position will be no different to that in relation to statements currently made by a seller before contracts are exchanged—in particular, the Misrepresentation Act 1967 requires that any such contractual terms must be fair and reasonable, and the buyer would be entitled to damages if they entered into the contract following a misrepresentation and they suffered loss as a result.

The only people who will have access to the Home Condition Report Register will be buyers and sellers, their advisers and mortgage lenders, and those monitoring the performance and quality of the reports.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations are entitled to produce home information packs; what guidelines are in place on what should be included; and what avenues exist for a leaseholder to refuse to pay for a pack that is inferior or defective in information required. [75980]

Yvette Cooper: There are no restrictions on those who are able to put together home information packs. The packs will normally be commissioned by sellers or their agents from providers willing and able to undertake this role for a consideration. The contents of the Packs are prescribed in regulations made under the Housing Act 2004.

Leaseholders will be able to seek redress in the same way as freeholders, either from the pack provider or from their agent, depending on the source of their complaint.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people are *(a)* qualified, *(b)* in training and *(c)* registered to take courses for the delivery of home condition reports; and what the average cost is of this training. [75981]

Yvette Cooper: As of 31 May 2006, over 4,400 home inspectors are in the process of being trained, and 232 have completed their training. The amount of training required, and therefore the cost, depends on previous experience. For an experienced surveyor with relevant experience, the cost is estimated to be around £1,600 to £1,800. For a candidate with no relevant experience, training would take longer and is estimated to cost around £6,700 to £8,000.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which areas home information packs will be piloted; and what opportunities there will be to bring forward their introduction if buyer and vendor agree to this. [75982]

Yvette Cooper: Home information packs (HIPs) will be tested on a voluntary basis throughout England and Wales during the period leading up to 1 June 2007. Packs that contain home condition reports prepared by certified home inspectors should be available from

October 2006. HIP providers are expected to trial the packs in a number of areas after this date; the areas have yet to be confirmed.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the *(a)* quality and *(b)* accuracy of facts provided in home information packs will be monitored; and if she will make a statement. [77482]

Yvette Cooper: The quality and accuracy of documents included in the HIP will be the responsibility of the provider of the document (as is the case under the current system). For example, the home inspector will be responsible for the home condition report, search providers for their reports and the seller for the forms they complete. The principle of caveat emptor will still apply, and the buyer's conveyancer should ensure they are satisfied with the information provided. Consumers will be able to get redress if they incur a loss due to inaccurate information.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether *(a)* mortgage lenders and *(b)* estate agents will be charged to have access to the Home Condition Report Register electronic database. [66776]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

Access to view reports will be via the local registers and will be restricted to persons prescribed by regulations. This will include buyers' and sellers' mortgage lenders and estate agents. We are currently considering the basis for charging in relation to the register, but we envisage such access will be free of charge.

Reports must also be lodged onto the central register, by the home inspector or certification scheme. We anticipate that a fee will be charged for this registration process.

Homelessness

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have been identified as homeless in each of the last five years for which records are available. [76762]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation, which is collected in respect of households rather than persons, is summarised in a quarterly Statistical Release, the latest of which was published by the Department for Communities and Local Government on 12 June.

Table 3 provides the number of households accepted by local authorities as unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category, and consequently owed a main homelessness duty, in each year since 1997. Table 6 presents those in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities at the end of each quarter since March 1997.

Copies are available in the Library, and from the DCLG website at http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2169.

The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. As an alternative to the provision of temporary accommodation, some authorities arrange for households to remain in their current accommodation (homeless at home) until a settled solution becomes available.

Information is also collected by the Department on the number of people who sleep rough; that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night. These are shown as follows:

	Rough sleepers (number of people)
2001	703
2002	596
2003	504
2004	508
2005	459

Households

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the likely change in the number of households in each region in the next *(a)* five, *(b)* 10, *(c)* 15 and *(d)* 20 years; and if she will make a statement. [81710]

Yvette Cooper: Projections of households for 2003 to 2026 and intervening years were published on 4 March 2006 via the DCLG website:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2097

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the accuracy of house building targets in relation to growth in the number of households over the past 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [81711]

Yvette Cooper: In response to the Barker Review of Housing Supply, the Government announced, in December 2005, an ambition to increase new housing supply in England to 200,000 net additions per year over the next decade. This took account of factors including household growth, affordability, numbers of houses in plans and recent trends in housing supply.

The level of household growth over the past 10 years reflects in part the level of home building as where the number of new homes are restricted it can restrict household formation. So, for example, young people live with their parents for longer than they would otherwise choose to do.

Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when figures will be published on the average sale price of the homes built under her Department's £60,000 homes scheme. [70708]

Yvette Cooper: The Design for Manufacture competition is being run by English Partnerships on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government. It includes 10 sites across England which

are currently in public sector ownership. Each of the 10 sites chosen for the competition is being sold to the successful developers in the usual way. It is anticipated that there will be mixed tenure on each site in order to ensure mixed communities, with some homes being available for affordable rent, some under shared equity and some for private sale. Around 50 per cent. of the homes will be affordable social renting or shared equity homes. For example, shared equity in two-bedroom homes on the first sites will be sold for between £55,000 and £70,000. The homes for full sales will need to take account of the land value as well as the construction costs, and their price will be set by the developers in accordance with the market conditions at the time. Therefore, the actual sales costs will be known once the homes are built on site and details finalised in accordance with market conditions at the time.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new affordable housing units were completed in *(a)* England and *(b)* local authorities defined as rural in each year since 2000, broken down by region. [71588]

Yvette Cooper: I have deposited the information in the Library of the House. The table shows social rented units, either built or acquired, provided through Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme and Local Authority Social Housing Grant (table A) and those provided by local authorities (table B).

Each local authority listed has been assigned an urban/rural classification based on the "Defra Classification of Local Authority Districts and Unitary Authorities in England" published in July 2005.

Using these classifications, the table also shows (from 1998-99 when the classifications can first be applied) percentages of social rented housing units delivered in predominantly rural districts. The percentage of the population in those predominantly rural districts is 23 per cent.

The classification criteria are as follows:

Major Urban:

Districts with either 100,000 people or 50 per cent. of their population in an urban area with a population of more than 750,000; there are 76 districts in this group,

Large Urban:

Districts with either 50,000 people or 50 per cent. of their population in one of 17 urban areas with a population between 250,000 and 750,000; there are 45 districts in this group.

Other Urban:

Districts with fewer than 37,000 people or less than 26 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns; there are 55 districts in this group.

Significant Rural:

Districts with more than 37,000 people or more than 26 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns; there are 53 districts in this group.

Rural-50:

Districts with at least 50 per cent. but less than 80 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns; there are 52 districts in this group, and

Rural-80:

Districts with at least 80 per cent. of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns; there are 73 districts in this group.

The urban/rural classifications are only applicable to all local authorities as defined after the local government reorganisation in April 1988.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were classified as *(a)* homeless and *(b)* unsuitably housed in each year since 1990-91; and if she will make a statement. [75828]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected in respect of households rather than persons. The number of households accepted by local authorities in England as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and consequently owed the main homelessness duty, in each year since 1990-91; and the number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by the authority under homelessness legislation as at 31 March of each year, are tabled as follows. From 1998, information has also been collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night—and these are presented as follows.

	Households accepted as owed a main duty during the year	*Households in temporary accommodation at end of year (31 March)*
1990-91	139,290	50,000
1991-92	139,630	62,090
1992-93	136,230	61,380
1993-94	125,360	52,340
1994-95	116,850	46,350
1995-96	116,550	43,240
1996-97	110,810	41,250
1997-98	102,430	47,520
1998-99	104,260	56,580
1999-2000	105,580	65,170
2000-01	114,670	75,200
2001-02	116,660	80,210
2002-03	128,540	89,040
2003-04	135,430	97,680
2004-05	120,860	101,070
2005-06	[1]—	[1]—

	Rough sleepers (number of persons) June
1998	1,850
1999	1,633
2000	1,180
2001	703
2002	596
2003	504
2004	508
2005	459

[1] Not yet available

Sources:

DCLG P1E Homelessness returns (quarterly); and

Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (annual) (for rough sleepers data)

There is no general definition of 'unsuitable' housing. The available estimates for the number of unfit homes (as defined by section 604 of the 1989 Local Government and Housing Act) are provided in the following table. This shows a decline from around 1.5 million in 1991 to around 1 million currently. The small differences relating to 2001 to 2004 are not statistically significant.

Number of unfit homes in England, 1991-2004

	Number (Thousand)	*Percentage of all homes*
1991	1,498	7.6
1996	1,522	7.5
2001	902	4.3
2003	1,005	4.7
2004	985	4.6

Note:
Unfit homes are those which fail the statutory minimum standard as defined by the Fitness Standard and, since April 1996, the Housing Health and Safety Rating System.

Source:
DCLG: English House Condition Surveys

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will amend the planning regulations to make it mandatory for all *(a)* new build housing and *(b)* conversions to incorporate photo-voltaics and wind turbine technology wherever practicable. [75855]

Yvette Cooper: Planning Policy Statement 22 on renewable energy allows local authorities to set targets for the percentage of energy in new developments that should come from renewable sources. In a ministerial statement on 8 June I announced the results of a survey by my Department that showed a large percentage of authorities preparing new-style local development frameworks were including such policies in their plans. It is essential that all planning authorities adopt the positive approach to renewables set out in PPS22 at the earliest opportunity in their plan making. In particular the Government expect all planning authorities to include policies in their development plans that require a percentage of the energy in new developments to come from on-site renewables where viable.

The Government's forthcoming draft planning policy statement on climate change will be an opportunity to consider further how the planning process more generally can help combat climate change by extending the contribution of renewables from both on-site and off-site sources.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new *(a)* private houses and *(b)* units of social housing were built in (i) Greater London and (ii) Bexley borough in (A) 2001 and (B) 2005. [76653]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of new private houses and units of social houses built in Greater London and the borough of Bexley are given in the following table. New units of social housing includes all those built by local authorities and registered social landlords for sub-market rent, but does not include those sold below market value to groups such as key workers. Information on social housing is for financial years and figures for 2005-06 are not yet available. Local authorities can use section 106 negotiations on new residential developments to support new social housing.

Number of new dwellings built in London and the borough of Bexley

	2001-02	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
London			
Private (new build)	10,510	17,937	13,318
Social rent (new build)	4,228	4,054	—
Bexley			
Private (new build)	196	101	103
Social rent (new build)	6	21	—

Source:
P2 returns from local authorities to DCLG, Housing Corporation.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social housing tenancies have been demoted as a result of antisocial behaviour since their introduction. [76713]

Angela E. Smith: The DCLG has requested that local authorities supply data on the number of secure tenancies they have demoted. The first returns for 2005-06 will be published later in the summer.

The Housing Corporation commenced the collection of this data a year earlier. Its regulatory and statistical returns for 2004-05, indicate that registered social landlords demoted 76 tenancies from June 2004 (when this tool first became available) to April 2005.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to increase the regional housing target for the South East from the 28,900 per annum target from 2006 to 2026 adopted by the South East Regional Assembly. [81512]

Yvette Cooper: Current housing targets for the South East are set out in the Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9) and subsequent revisions for the Growth Areas. In reviewing this guidance, the South East Regional Assembly has submitted a draft Regional Spatial Strategy in which they propose housing targets for the South East. It would be inappropriate for the Secretary of State to pre-empt the outcome of the forthcoming Examination in Public of the draft South East Plan by commenting on the housing targets proposed by the South East Regional Assembly.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on housing targets in the South East, with particular reference to the report commissioned by the Government Office for the South East from Roger Tym and partners. [81513]

Yvette Cooper: Current housing targets for the South East are set out in the Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9) and subsequent revisions for the Growth Areas. In reviewing this guidance, the South East Regional Assembly has submitted a draft Regional Spatial Strategy in which they propose housing targets for the South East. The Government commissioned Roger Tym and partners to look at alternative levels of growth to provide independent evidence for an informed debate of the draft Spatial Strategy at the forthcoming Examination in Public. This report is not a statement of the Government's

preference on housing numbers. Any statement on housing targets at this stage would be inappropriate and pre-empt the outcome of the forthcoming Examination in Public.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Council for the Protection of Rural England on the building of new houses in each region; with whom in the organisation; and if she will make a statement. [81708]

Yvette Cooper: On 21 March this year Ispoke at the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) led seminar on The Evidence Base on Housing, and discussed the overall need for new homes. Neither I nor the Secretary of State have had separate discussions with the CPRE about individual regions. However, the CPRE contributed to the Affordable Rural Housing Commission's report and are contributing to the regional planning process.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of new homes in each region have been designated as affordable housing in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [81709]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows the proportion of newly built homes defined as affordable in each region ("affordable homes" are those provided at submarket rent or for shared ownership). These affordable homes have been provided through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme, Local Authority Social Housing Grant and section 106 planning agreements negotiated by local authorities.

Newly built dwellings defined as affordable

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*Percentage 2005-06*[1]
North-east	15	13	11	9	12	5	8	9	11
North-west	16	18	13	13	13	13	8	9	6
Yorkshire and the Humber	14	12	10	10	9	7	8	7	7
East Midlands	12	11	9	10	9	7	9	9	11
West Midlands	17	16	17	14	13	16	12	15	15
East	13	15	10	12	12	11	12	13	14
London	32	31	31	30	28	26	30	24	26
South-east	19	19	15	15	14	16	18	18	20
South-west	16	15	15	13	14	13	16	15	15
England	17	17	14	15	14	13	14	14	13

[1] Provisional.

Section 106 data have been collected only from 2000-01 but are not yet available for 2005-06.

This information does not include new affordable homes provided through acquisition and refurbishment for both social rent and low cost home ownership.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households on average were in temporary housing in each region in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [81712]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation, which includes the number of households living in temporary accommodation, is summarised in the Department's quarterly Statistical Release on statutory homelessness. The latest Release, covering statistics to the end of March 2006, was published on 12 June. Copies are available in the Library, and from the ODPM website at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2095

Table 7 presents a regional summary of all households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities, as at the end of each quarter since March 1997.

The duty owed to a person accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available. As an alternative to the provision of temporary accommodation some authorities arrange for households to remain in their current accommodation (homeless at home), until a settled solution becomes available.

Our strategy, "Sustainable Communities: Settled Homes, Changing Lives", sets out the challenging aim to halve the number of households in insecure temporary accommodation by 2010.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of vulnerable people living in homes that fall below the decent homes standard. [79386]

Yvette Cooper: The English House Condition Survey annually publishes estimates of the number and proportion of "vulnerable" households living in homes that fall below the decent homes standard. The latest figures available are for April 2003 when there were 2,034,000 such households in the private and social sectors (36 per cent. of all vulnerable households). Vulnerable households are defined for the purposes of the Decent Homes programme in "A Decent Home: Definition and Guidance for Implementation—June 2006 Update", available on the website at www.communities.gov.uk/ under "housing"/"making homes decent".

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much

money has been allocated by the Government for local authority schemes to help improve the homes of vulnerable people living in private accommodation. [79387]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have made £388 million available in capital grant to local authorities in 2006-07 to support their private sector housing capital investment programmes, including meeting the Decent Homes standard for vulnerable people in the private sector.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1394W, on housing, which local authorities are able to meet the decent homes standard on the basis of Government investment; and which local authorities she expects to be unable to meet the standard without taking advantage of the additional investment options mentioned. [79411]

Yvette Cooper: Some 98 local authorities have put plans in place to deliver decent homes through the resources directly from Government and their own resources without using the arm's length management organisation (ALMO), stock transfer or PFI programmes. A list of these authorities has been placed in the Library of the House.

Some 246 local authorities have used, or are expected to use, one or more of the three options for additional investment (ALMO, LSVT or PFI). A list of these authorities has been placed in the Library of the House.

There are a number of authorities which are reconsidering their investment options, following the need to change their original plans. These authorities have yet to confirm whether they will deliver decent homes without using additional investment.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1394W, on housing, what the timetable is for further bidding rounds for the investment options mentioned; and how much additional funding will be made available from central Government for each option. [79412]

Yvette Cooper: Applications for the round 6 arm's length management organisation (ALMO) programme, and the 2006 large-scale voluntary transfer programme (LSVT) are due by the end of July. We aim to announce the outcome at the end of September. The funding available to deliver these options will be determined through the comprehensive spending review.

The application period for the round 5 housing PFI programme closed on 31 March and 14 bids were received. We aim to announce the outcome of the PFI bidding round by the end of July. The funding for these schemes will come from the £1.2 billion allocated in the 2004 spending review. Funding for future bidding rounds will depend on the outcome of the CSR.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will ask the Housing Corporation to increase its allocation under the National Affordable Housing Programme 2006-08 to the bid submitted by Housing 21 in partnership with Sunderland city council to fund developments across the city of Sunderland; [79507]

(2) what criteria the Housing Corporation took into account when deciding the size of the allocation under the National Affordable Housing Programme 2006-08 scheme to the bid submitted by Housing 21 in partnership with Sunderland city council to fund developments across the city of Sunderland; [79508]

(3) if she will ask the Housing Corporation to publish in advance the guidance it will follow in future decisions under the National Affordable Housing Programme on allocation of finances to local projects, with particular reference to extra care developments; [79509]

(4) what factors the Housing Corporation took into account when deciding not to allocate finance for plans by the Sunderland housing group for an extra care scheme at Houghton under the National Affordable Housing Programme 2006-08; [79510]

(5) what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the allocation of resources to the bid by Housing 21 in partnership with Sunderland city council from the National Affordable Housing Programme 2006-08. [79511]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) is a competitive bidding round.

In assessing bids the Corporation used a two stage process for the 2006-08 AHP round. Bids were assessed for compliance with the competition requirements as follows:

(i) Additionality—grant must be necessary for the affordable housing to be delivered;

(ii) Rent levels in accordance with Corporation or statutory rent regimes to ensure affordability;

(iii) Schemes must be financially independent;

(iv) Schemes must meet or exceed the minimum standards covering design and quality (expressed through the Corporation's Scheme Development Standards, Housing Quality Indicator system, and a Very Good EcoHomes rating);

(v) Schemes must start on site by 31 March 2008;

(vi) Schemes must complete before 31 March 2011;

(vii) Schemes must conform to the relevant regional housing board priorities;

(viii) Schemes must meet management and maintenance standards (for housing associations schemes must comply with all of the Corporation's regulatory requirements in relation to the management and maintenance of affordable homes);

(ix) Bidders must have the capacity to enter into a programme agreement.

Bids which met these competition requirements were then subject to competitive assessment using four criteria:

Value-for-money;

Quality;

Fit with regional and local housing strategies;

Deliverability within the programme time scale.

The Housing Corporation assessed that the bids from Housing 21 and the extra care scheme at

Houghton submitted by the Sunderland housing group did not represent value for money compared with other bids received.

The Housing Corporation is continuing to work with registered social landlords and Sunderland city council over future housing needs in the city.

The Housing Corporation intends to publish its prospectus for the next bidding round in summer 2007. This will set out the general criteria including that for extra care schemes.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many cases have been decided by local authorities under section 185(4) of the Housing Act 1996 where the outcome has proved incompatible with article 14 of the European convention on human rights, where all proceedings are complete; and if she will make a statement; [79526]

(2) how many representations she has received in respect of the decision of the Court of Appeal that section 185(4) of the Housing Act 1996 is incompatible with article 14 of the European convention on human rights; what plans she has to rectify the situation; and if she will make a statement. [79527]

Yvette Cooper: Two declarations of incompatibility have been made regarding section 185(4) of the Housing Act 1996; one by the Court of Appeal in the case of Sylviane Pierrette Morris *v.* Westminster city council [2005] EWHC 1184 (CA), and another by the High Court in the case of the Queen (on the application of) Gabaj and the First Secretary of State, CO 7458/2005. In both cases, the court proceedings are complete. The Government are currently considering how to remedy the incompatibility. The Department has received one representation about the decision of the Court of Appeal (from the Housing Law Practitioners Association).

Housing (Wirral)

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made towards the decent home standards for social housing in Wirral West; and if she will make a statement. [78384]

Yvette Cooper: According to Annual Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) 2005, the total social housing stock in Wirral was 23,235. Of these, 8,815 or 38 per cent. failed the Decent Homes Standard. Of the former council stock now owned by Wirral Partnership Homes, 59 per cent. of homes failed the standard.

Wirral Partnership Homes has started its stock investment programme and is confident that it will meet the Decent Homes Standard by 2010. Many associated benefits will flow from this work including regeneration, improved housing management performance and tenant empowerment.

We do not hold any specific data for Wirral West, data is recorded at local authority level.

Housing (Luton)

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many single vulnerable households were accepted as homeless in Luton in each of the last five years. [80365]

Yvette Cooper: Statistical returns on homelessness reported by local authorities to this Department distinguish the number of households accepted as eligible for assistance, and unintentionally homeless according to the main category of priority need the applicant falls within. The returns do not identify the number of people in the household. Information reported by Luton borough council in each year since 2001-02 is summarised as follows:

Households accepted by Luton borough council as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in a priority need category

		Of which:		
	Total households	*containing dependent children*	*containing an expectant mother*	*All other accepted households*[1]
2001-02	314	264	22	28
2002-03	575	372	63	140
2003-04	482	328	48	106
2004-05	392	265	53	74
2005-06	570	397	64	109

[1] As well as applicants, or members of their household, accepted as vulnerable for some reason, figures also include applicants accepted as having a priority need because they were homeless as the result of an emergency, they were aged 16 or 17-years-old, or they were under 21 and had previously been looked after, accommodated or fostered when aged 16 or 17.

Source:
DCLG P1E Homelessness returns (quarterly)

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of *(a)* black and ethnic minority and *(b)* all households are classified as overcrowded in (a) Luton, (b) Bedfordshire and (c) England. [80370]

Yvette Cooper: Using the bedroom standard, the estimated proportion of black and minority ethnic households in England that were overcrowded during the three years 2002-03 to 2004/05 was 10.7 per cent. The equivalent figure for all households was 2.5 per cent.

These figures were derived from the Survey of English Housing. Reliable figures for areas as small as Luton and Bedfordshire are not available on a regular basis because the survey sample sizes are too small.

An ad hoc report based on combined data from both the Survey of English Housing and the Department for Work and Pensions' Family Resources Survey for the three years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 provides estimates of overcrowding (across all households) of 4 per cent. in Luton and 1 per cent. in Bedfordshire. Separate estimates for black and minority ethnic households are not available.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* failed and *(b)* successful bids have been made by Luton council for Housing Corporation funding; and what assessment she has made of the reasons for the decision in each case. [80517]

Yvette Cooper: No bids were made by Luton borough council for the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) 2006-08. All bids for the Luton borough council area were made by registered social landlords and other developers. Successful schemes in Luton were allocated a total of £7.5 million for the 2006-08 AHP.

The Secretary of State does not make decisions on individual schemes. An overall package of funding and outputs is submitted to Ministers by the Corporation. The schemes making up this programme have been assessed by the Housing Corporation as part of a competitive bidding round.

In assessing bids the Corporation used a two stage process for the 2006-08 AHP round. Bids were assessed for compliance with the competition requirements as follows:

(i) Additionality—Grant must be necessary for the affordable housing to be delivered;

(ii) Rent levels in accordance with Corporation or statutory rent regimes to ensure affordability;

(iii) Schemes must be financially independent;

(iv) Schemes must meet or exceed the minimum standards covering design and quality (expressed through the Corporation's Scheme Development Standards, Housing Quality Indicator system, and a Very Good EcoHomes rating);

(v) Scheme must start on site by 31 March 2008;

(vi) Schemes must complete before 31 March 2011;

(vii) Scheme must conform to the relevant regional housing board priorities;

(viii) Schemes must meet management and maintenance Standards (for Housing Associations schemes must comply with all of the Corporation's regulatory requirements in relation to the management and maintenance of affordable homes);

(ix) Bidders must have the capacity to enter into a programme agreement.

Bids which met these competition requirements were then subject to competitive assessment using four criteria:

Value-for-money;

Quality;

Fit with Regional and Local housing strategies;

Deliverability within the programme time scale.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the bids for Housing Corporation funding submitted by Luton council in each of the last five years for *(a)* general family housing and *(b)* elderly housing. [80518]

Yvette Cooper: No bids were made by Luton borough council for the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) 2005-06 or 2006-08, these being the first opportunities for local authorities to bid for Housing Corporation funding after the change in legislation following the Housing Act 2004, which allowed bodies not registered with the Housing Corporation to bid for funding.

All bids for the Luton borough council area were made by registered social landlords and other developers. The following tables show accepted new build bids for Housing Corporation Affordable Housing Programme funds over the last five years and for the last bidding round of 2006-08. The following tables identify which client group these schemes have been primarily identified for. To be successful, bids needed to meet the criteria set out in the answer given on 3 July 2006 to my hon. Friend's question 80517, in particular meeting Regional Housing Board priorities.

2001-02

RSL name	*Programme*	*Heading*	*Scheme*	*Units*	*£*	*Client group*
Jephson Homes Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Bury Park Luton Rehabs Phase 8	23	1,578,039	Gen needs
Presentation Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Dallow Rd	19	691,385	Gen needs
Aldwyck Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Croda Factory Site	27	1,554,390	Gen needs
The Guinness Trust	ADP	RENT	Rockley Road	16	539,011	Gen needs
			New build/rehab total	85	4,362,825	—

2002-03

RSL name	*Programme*	*Heading*	*Scheme*	*Units*	*£*	*Client group*
Jephson Homes Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Bury Park Luton Rehabs Phase 9	8	677,802	Gen needs
			New build/rehab total	8	677,802	

2003-04

RSL name	*Programme*	*Heading*	*Scheme*	*Units*	*£*	*Client group*
Home Group Limited	ADP	RENT	Apple Grove G/w Luton Frail/elderly	40	2,329,545	Elderly persons
Home Group Limited	ADP	RENT	Apple Grove G/w Luton Bungalows	16	444,237	Elderly persons
The Papworth Trust	ADP	RENT	Electrolux Site, Oakley Road	9	652,000	Gen needs (incl phys dis)

2003-04

RSL name	Programme	Heading	Scheme	Units	£	Client group
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Electrolux—Oakely Rd	20	922,429	Gen needs
Jephson Homes Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Westbourne Road	6	643,640	Gen needs
Presentation Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Electrolux SI06 Site	19	1,059,160	Gen needs
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association Limited	ADP	SALE	Electrolux—Oakley Rd	5	103,528	Gen needs
Aldwyck Housing Association Limited	ADP	SALE	Croda Lcho	6	131,843	Gen needs
			New build/rehab total	121	6,286,382	

2004-06

RSL name	Programme	Heading	Scheme	Units	£	Client group
Arc Partnership Bedfordshire	ADPKW	KWL intermediate rent	Aldwyck House Old Post Office	6	154,857	Key worker
Pilgrims Housing Association Limited Bedfordshire	ADP	RENT	Studley Road, Luton	27	1,181,043	Gen needs (incl phys dis)
Pilgrims Housing Association Limited Bedfordshire	ADP	RENT	Downlands Day Centre, Luton	6	330,000	Gen needs
Pilgrims Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Downlands site, Luton—Papworth	8	765,000	Gen needs
Jephson Homes Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Midland Road	24	985,000	Gen needs
			New build/rehab total	71	3,415,900	

2006-08

RSL name	Programme	Heading	Scheme	Units	£	Client group
Aldwyck Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Cades Close/Priestleys	1	67,957	Gen needs
Aldwyck Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Brunnel Road	5	280,000	Gen needs
Aldwyck Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Cades Close/Priestleys	2	75,765	Gen needs
Aldwyck Housing Association Limited	ADP	MFRENT	Millfield Road, Luton	15	455,000	Gen needs
Jephson Homes Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Sundon Park Road -Luton	24	850,000	Gen needs
Jephson Homes Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Rochdale and Kirkdale Court—Luton	26	3,200,000	Gen needs
Presentation Housing Association Limited	ADP	RENT	Leicester Road, Luton (Rent)	38	2,070,000	Gen needs
Presentation Housing Association Limited	ADP	HomeBuy new build (shared ownership)	Leicester Road, Luton (SO)	8	334,000	Gen needs
			New build/rehab total	119	7,332,722	

These tables do not include schemes funded for open market Homebuy, Voluntary Purchase Grant, re-improvements or works to registered social landlord stock.

Housing (Tamworth)

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding is available for temporary to permanent housing initiatives in the 2006 to 2008 National Affordable Housing Programme in Tamworth; and if she will make a statement. [80124]

Yvette Cooper: At present no funds have been made available in Tamworth for temporary to permanent housing initiatives through the Affordable Housing Programme 2006-08.

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) supports innovative schemes

which provide settled housing solutions for households in temporary accommodation. Where these schemes offer value for money but require capital investment DCLG would encourage Regional Housing Boards to support bids for Affordable Housing Programme funding.

Affordable housing schemes in Tamworth have been allocated £1.050 million through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme for 2006-08.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* households and *(b)* children in (i) Staffordshire and (ii) Tamworth constituency are living in overcrowded accommodation. [68368]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

There are two measures of overcrowding—the statutory definition and the bedroom standard.

Using the bedroom standard, the only recent estimate of the number of overcrowded households in Staffordshire is 3,000. This is from an ad hoc report based on combined data from both the Survey of English Housing and the Department for Work and Pension's Family Resources Survey for the three years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Reliable estimates for the number of children living in overcrowded accommodation in Staffordshire are not available. Separate data for Tamworth are also not available.

Estimates based on the statutory standard are not available because the underlying data are not collected systematically. A one-off estimate was made in the autumn of 2001 that there were approximately 25,000 households across the whole of England that were in conditions of overcrowding that breached the statutory standard. This estimate was based on data from the Survey of English Housing for the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and from the 1996 English House Condition Survey. Equivalent estimates for Staffordshire are not available.

Housing Safety Checklist

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have used the housing safety checklist to tackle overcrowding; and if she will make a statement. [80516]

Yvette Cooper: The Housing Health and Safety Rating System, introduced on 6 April, enables local authorities to assess the severity of up to 29 health and safety hazards in homes, including hazards arising from overcrowding. Authorities are not required to report the use they make of the system or the actions they take in response to hazard assessments, but the Department plans to evaluate the operation of the system in due course.

Illegal Immigrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many illegal immigrants have been discovered to be employed by her Department in each year since 2001; in what capacities they were employed; how many were discovered as part of a criminal investigation; and what the nature was of the charges brought against them. [73954]

Angela E. Smith: No illegal immigrants have been discovered among my Department's directly employed staff. Directly employed staff do not include agency workers, contractors and consultants.

Light Pollution

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department plans to publish guidance on light pollution as part of Planning Policy Statement 23. [80150]

Yvette Cooper: The Department for Communities and Local Government is working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to develop a draft annex to Planning Policy Statement 23 on light pollution for consultation later this year.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will ring-fence for a period of two years the money received from the discretionary ending by local authorities of the council tax discount on empty properties for projects to bring empty properties back into use. [77983]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities raised an additional £72 million by using their powers to reduce or remove the council tax discount on empty homes in 2005-06. The Government believe that local authorities should have the freedom to apply any additional resources raised in line with local priorities rather than prescribing what these should be.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Treasury has received in rent surpluses from each local authority in every year since 2002. [79380]

Yvette Cooper: The Government make a net contribution to the Housing Revenue Account, which is redistributed between local authority areas. A table showing the housing revenue account surpluses paid to Government (and the subsidies paid by Government to authorities) has been placed in the House Library. This shows that in 2005-06 166 local authorities paid surpluses totalling £546,936,692 and 66 local authorities received subsidies totalling £754,559,247.

The system was different prior to April 2004. The figures given for 2002-03 and 2003-04 are for the

nearest equivalent—the "housing element surplus or subsidy" i.e. the net position excluding rent rebate subsidies.

Olympics

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which officials in her Department *(a)* are responsible for Olympics-related activity and *(b)* sit on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group for the Olympics. [81560]

Angela E. Smith: The Director General, Places, Planning and Communities Group, is responsible for Olympics-related activity in this Department. The Director of Thames Gateway Delivery and Olympics sits on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group for the Olympics. In addition, a broad network of officials from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has been established to support DCLG Olympic policy objectives.

Planning Applications

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the major planning applications in London that have been called in due to the level of social housing in each of the past three years. [72982]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 22 May 2006]:* The Secretary of State sets out the matters to be considered at the public inquiry in her direction to call in, under rule 6(12) of the 2000 Inquiry Procedure rules. The following planning applications called in between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2006 contained matters relating to affordable housing that the Secretary of State wished to be considered at the public inquiry.

Decision date	*Local planning authority*	*Application*
Called in:		
19 April 2004	LB Hammersmith and Fulham	Lots Rd Chelsea Harbour Phase II
3 March 2005	LB Greenwich	Royal Arsenal/Warren
28 July 2005	LB Enfield	Carterhatch Lane Civic Amenity Site
5 October 2005	LB Lewisham	Bell Green Gas Works (Former) (phase II)
5 October 2005	LB Lewisham	Bell Green Gas Works (Former) (phase III)
6 October 2005	LB Lambeth	South Bank University
23 February 2006	LB Redbridge	Roding Lane North
14 March 2006	LB Croydon	Croydon Gateway Arena Development Site

Regional Spatial Strategy

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps her Department has taken to publicise the consultation on the Regional Spatial Development Framework in *(a)* England and *(b)* the North West of England; and if she will make a statement; [76977]

(2) if she will make a statement on the operation of the Regional Spatial Development Framework consultations; for what reasons those consultations have been instituted; what connection the consultations have with European Union policy; and what the role is of *(a)* the Government Office for the North West and *(b)* the North West Regional Assembly in the consultations; [76978]

(3) if she will publish her Department's submission to the Regional Spatial Development Framework consultations; [76979]

(4) what account will be taken of the conclusions of the Regional Spatial Development Framework Strategy consultations in her Department's plans for local government reorganisation. [76980]

Yvette Cooper: Under the terms of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 every region is required to have a Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which sets out the Government's policies in relation to the development and use of land within the region.

In all regions (including the North West), the RSS is drafted by the relevant regional planning body (in this case the North West Regional Assembly), who then make the draft RSS available for public consultation over a period of 12 weeks usually by posting it on the web, making copies available in public libraries and sending electronic and/or paper copies to a range of stakeholders.

In all cases, these public consultations on the draft RSS are a part of the statutory process for preparing the RSS as set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, associated regulations and guidance. The strategy set out in the RSS would need to take account of any relevant European Union and UK policies. In terms of roles, in all cases (a) the Government Offices are responsible for coordinating the Government's role in the RSS process at all key stages, while (b) the Regional Planning Bodies (such as the North West Regional Assembly) are responsible for preparing the draft RSS and for implementing and monitoring the final RSS issued by Government.

Whenever the Government Office makes a response to the Draft RSS, that response is made publicly available. In the case of the North West RSS, the Government Office North West will shortly post its response to the Draft RSS on its website at www.gonw.gov.uk

The RSS covers spatial planning matters relating to the development and use of land within the region. It does not determine local government boundaries.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role is envisaged for county councils in establishing the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands. [79239]

Yvette Cooper: County councils must be consulted when Regional Spatial Strategies are being prepared and must be given the first opportunity to make detailed proposals for sub-regional strategies. In the East Midlands, counties are fully engaged in preparing

the Regional Spatial Strategy for submission to the Secretary of State in the autumn and are chairing three sub-area working groups which will set out proposals. In addition, county council staff chair the various topic-based advisory groups that inform the development of RSS policy. Northamptonshire county council was closely involved in preparing the sub regional strategy for Milton Keynes and South Midlands that is already part of the regional spatial strategy. Once the strategy is published, county councils will be expected to help monitor its implementation.

Right to Buy

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* initial applications and *(b)* completed sales were made under the right to buy in each local authority in London in each quarter of 2005-06. [75305]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of right-to-buy applications submitted and sales completed in London in the first three quarters of 2005-06 can be found in the following table. Data shown are as reported by local authorities. Where a local authority has failed to respond the table has been left blank. Information concerning the last quarter of 2005-06 is not yet available.

Right-to-buy sales and applications. London: April-December 2005

	April-June 2005		July-September 2005		October-December 2005	
Local authority	*Applications*	*Sales*	*Applications*	*Sales*	*Applications*	*Sales*
Barking and Dagenham	210	66	210	57	201	63
Barnet	19	22	71	14	32	6
Bexley	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brent	45	26	43	19	49	12
Bromley[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camden	154	51	54	26	n/a	n/a
City of London	11	2	3	1	10	0
Croydon	39	9	43	8	30	15
Ealing	85	17	60	18	52	11
Enfield	71	22	71	25	41	3
Greenwich	135	34	118	40	92	30
Hackney	132	94	160	43	124	36
Hammersmith and Fulham	53	38	55	40	27	23
Haringey	83	101	80	54	93	39
Harrow	13	18	22	7	15	4
Havering	58	28	54	21	38	23
Hillingdon	40	21	23	24	19	17
Hounslow	61	17	36	17	45	6
Islington	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kensington and Chelsea	23	6	35	1	21	3
Kingston upon Thames[1]	10	4	14	5	12	2
Lambeth	182	128	155	53	n/a	n/a
Lewisham	157	98	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Merton	31	15	35	11	36	10
Newham	121	69	199	44	130	47
Redbridge	19	21	26	23	20	12
Richmond upon Thames[1]	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southwark	253	293	253	217	230	125
Sutton	21	4	18	3	19	5
Tower Hamlets	169	172	177	108	153	64
Waltham Forest	43	19	38	12	39	8
Wandsworth	75	45	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Westminster	51	15	27	11	31	4

n/a = not available

[1] Bromley and Richmond upon Thames transferred their stock to registered social landlords and may have retained a small residual number unlikely to be sold through the right-to-buy scheme.

Source:

P1A/B quarterly return from local authorities to the Department for Communities and Local Government

Safety Cameras

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether planning permission is required for *(a)* traffic cameras and *(b)* speed cameras; and whether each category of camera has permitted development rights. [78333]

Yvette Cooper: The installation of traffic and speed cameras is not development as defined in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, so neither planning permission nor permitted development rights are required.

Shared Equity Scheme

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have participated in the Government's Shared Equity scheme since May 2005. [79899]

Yvette Cooper: Information on the number of people participating in Shared Equity schemes is not held centrally. However, 16,405 shared ownership and HomeBuy equity loan sales, funded through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme, were completed between April 2005 and May 2006.

Shared Ownership (West Midlands)

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans there are to expand the number of homes available for shared ownership in the West Midlands. [74194]

Yvette Cooper: The Government award Regional Housing Pot funding to each region in England and ask Regional Housing Boards to recommend how the funding should be allocated in accordance with the Regional Housing Strategy. In the West Midlands, 2006-08 Regional Housing Pot funding has been allocated to fund provision of an additional 1,690 homes for shared ownership.

In addition, by 2010 an estimated 1,050 new homes for shared ownership will be under construction in the West Midlands under our First Time Buyers Initiative.

Existing social homes are also available for shared ownership through the Social HomeBuy scheme. The shared equity task force is looking at further ways to expand home ownership. People living in the Dudley area interested in shared ownership can contact the new one-stop-shop provided by Mercian Housing Association on 0845 607 6726 or find details at: www.homebuyagents.org.uk.

Social Housing, (Islington)

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on social housing in Islington in each year between 1979 and 2006, broken down by source. [80876]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows the total expenditure on the provision of social housing in Islington since 1997-98 through the Housing Corporation Approved Development Programme and Local Authority Social Housing Grant.

	£ million
1997-98	13
1998-99	10.5
1999-2000	3
2000-01	8
2001-02	10
2002-03	24
2003-04	29
2004-05	14
2005-06	15.5

Source:
Housing Corporation Annual Investment in London publication.

These figures include expenditure on new build schemes as well as for acquisition and refurbishment. Information on expenditure before 1997-98 is not readily accessible.

Statutory Overcrowding

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to revise the definition of statutory overcrowding. [72419]

Yvette Cooper: The current statutory standard is set out in Part 10 of the Housing Act 1985. It has not changed since 1985. The Government believe that this is out of date and will publish a consultation paper on options for reform this summer.

Sustainable Buildings

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what incentives for sustainable construction techniques in housebuilding have been introduced since 1997. [79377]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The Low Carbon Buildings programme, with an £80 million budget over 3 years, provides grant support for the installation of microgeneration technologies to householders, communities and business including housebuilders.

Furthermore, the Department has introduced a number of fiscal research initiatives since publication of Sir John Egan's reports "Rethinking Construction", in 1998. These have been aimed at improving the supply chain, enhancing knowledge transfer and encouraging focus upon the wider aspects of sustainability throughout the Construction Industry.

Sustainable Communities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden, of 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 2067W, on the

sustainable communities plan, if she will place in the Library copies of the written submissions and responses by the water companies on planning for the growth areas and regional planning. [78240]

Yvette Cooper: The water companies have and will continue to make a number of representations as part of the development and review of Regional Spatial Strategies, including modifications to consider additional housing in growth areas. For example, in the recent East of England Examination In Public, Anglian Water and Thames Water both made representations to the independent panel outlining their views on the impact on water supply as a result of house building. However, such representations by water companies can be made at different stages of the planning process, both formally and informally. These are not held centrally by Government and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sustainable Regeneration

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the Sustainable Development Commission's "Mainstreaming Sustainable Regeneration" report; and what action has been taken to implement its recommendations. [80858]

Yvette Cooper: I welcome the Sustainable Development Commission "Mainstreaming Sustainable Regeneration" report as a useful contribution to bringing sustainable development principles into regeneration. Since the report was published in 2003, the Department has continued to embed sustainable development principles into its regeneration work. Examples of this work include:

Government's "Together We Can" initiative, to enable people to engage with public bodies and influence the decisions that affect their communities;

Establishing the Academy for Sustainable Communities to improve the skills, knowledge and behaviours needed to deliver sustainable communities;

Community renewal programmes like neighbourhood management and the Liveability Fund, which have helped co-ordinate and reshape environmental services, particularly in deprived areas;

Establishing CABE Space, which has helped local authorities take a strategic approach and champion a renaissance in urban green spaces;

The introduction of local area agreements as a vehicle through which many initiatives relating to sustainable communities, including regeneration, can be addressed in a joined up way by Government and local partners.

Driving forward the sustainability of housing through such measures as the new Part L of the Building Regulations and the forthcoming introduction of the Code for Sustainable Homes;

Reforms to the planning system, which put sustainable development at the heart of planning, both via legislation and planning guidance.

Thames Gateway

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made towards meeting job creation targets in the Thames Gateway area; and if she will make a statement. [75820]

Yvette Cooper: Later this year, the Department will publish a Strategic Framework for the Thames Gateway. It will have at its core an economic rationale for the Gateway, developed in partnership with the three Thames Gateway regional development agencies and the Thames Gateway sub-regional partnerships. The Department plans to publish a baseline report alongside the framework, which will describe the position at the start of the programme in 2003. We intend to use this to produce progress updates at appropriate intervals thereafter.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to ensure that the views of local people within the Thames Gateway redevelopment area are taken into account with regard to infrastructure and planning. [79285]

Yvette Cooper: The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities, including those in the Thames Gateway, to prepare a statement of community involvement for their area. The statement of community involvement sets out how the local planning authority will engage with the local community and stakeholders in the preparation of local development documents and on consultations for planning applications. Where local authorities have not adopted a statement of community involvement, they are required to comply with the minimum requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Local Development)(England) Regulations 2004 in terms of engaging the local community and stakeholders in the preparation of local development documents.

At the regional level, regional planning bodies are responsible for preparing draft Regional Spatial Strategies (RSS) and are required to prepare a statement of community involvement on how they intend to engage the public and on how the public were involved in the preparation of the draft RSS. The adequacy of community involvement and how the views of the community have been taken on board is one of the tests of soundness which is considered at the public examination of the draft RSS.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what environmental initiatives are being planned as part of the redevelopment of the Thames Gateway. [79286]

Yvette Cooper: The Government believe that communities are more successful and enjoy a better and healthier quality of life if they have easy access to an attractive well designed and managed green environment which is rich in biodiversity.

In 2004 the Government published "Greening the Gateway", a strategy for Thames Gateway which established the principle that new and existing residential and commercial areas should be set in a network of varied and well-managed green space, known as green grids. Green grids create green pathways and wildlife corridors through commercial

and residential areas to link rural and green spaces together, making them more welcoming and accessible.

To date, £26 million has been allocated to green space projects from the Thames Gateway programme fund including:

Marshes Plan Implementation

£1 million to enable Groundwork to develop and deliver a Marshes Plan for Dartford, Crayford and Erith, including a strategic cycle route, heritage trail and other access improvements, habitat creation and education areas.

Flood Storage along River Cray

£500,000 as part of a plan to improve access down to and along the River Cray. Funding for works to improve habitat creation and optimise flood storage capacity

Lower Roding Valley

£1 million for Lower River Roding valley environmental, flood alleviation and path works.

Rainham Marshes

£5.25 million for this green grid flagship project, involving the construction of a continuous 3.65 km long, 3 m wide footpath and cycleway across the Rainham, Wennington and Aveley Marshes (the 640 hectares of which is known as the London Riverside Conservation Park).

Ranscombe Farm Country Park:

£665,000 towards the £1,348,000 project to create flagship country park and nature reserve, within the Kent Downs area of outstanding natural beauty and within reach of urban developments in Medway and Kent Thameside. Ranscombe Farm is one of the richest botanical sites in the British Isles and home to the single most important arable flower field in the UK. The 600 acre site also includes ancient woodland and relict fragments of chalk grassland.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what regulations are in place in relation to the building of new housing in the Thames Gateway to reduce *(a)* carbon levels, *(b)* waste production, *(c)* electricity use and *(d)* overall environmental impact; and how the regulations will be enforced. [79287]

Yvette Cooper: Part L of the Building Regulations covers conservation of fuel and power as it relates to a building. Building Regulation standards for new housing in England and Wales have been improved by 40 per cent. since early 2002. It covers all energy used for space heating and hot water.

Part H of the Building Regulations covers drainage and waste disposal. It states that adequate provision shall be made for storage of solid waste. It does not cover reduction of waste.

The Building Regulations do not cover carbon levels or general environmental impact.

The Government are also introducing a new code for sustainable homes to go further than building regulations.

The Government have announced a feasibility study into the extent to which we can facilitate the Thames Gateway becoming a low carbon development area within the next decade, with the ultimate goal of achieving zero carbon development area status. We envisage that the results of this work will inform future decisions about the Government's wider approach to environmental standards within the Thames Gateway.

Visual Arts Facility

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what involvement her Department had in the decision to grant planning consent for the Visual Arts Facility at Colchester. [76466]

Yvette Cooper: The Department carefully considered all the planning issues raised about the application for a Visual Arts Facility in Colchester. In reaching the decision not to call it in for the Secretary of State's determination, the main matters relevant to this decision were her policies:

(i) which promote high quality, inclusive design in terms of function and impact, which takes the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area (PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development);

(ii) to promote the vitality and viability of town centres by focusing development in such centres and encouraging a wide range of services in a good environment, accessible to all (PPS6: Planning for Town Centres);

(iii) that planning permission is not refused if development can be subject to conditions that will prevent damaging impacts on wildlife habitats or other important physical features, or if other material factors are sufficient to override nature conservation considerations (PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation);

(iv) to actively manage the pattern of urban growth to make the fullest use of public transport; focus major generators of travel demand in city, town and district centres and near to major public transport interchanges; and locate day-to-day facilities in local centres, to be accessible by walking or cycling (PPG13: Transport);

(v) for the protection of the wider historic environment, including scheduled ancient monuments, World Heritage Sites, historic parks and gardens, historic battlefields, buildings of local importance and trees in conservation areas (PPG15: Planning and the Historic Environment);

(vi) for the protection, enhancement and preservation of sites of archaeological interest and of their settings (PPG16: Archaeology and Planning).

Having considered carefully these and other relevant planning issues raised by the proposal together with all representations received, and having regard to her policy on call in, the Secretary of State concluded on balance that intervention would not be justified as there was insufficient conflict with national planning policies on the above matters to warrant calling in the application for her own determination.

Water Provision

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she last met Water Voice to discuss the long-term provision of water to meet the future development needs of London and the south-east; what conclusions were reached; and if she will make a statement. [80387]

Yvette Cooper: The Secretary of State has not met with Water Voice. The Department for Communities

and Local Government (DCLG) and Consumer Council for Water (formerly Water Voice) do meet to discuss matters concerning the sustainable use of water resources as members of the Water Saving Group, chaired by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change at Defra. This important forum is exploring how water industry stakeholders can work together in practical ways to promote the efficient use of water in households, to help protect the long-term sustainability of supply. DCLG is also working with a number of key stakeholders, including Ofwat, water companies and the Environment Agency, to ensure that the long-term provision of water meets the needs of an ageing and growing population.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Budget

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the planned budget is of his office in each of the next three years. [81936]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Expenditure will be accounted for in the Department's annual report and accounts in the usual way.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age; [77320]

(2) how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited by his office in each of the last three years. [77321]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The latest available figures are taken at 31 December 2005, for which I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 127W-by the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government My hon. Friend the Member for Basildon (Angela E. Smith).

Training

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what training courses he has attended in the last 12 months to assist him in his ministerial role. [78224]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have not attended any training courses in the past 12 months, but rely on my 10 years' seafaring experience, five years' experience as a union official, 36 years' experience as a Member of Parliament and nine years as a Minister in the Cabinet to help me fulfil my role to the best of my ability.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he has received diversity training since becoming a Government Minister. [70122]

The Deputy Prime Minister: New Ministers are offered an induction course following general elections or substantial reshuffles. These are run by the National School of Government in conjunction with the Cabinet Office and Her Majesty's Treasury. I also rely on my 10 years' seafaring experience, five years' experience as a union official, 36 years' experience as a Member of Parliament and nine years as a Minister in the Cabinet to help me fulfil my role to the best of my ability.

I am fully committed to the principles of diversity. Since coming into Government in 1997, we have brought in the Civil Partnership Act 2004, Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and the Equality Act 2006, as well as the Work and Families Bill which is currently before the House. All of these measures are actively helping to promote diversity throughout our society.

Engagements

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many *(a)* domestic and *(b)* foreign trips on official business he has undertaken since May; how much each trip has cost; and how many officials accompanied him on each trip. [81933]

The Deputy Prime Minister: All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code", "Travel by Ministers" and the "Civil Service Code", copies of which are available in the Library.

Since 1999, the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year and total costs of all ministerial overseas travel. The list for the current year will be published at the appropriate time. In addition, I have made three official visits within the United Kingdom since May 2006. Expenditure including all trips will be accounted for in the Department's annual report and accounts in the usual way.

I am usually accompanied by a private secretary, plus special adviser and Press Office support, as appropriate.

Ministerial Office and Staff

Mr. Amess: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1385W, on his ministerial office and staff, when he expects the administrative support arrangements to be finalised; if he will place in the Library the details of these arrangements when finalised, together with cost of the changes; and if he will make a statement. [78935]

Norman Baker: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many staff are employed in his private office; and whether he plans to increase the number. [81028]

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the planned annual staffing *(a)* budget and *(b)* level is of his office over the next three years; and how many posts are vacant. [81935]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I am being supported in my duties by a private office and a small secretariat, as well as officials from the Cabinet Office and other Government Departments as relevant to my role. Staffing and expenditure will be accounted for in the usual way.

Ministerial Residences

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on how many occasions he used Dorneywood for entertainment at public expense in each year since 1997. [75032]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The position remains as in the answer given to the hon. Member by the then hon. Member for Shipley (Christopher Leslie) on 28 March 2003, *Official Report*, column 484W. The total cost came to £40.

Mrs. May: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much was spent on maintenance of his official residences in 2005-06; and what the market value is of each. [71066]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1866W to the hon. Member for Wimbledon (Stephen Hammond).

The maintenance of Dorneywood is a matter for the Dorneywood Trust, whose accounts are filed with the Charity Commission as is required. There is no cost to the public purse for the maintenance of Dorneywood.

NORTHERN IRELAND

"A Shared Future"

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how the principles set out in "A Shared Future" were applied in *(a)* the Children and Young People Funding Package and *(b)* the rationalisation plans recently agreed by the South Eastern Education and Library Board. [77904]

Maria Eagle: The information is as follows:

(a) The principles of "A Shared Future" were applied in C&YPFP projects by: encouraging cross-sectoral clustering through extended schools; extending pre-school education; youth outreach to marginalized groups; and through cross-sectoral and cross-community arrangements in child protection.

(b) The rationalisation plans recently published by the SEELB, identify how the SEELB intends to manage its estate taking account of falling pupil numbers. The SEELB needs to develop these plans and any change in the provision of the schools involved will require the publication of a development proposal. As part of this process, the SEELB will be expected to take into account the principles set out in a shared future.

Academic Selection

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Department of Education in Northern Ireland has commissioned opinion research to ascertain the views of the people of Northern Ireland on academic selection; and if he will make a statement. [62608]

Maria Eagle: In May and June of 2002, a number of questions were included in the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey to ascertain public opinion on the key recommendations of the Post Primary Review Body (the Burns Report), as part of the multi-stranded consultation exercise. These recommendations included ending the Transfer Test; ending academic selection, the development of a Pupil Profile for all pupils, common admissions criteria for all schools and the development of collegiates. The findings of the research were published in October 2002 and are available on the Department of Education's website at www.deni.gov.uk. Responses to the main questions asked were as follows:

Question	*Yes*	*No*	*Undecided*
1. Should the current Transfer Test be abolished?	54	27	19
2. Should academic selection be abolished?	32	54	14
3. Should Pupil Profiles be developed to help parents express a preference for an appropriate post-primary school for their child?	76	10	14
4. Should all schools be required to use the same admissions criteria?	69	21	10
5. Should the following admissions criteria be used to decide admissions to post-primary schools?			
Parental Preference	73	19	8
Brother or Sister attending or eldest child	66	28	6
Parent working at the school	24	70	7
Compelling individual circumstances	69	18	14
Distance of the school from the child's home	67	28	6
6. Should Collegiates be established as recommended by Burns?	62	18	20

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Department of Education in Northern Ireland has carried out an assessment of the findings of opinion research studies carried out by external organisations into the views of the people of Northern Ireland on academic selection as a criteria for admission to post-primary schools. [62610]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education has not carried out an assessment of the findings of opinion research studies on academic selection carried out by

external organisations. A number of consultation exercises have been carried out during the review of post-primary education to give the public and interested organisations the opportunity to make their views known and the range of views expressed is taken into account by the Government when making decisions.

Arioso Project

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* schools and *(b)* children have been involved in the Arioso project in Northern Ireland. [62497]

Maria Eagle: The Department is not aware of any schools or pupils in Northern Ireland taking part in this project.

Charities (Funding)

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many charities' bank accounts are under investigation in Northern Ireland for possible money laundering linked to paramilitary organisations. [78732]

Paul Goggins: It is Government policy not to disclose any information regarding live police investigations for fear of prejudicing the judicial process.

Children (Strangford)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 7 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1146W, on children (Strangford), if he will break down the number by electoral ward. [80209]

Maria Eagle: The ward of residence of the children is as follows:

	Number
Ards	
Ballygowan	171
Ballyrainey	34
Ballywalter	26
Bradshaws Brae	65
Carrowdore	45
Central (Ards)	15
Comber East	50
Comber North	39
Comber West	109
Glen	38
Gregstown	62
Killinchy	167
Kircubbin	82
Lisbane	165
Loughries	48
Movilla	100
Portaferry	93
Portavogie	36
Scrabo	20
Whitespots	82
Castlereagh	
Ballyhanwood	186
Carrowreagh	149
Carryduff East	245
Carryduff West	190
Dundonald	116
Enler	70
Grahams Bridge	59
Moneyreagh	245
Down	
Derryboy	162
Killyleagh	58
Saintfield	184

Class Sizes

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average class size in each level of education was in each of the last three years, broken down by education and library board area; and if he will make a statement. [80100]

Maria Eagle: Class size data in respect of post-primary schools were not collected at the time, and any attempt to do so retrospectively would be problematic and could be done only at disproportionate cost. The other requested information is as follows:

2003-04

	Nursery schools and classes	*Reception classes*[1]	*Primary*[2] *(year 1 to 7)*
Belfast	25.4	20.0	23.1
Western	25.8	8.6	23.0
North Eastern	25.2	8.0	23.8
South Eastern	25.6	12.9	23.1
Southern	25.8	12.2	22.5

2004-05

	Nursery schools and classes	*Reception classes*[1]	*Primary*[2] *(year 1 to 7)*
Belfast	25.4	17.2	22.9
Western	25.7	11.7	23.0
North Eastern	25.2	10.6	23.7
South Eastern	25.9	12.7	22.8
Southern	26.0	16.9	22.7

2005-06

	Nursery schools and classes	*Reception classes*[1]	*Primary*[2] *(year 1 to 7)*
Belfast	25.5	17.0	22.9
Western	25.6	13.5	23.0
North Eastern	25.3	10.8	24.0
South Eastern	26.0	14.8	23.0
Southern	26.1	20.2	23.0

[1] These are classes consisting solely of reception pupils.
[2] Any reception pupils integrated into primary classes are not included.

Coleraine College

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his Answer of 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 211W, on secondary schools, what is the age of the main buildings of Coleraine College. [62621]

Maria Eagle: The North Eastern Education and Library Board has advised that the main buildings of Coleraine College were built 49 years ago.

Crime Statistics

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many arrests have been made of *(a)* drug pushers, *(b)* drug users, *(c)* prostitutes and *(d)* child abusers in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [78496]

Paul Goggins: The number of persons arrested for the trafficking of controlled drugs (all classes) is contained in the following table:

Number of persons arrested for the trafficking[1] of controlled drugs (all classes)

	Number
2003-04	392
2004-05	333
2005-06	336

[1] Includes importing, supplying, cultivating, producing and possession of controlled drugs with intent to supply.

The number of persons arrested for possession of a class A or class B drug is detailed in the following table:

	Number
2003-04[1]	1,288
2004-05	328
2005-06	306

[1] As cannabis was reclassified from class B to class C on 29 January 2004, 2003-04 totals are not directly comparable with 2004-05 and 2005-06.

There is no specific offence of prostitution. Various local council powers exist in relation to soliciting but no records of enforcement are retained centrally by the Police Service of Northern Ireland.

Child abuse can cover a wide range of offences. To attempt to provide the information based on the umbrella of child abuse would incur disproportionate cost.

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were questioned in connection with possession of indecent photographs of children in each year since 1998; how many received a police caution; and how many were convicted. [78755]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland is not in a position to provide details of the number of persons questioned in connection with possession of indecent photographs of children as this information is not recorded. However they have confirmed that since 1998, two persons received a caution (one in 2000 and the other in 2005) for offences relating to the possession of indecent photographs of children.

The number of convictions for possession of indecent photographs of child/children is detailed in the following table:

	Number of convictions
1998	1
1999	1
2000	1
2001	1
2002	0
2003	3

Note:
Figures cover the calendar years 1998 to 2003, the latter being the most up-to-date available at present. Data are collated on the principal offence rule, thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Criminals (Licensed Release)

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many criminals have been returned to prison in Northern Ireland for breach of their licence in each of the last five years. [80443]

Paul Goggins: The number of persons who have been returned to prison in Northern Ireland following discharge, for breach of their licence is as follows:

	Number
2001	7
2002	4
2003	3
2004	4
2005	7
2006[1]	3
Total	28

[1] As at 23 June 2006.

These figures relate to those released on licence under the Life Sentences (Northern Ireland) Order 2001; the Northern Ireland (Sentences) Act 1998; the Northern Ireland (Remission of Sentences) Act 1995; and the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 1996.

Deportations

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign convicted prisoners in respect of whom the trial judge recommended that deportation be considered on release have been released from each prison establishment in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; in how many such cases the released prisoner was deported; and if he will make a statement. [67673]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 May 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out in this statement the eight priority areas for management action to deliver our long- term agenda for change on radically improving the system for deporting foreign national prisoners. The sixth point deals specifically with the position in Scotland

and Northern Ireland concerning foreign national prisoners. We shall update the House with our progress on this point shortly.

Early Retirement (Teachers)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many teachers in Northern Ireland are seeking early retirement due to work stress, broken down by education and library board area; and how many sought early retirement for this reason in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05. [78516]

Maria Eagle: The Department does not hold the information in the format requested.

The following is a breakdown of teachers who have retired for psychiatric or psychological reasons. Stress falls into this category.

	Academic year		
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*[1]
BELB	5	10	3
WELB	13	3	9
NEELB	14	12	11
SEELB	11	9	15
SELB	15	13	6

[1] As of 20 June 2006

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many teachers employed in *(a)* state controlled, *(b)* maintained and *(c)* other schools are awaiting a decision on early retirement requests in each education and library board area, broken down by sex. [78539]

Maria Eagle: The number of teachers awaiting a decision on early retirement is as follows:

(a) Controlled schools

	Male	*Female*
BELB	0	0
NEELB	0	0
SEELB	0	2
SELB	0	0
WELB	6	17

(b) Maintained schools

	Male	*Female*
BELB	0	0
NEELB	1	1
SEELB	1	2
SELB	4	5
WELB	1	4

(c) No information is available regarding other schools.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many teachers in *(a)* state controlled, *(b)* maintained and *(c)* other schools are due for retirement in the (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07 academic years in each education and library board area. [78540]

Maria Eagle: The number of teachers between 60 and 65 who are in permanent employment and who are eligible to retire during the school years 2005-06 and 2006-07 is set out in the following tables. Only a proportion of these teachers will actually make an application for retirement in the years 2005-06 or 2006-07. The actual number of applications is not known in advance.

2005-06 academic year

	Controlled	*RC maintained*	*Other maintained*	*Integrated*	*Total*
BELB	40	19	3	1	63
WELB	19	26	0	1	46
NEELB	43	11	2	1	57
SEELB	39	14	3	2	58
SELB	20	25	0	2	47
Further Education[1]	—	—	—	—	111
Voluntary Grammar[1]	—	—	—	—	80

2006-07

	Controlled	*RC maintained*	*Other maintained*	*Integrated*	*Total*
BELB	58	31	3	1	93
WELB	35	37	0	2	74
NEELB	69	20	3	1	93
SEELB	81	18	4	2	105
SELB	39	41	1	3	84
Further Education[1]	—	—	—	—	142
Voluntary Grammar[1]	—	—	—	—	127

[1] These bodies are independent of education and library boards; further classification is not appropriate.

Historical Enquiry Team

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1778W, on the Historical Enquiry Team (HET), what progress has been made on the HET's investigation into the murders of Robert and Thomas Dobson; and if he will make a statement. [80581]

Paul Goggins: The police have advised that the re-examination of the case into the deaths of Robert and Thomas Dobson has comprised a desktop review from which a number of specific recommendations are being taken forward for a focused investigation. It is anticipated that this will commence shortly.

Murder Convictions (Northern Ireland)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average time was in cases of murder in Northern Ireland between conviction and sentencing where the sentence was deferred pending *(a)* medical and *(b)* psychiatric reports on the person convicted in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [81223]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

In 2005, sentencing in one murder case was deferred pending preparation of a psychiatric report. In that case the time between conviction and sentence was 12 weeks.

The average time from conviction to disposal for all defendants in Northern Ireland including cases of murder in 2005 was eight weeks. Statistics are not available for the average time from conviction to disposal for 2003 and 2004 and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Police Recruitment

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applications have been received to join the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each year since its inception. [78736]

Paul Goggins: I am advised by PSNI that the number of applications to join the Police Service in each year since its inception is set out in the following table:

Competition	*Launch date*	*Applications*
1	March 2001	7,518
2	September 2001	4,910
3	March 2002	4,674
4	September 2002	4,410
5	March 2003	6,044
6	September 2003	5,419
7	March 2004	4,977
8	September 2004	5,695
9	March 2005	6,106
10	September 2005	7,690
11	March 2006	7,861

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many recruits *(a)* passed and *(b)* failed initial Police Service of Northern Ireland training in each year since its inception, broken down by (i) sex and (ii) religion; and what element of training was failed in each case of failure. [78781]

Paul Goggins: I am advised by PSNI that although it collates information in respect of the religious breakdown of the service as a whole, it is not possible to provide it for specific areas of the organisation, such as the police trainee group in the Police College. Student officers are recruited on a 50:50 basis but once in the college, details of the religious make-up of the recruits are not held.

The number of recruits who *(a)* passed and *(b)* failed initial Police Service of Northern Ireland training in each year since its inception, broken down by (i) sex, is set out in the following table.

	Passed		*Failed*	
Financial year	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*
2001-02	164	88	—	—
2002-03	285	115	—	—
2003-04	273	188	1	2
2004-05	305	203	1	2
2005-06	223	177	—	2

Notes:
1. Some of 2005-06 intakes have still to complete training.
2. The figures do not include those who have resigned or have been dismissed prior to assessment.

In relation to the eight persons who failed: all six females failed the physical competency assessment (fitness assessment); one male failed on the student assessment exercises (role-playing exercises) and the other male failed on the Certificate of Policing (i.e. failed one examination required to obtain the certificate).

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applicants to the Police Service of Northern Ireland have failed on more than one occasion, broken down by *(a)* number of attempts, *(b)* sex and *(c)* religion. [78783]

Paul Goggins: I am advised by PSNI that it does not collate this information in terms of *(b)* sex and *(c)* religion, and therefore cannot provide this information without incurring disproportionate cost. The following table shows how many applicants have failed on more than one occasion broken down by *(a)* the number of attempts.

Report of police trainees repeat applicant data

	Number not providing national insurance	*Applied 11 times*	*Applied 10 times*	*Applied 9 times*	*Applied 8 times*	*Applied 7 times*	*Applied 6 times*
Campaign 2 September 2001	89	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Campaign 3 March 2002	40	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Campaign 4 September 2002	39	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Campaign 5 March 2003	52	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Campaign 6 September 2003	64	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	125
Campaign 7 March 2004	30	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	71	118
Campaign 8 September 2004	202	n/a	n/a	n/a	51	86	139
Campaign 9 March 2005	316	n/a	n/a	38	54	89	132
Campaign 10 September 2005	638	n/a	27	46	68	125	191
Campaign 11 March 2006	227	20	36	45	89	131	209

	Applied 5 times	Applied 4 times	Applied 3 times	Applied 2 times	Applied once	Total applications in this campaign
Campaign 2 September 2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	1,351	3,470	4,910
Campaign 3 March 2002	n/a	n/a	633	1,113	2,888	4,674
Campaign 4 September 2002	n/a	326	533	1,061	2,451	4,410
Campaign 5 March 2003	212	347	642	1,306	3,485	6,044
Campaign 6 September 2003	189	365	586	1,244	2,846	5,419
Campaign 7 March 2004	220	307	613	1,125	2,493	4,977
Campaign 8 September 2004	219	384	644	1,233	2,737	5,695
Campaign 9 March 2005	260	417	768	1,311	2,701	6,106
Campaign 10 September 2005	305	529	850	1,508	3,403	7,690
Campaign 11 March 2006	321	561	904	1,682	3,636	7,861

Note:
C8 to C11 have a large number of missing national insurance numbers due to African/other nationality applicants.

Rate Revenue

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total amount of regional rate revenue was in each of the last five years; and how much was allocated from regional rate revenue to water services in each of the last five years. [81675]

Mr. Hanson: The total amount of regional rate revenue collected in each of the last five years for which figures are available is as follows:

	Regional rate revenue (£ million)
2000-01	313.3
2001-02	334.5
2002-03	350.7
2003-04	377.9
2004-05	421.0

The regional rate is an unhypothecated tax and is not allocated to specific areas of expenditure, but instead contributes to the overall resources available to the Secretary of State to allocate to regional public services in Northern Ireland.

Road Safety

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many road traffic accidents were reported in Northern Ireland in the last six months; and what assessment he has made of the contribution the attendance of a road safety officer at district council road safety committees can make to the reduction of road traffic accidents. [81676]

David Cairns: The total number of reported injury collisions is as follows:

Period	Reported injury collisions
1 November 2005 to 31 December 2005	922
1 January 2006 to 30 April 2006	[1]1,632
Total	[1]2,554

[1] Figures for the 2006-07 calendar year are provisional.

The principal aim of Road Safety Education Officers is the education and training of children and young people in road safety, for example by training and supporting teachers and providing road safety awareness sessions for children. The Department of the Environment's assessment is that it is in fulfilling this aim that they most effectively contribute to the reduction of road traffic collisions.

School Discipline

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of racist bullying were recorded in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [80978]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education does not collect the information requested.

The Department makes clear that all forms of bullying are unacceptable and actively promotes the development of anti-bullying initiatives through its Anti-Bullying Programme.

Information about the scale and nature of bullying in Northern Ireland schools is contained in a research report published in October 2002. A research briefing summary is available on the Department's website at www.deni.gov.uk/rb8_2002.pdf.

The Department has recently commissioned updated research into bullying, in all its forms, including racist bullying, and the results are expected to be ready for publication by mid 2007.

School Places

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many intake places were available in each school in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area in each of the last five years. [78744]

Maria Eagle: Tables showing the approved admissions number for each school in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area for each of the last five school years will be placed in the Library.

School Trips

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many primary school children in the *(a)* Catholic and *(b)* Protestant communities have taken part in trips to the United States of America with (i) Government and (ii) European funds in the last five years, broken down by education and library board area; and if he will make a statement. [80117]

Maria Eagle: Neither the Department nor the EU have funded any trips for primary school children to America during the past five years.

Sick Days

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days were lost through sickness for *(a)* teaching, *(b)* non-teaching and *(c)* board staff in each education and library board area in Northern Ireland in each of the past three years. [79408]

Maria Eagle: The information is as follows:

Number of days lost through sickness among teachers in each education and library board area

Education and library board area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Belfast	25,454	20,976	25,417
North-Eastern	31,650	26,049	33,663
South-Eastern	27,168	24,893	30,001
Southern	35,911	35,584	42,280
Western	27,258	23,492	29,416

Note:
Figures relate to teachers in schools funded by ELBs and does not include voluntary grammar schools and grant-maintained integrated schools.

Number of days lost through sickness among school-based non-teaching staff in each education and library board area

Education and library board area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Belfast	19,211	23,723	30,697
North-Eastern	20,407	23,851	34,227
South-Eastern	33,127	39,868	49,298
Southern	22,274	22,264	22,743
Western	[1]50,567	[1]48,513.5	[1]52,452.5

[1] The WELB figures include cleaning staff.

Number of days lost through sickness among other board staff in each education and library board area

Education and library board area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Belfast	8,962	9,402	10,918
North-Eastern	5,604	4,971	4,853
South-Eastern	4,298	4,612	5,594
Southern	11,698	11,326	10,091
Western	4,454	4,959	6,978.5

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many working days have been lost to the Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated cost to the Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [77757]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency gathers this information on behalf of the Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office. Figures in relation to this question are only available from 2000-01 onwards.

The figures for 2004-05 are inclusive of Northern Ireland Office, Home Civil Service staff.

The Northern Ireland Prison Service provides independent information. They are unable to provide figures for costs prior to 2002-03.

Average annual number of absent days per employee

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
NIO Core	—	—	—	—	12.8	13.4	13.7	14.0	12.6	—
FSNI	—	—	—	—	8.1	11.7	12.4	13.3	13.7	—
Com Agency	—	—	—	—	18.7	20.9	17.4	18.1	21.0	—
YJA	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19.8	—
NIPS	18.2	19.8	23.1	19.2	16.6	13.9	19.4	20.7	15.9	14.2

Estimated cost to the Department and its Agencies

	1996-97	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	£ *2000-01*
NIO Core	—	—	—	—	745,043.7
FSNI	—	—	—	—	91,026.3
Comp Agency	—	—	—	—	160,128.3
YJA	—	—	—	—	—
NIPS	—	—	—	—	—

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	£ *2005-06*
NIO Core	718,092.9	875,785.7	959,320.1	1,024,046.5	—
FSNI	132,507.2	153,572.0	171,827.3	169,381.0	—
Comp Agency	180,356.0	160,290.2	205,226.0	188,140.0	—
YJA	—	—	—	103,476.0	—
NIPS	—	4,600,000	5,100,000	3,800,000	[1]2,500,000

[1] To December 2005.
NIO Core = Northern Ireland Office
FSNI = Forensic Science Northern Ireland
Comp Age = Compensation Agency
YJA = Youth Justice Agency
NIPS = Northern Ireland Prison Service

Street Lighting

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria are used by the Roads Service when deciding on requests from those living in rural areas to have street lighting installed on main roads where there are several homes in the vicinity. [81671]

David Cairns: The Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service (Mr. Geoff Allister) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to his question.

Letter from Mr. Geoff Allister, dated 3 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding what criteria are used by the Road Service when deciding on requests from those living in rural areas to have street lighting installed on main roads where there are several homes in the vicinity.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

The following criteria is used by Roads Service in considering requests for street lighting in rural areas:

where there is development density of at least 10 properties within a contiguous 200 metre road length;

where investigation of night-time injury accident statistics indicates that the provision of road lighting would contribute to a reduction in the number of accidents; and

where a "community" can be identified: A community would be regarded as a location which as well as having a number of residential properties within a defined length of road, also has 2 or more public buildings or amenities and which can be established as a centre where the local community gathers (each public building or amenity established as having a significant level of community gathers (each public building or amenity established as having a significant level of regular use in the evening period will be counted as the equivalent of 2 properties in assessing the justification for road lighting).

The current criteria is aimed at balancing the demand for more rural lighting against the effects of increased urbanisation of the countryside, the environmental impact on plants, insects and wildlife and the financial costs of providing and maintaining additional public lighting installations.

Terrorist Prisoners

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1514W, on terrorist prisoners, how many prisoners are located in the separated accommodation in Roe House at Maghaberry Prison; and how many of them are perceived to be members of paramilitary organisations. [80235]

Paul Goggins: As at 26 June there were 33 prisoners with perceived paramilitary affiliations in separated accommodation in Roe House.

Tourism

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what local government financial support there was for tourism in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [80975]

David Cairns: No records are held centrally to distinguish between expenditure on tourism in rural and urban areas. However, figures have been extracted from the annual accounts of each of the 26 district councils, covering the period 2000-01 to 2004-05, from which some assessment of the rural/urban split may be made.

£

District council	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Antrim	384,242	382,352	131,065	137,714	411,749
Ards	1,791,405	1,730,816	1,996,892	1,817,694	2,104,034
Armagh	1,889,346	1,820,714	1,878,701	1,902,161	2,211,959
Ballymena	244,235	291,567	2,064,865	1,732,448	1,810,093
Ballymoney	195,415	256,743	290,280	353,688	376,845
Banbridge	432,993	423,621	351,966	332,385	472,643
Belfast	1,282,104	1,650,359	2,382,365	2,527,971	3,681,576
Carrickfergus	1,345,543	1,497,345	1,174,692	903,315	782,510
Castlereagh	—	—	—	—	—
Coleraine	2,816,931	3,160,519	3,220,908	3,120,466	3,378,541
Cookstown	410,854	392,105	339,456	352,157	394,590
Craigavon	450,675	429,647	469,714	449,741	428,193
Derry	2,017,906	2,205,526	931,895	915,610	894,999
Down	807,526	949,165	1,311,237	1,455,992	1,444,757
Dungannon and S Tyrone	273,092	295,238	286,096	282,394	299,654
Fermanagh	1,400,000	1,382,561	1,307,651	1,429,463	1,317,456
Larne	1,278,220	1,310,224	798,512	795,748	836,148
Limavady	615,142	750,351	559,619	755,216	798,045

Ulster Scots Culture

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Department of Education is taking to increase Ulster-Scots cultural awareness in schools in Northern Ireland. [59945]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education has provided specific funding for the distribution of

Ulster-Scots materials for primary schools, at the request of the Ulster-Scots Agency. The Department has also offered to provide similar support for post-primary materials when these are ready. Each school's curriculum has to promote the cultural development of its pupils. The proposed revised curriculum includes the theme of Citizenship in which pupils can learn about their own cultural traditions and heritage, as well as that of others. The Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment has been asked to ensure that, in the implementation of the revised curriculum, Ulster-Scots cultural heritage is appropriately reflected in exemplars or guidance materials for schools.

Under-age Drinking

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many under-age drinkers have been charged with drunkenness in a public place in each divisional command unit in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [80098]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is not available as the Police Service of Northern Ireland do not record statistics on the specific offence referred to.

Vandalism

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was of vandalism on educational establishments in each of the last three years, broken down by education and library board area. [80111]

Maria Eagle: The cost of repairing vandalism met by each education and library board for controlled and maintained schools in the last three years is as follows:

Board Area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Belfast	157	115	131
Western	77	55	63
North Eastern	303	180	134
South Eastern	159	132	129
Southern	135	157	222
Total	831	639	679

The information for voluntary grammar and grant maintained integrated schools is not readily available and is being requested. I will write to the hon. Lady with the information as soon as possible.

Institutions of further and higher education and universities would claim for damages from their insurers, and the Department for Employment and Learning does not hold details of insurance cover or claims.

Young Carers

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children in Northern Ireland are identified as young carers. [80949]

Mr. Hanson: In the 2001 census, there were 398,056 children aged under 16 in Northern Ireland, of whom 5,377 were providing care to family members, friends, neighbours or others because of long-term physical or mental ill-health, disability or problems related to, old age.

HEALTH

Administration Spending

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* management costs by each primary care trust in England in the last year for which figures are available, expressed (i) as a percentage of their total budget and (ii) as the cost per head of population in areas they cover. [34206]

Andy Burnham *[pursuant to the reply, 27 April 2006, Official Report, c. 1295W]:* I regret that owing to a clerical error the table placed in the Library in the previous reply is incorrect.

The administration costs (both "as a percentage of net operating costs" and "expenditure per head") for two primary care trusts (St. Helens and Teignbridge) were shown incorrectly, and this also affected the England administration costs "expenditure per head" total figure.

The correct table will be placed in the Library.

Alzheimer's Disease

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what answers her Department has received from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to each of the six questions asked by her Department on 13 February 2006, Gateway reference 6185, in relation to the NICE appraisal of Donepezil, Rivastigmine, Galantamine and Memantine for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. [81674]

Andy Burnham: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's responses to comments received on its appraisal of these drugs have been published on NICE'S website at www.nice.org.uk.

Anaemia

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance will affect the treatment of anaemia, with particular reference to patients suffering from cancer-related exhaustion; and if she will make a statement. [79793]

Andy Burnham: We expect national health service organisations and clinicians to take full account of appraisals issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). NICE has not yet issued its final guidance on Erythropoeitins for cancer-induced anaemia.

Breastfeeding

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department has spent per baby born on the promotion of breastfeeding in each of the last three financial years. [82290]

Caroline Flint: National health service primary care trusts are responsible for the provision of breastfeeding support services at a local level, for example, through the development of local area action plans. As a result, the majority of expenditure on breastfeeding is at a local level. Figures relating to local spend on breastfeeding are not available.

The following table shows the cost of breastfeeding promotion at a national level in relation to the number of live births in England.

Financial year	*Departmental spend on promotion of breastfeeding and infant nutrition[1] (£)*	*Number of live births in England[2]*
2003-04	462,000	597,256
2004-05	747,000	606,218
2005-06	743,000	Not available

[1] These figures do not include the cost of local services and local promotional activity.
[2] These figures are for women who are normally resident in England.

Care Homes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the extent to which the work of the Criminal Records Bureau and the protection of vulnerable adults scheme, Skills for Care, Commission for Social Care Inspection and the General Social Care Council overlaps in relation to the regulation of care homes; whether she expects there to be overlapping responsibilities following implementation of her Department's proposals for registration of care workers; and what plans she has to establish *(a)* a single body and *(b)* a single access point for the inspection and regulation of care homes and their staff. [80687]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), as the statutory regulator of care homes, has overall responsibility for registering, inspecting and regulating homes, including inspecting against national minimum standards and the Care Homes Regulations. It is the only organisation of those referred to which has statutory responsibility for the inspection and regulation of care homes.

As part of its inspection work, CSCI will ensure that the necessary Criminal Records Bureau and protection of vulnerable adults scheme checks on care home staff have been carried out and that staff and the registered provider are appropriately trained, which will include meeting requirements, such as the registration of care workers, laid down by bodies such as the General Social Care Council.

My right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in his Budget statement made on 16 March 2005 that CSCI and the Healthcare Commission will merge to form a single inspectorate for health and social care. The planned merger reflects increasingly close collaboration on the ground between people working in these two fields. It also reflects shared objectives for the highest possible standards for everyone using these services. The merger is part of a wider policy to improve regulation and help reduce the burden that it can place on the front line across health and social care. The intention is that the merger will take place in 2008.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the compact with the voluntary sector applies to care homes. [79648]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Compact on relations between Government and the voluntary and community sector in England (the compact), first introduced in 1998, is the framework agreement for how the Government and the sector should work together. The compact is the agreement between Government and the voluntary and community sector in England to improve their relationship for mutual advantage. It applies to care homes in the voluntary sector only.

By building better relationships, the compact can help Government and the voluntary and community sector work better together for the communities they serve. It operates on a voluntary basis but commitment is strong:

at the national level, it applies to Departments, their executive agencies, Government offices for the regions, non-departmental public bodies and voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations; and

at the local level, local compacts adapt the national framework to suit local circumstances and are an important means to increase understanding between the public sector and the VCS. To date, 98 per cent. of local authority areas have local compacts agreed or being developed.

The Government are strongly committed to creating a framework in which the sector can continue to flourish, be strong and independent.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the average cost to care homes of mandatory regulation and inspection in the last period for which figures are available. [79675]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The cost to care homes of statutory regulation and inspection are contained in The Commission for Social Care Inspection (Fees and Frequency of Inspections) Regulations 2004, copies of which are available in the Library.

Chiropody

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has *(a)* to extend regulation of chiropodists and podiatrists to cover all foot health practitioners who use the techniques of chiropody and *(b)* to prevent foot health practitioners advertising their services as chiropody services. [81081]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* Extension of statutory regulation to groups not currently regulated is being considered as part of a

review of regulation. We will publish our decisions on the outcome of the review when ready. Under the Health Professions Order 2001, it is an offence for anyone falsely to represent himself as registered by the Health Professions Council in one of the professions regulated by it, to use a title to which he is not entitled or falsely to represent himself to possess qualifications in a relevant profession. The relevant professions include chiropody and podiatry.

Cochlear Implant Treatment

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were provided with cochlear implant treatment in (i) England and (ii) Scotland over the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [82295]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of children and adults who were provided with cochlear implants in England, per capita, between 2000-01 and 2004-05 is shown in the table. The figures for 2004-05 are the most recent available.

The Department does not collect data on health services in Scotland.

All operations count of episodes (OPCS4 D24.1, D24.2) implantation of intralextracochlear prosthesis national health service hospitals, England

	Rate per 100,000 population		
	Children (aged up to 17)	Adults (aged 18 and over)	Total
2000-01	199	171	370
2001-02	204	186	390
2002-03	214	188	402
2003-04	252	209	461
2004-05	267	209	476

	Estimated population estimates		
	Children (aged up to 17)	Adults (aged 18 and over)	Total
2000-01	11,177,102	38,056,209	49,233,311
2001-02	11,145,813	38,303,933	49,449,746
2002-03	11,117,872	38,528,981	49,646,853
2003-04	11,082,232	38,773,508	49,855,740
2004-05	11,065,413	39,027,717	50,093,130

	Rate per 100,000 population		
	Children (aged up to 17)	Adults (aged 18 and over)	Overall rate
2000-01	1.78	0.45	0.75
2001-02	1.83	0.49	0.79
2002-03	1.92	0.49	0.81
2003-04	2.27	0.54	0.92
2004-05	2.41	0.54	0.95

Notes:
1. All operations count of episodes These figures represent a count of all finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where the procedure was mentioned in any of the 12 (four prior to 2002-03) operation fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if an operation is mentioned in more than one operation field of the record.
2. Finished consultant episode (FCE) An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
3. Main operation The main operation is the first recorded operation in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and is usually the most resource intensive procedure performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main operation when looking at admission details, for example time waited, but the figures for "all operations count of episodes" give a more complete count of episodes with an operation.
4. Secondary procedure As well as the main operative procedure there are up to 11 (three prior to 2002-03) secondary operation fields in HES that show secondary or additional procedures performed on the patient during the episode of care.
5. Ungrossed data Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are ungrossed).

Sources:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) The Information Centre for health and social care 2001 census

Consultants

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the companies which were paid consultancy fees by her Department in 2005-06; how much each was paid; and what each of the companies was used to accomplish. [69693]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect centrally information that would allow the analysis requested and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to her Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down into (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80485]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/ Peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was given in a written ministerial statement on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78W.

The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

DHL/Novation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she made of DHL/Novation's operations in the US, before awarding the company contracts to supply the NHS, with particular reference to US Justice Department investigations. [73192]

Andy Burnham: In relation to the outsourcing of NHS Logistics and related procurement activities the Department has looked into these allegations and, having taken legal advice, is satisfied that there is no reason to reconsider Novation's position.

Subject to the final negotiations, a contract will be awarded to DHL by the end of the summer. Novation will be a subcontractor to DHL and provide the procurement expertise and support for the enterprise.

Egg Imports (Salmonella)

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the possible risk to *(a)* domestic consumers and *(b)* customers of the catering industry arising from the consumption of hens' eggs imported from countries with high levels of Salmonella infection in flocks; and if she will make a statement. [79206]

Caroline Flint: All Grade A table eggs from any source, if they are handled, stored and cooked properly, pose very little risk to the consumer. Eggs from overseas contribute only to a small percentage of the United Kingdom egg market.

To assess the risk associated with such eggs, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) is carrying out a survey of eggs sourced from outside the UK and on retail sale in Britain. We have also been monitoring the levels of Salmonella in eggs being used in the catering trade. When these surveys are completed the FSA will have a better understanding of the risk associated with the presence of Salmonella in layer flocks. A recent European Union survey of layer flocks has highlighted countries with high levels of Salmonella infection in flocks and of th0se only Spain is a significant exporter of eggs to the UK. Therefore, we are talking to the European Commission and with member states to see what further action can be taken, in the light of the results from the layer flock survey, that will further protect consumers.

Freedom of Information

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration is being given to designating private companies providing personal medical services through the alternative provider medical service arrangements as public authorities within the meaning of section 5 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [79260]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No consideration has been given to designating private companies providing personal medical services through the alternative provider medical service arrangements as public authorities within the meaning of section 5 of the Freedom of Information Act.

No bodies have been designated as public authorities by order under section 5.

Health and Social Care Awards

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Health and Social Care awards are funded by her Department. [79625]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The awards are jointly funded by the Department and the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement.

These awards encourage and recognise good practice across the national health service and social care service. Awards winners are supported by the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement to encourage the spread of good practice.

Infant Formula Regulations

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to review the Infant Formula and Follow-on Formula Regulations 1995; and if she will make a statement. [82289]

Caroline Flint: The Department intends to review later this year, in conjunction with the Food Standards Agency, the United Kingdom regulations on infant formula and follow-on formula advertising. This is in line with the commitment set out in the "Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier" White Paper.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which private Members' Bills were drafted by her Department in each session since 1997; and which of those received Royal Assent. [77513]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members will consider a range of possible subjects before introducing their private Members' Bills.

Government draftsmen do draft some Bills in advance which are available as one of the options for Members to consider before they make their selection.

However, Members may make subsequent amendments or revisions to a Government-drafted Bill, or use it as the basis for a private Members's Bill in the future.

Maternity Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department gives to *(a)* primary care and *(b)* hospital trusts on the level of provision of maternity wards; and if she will make a statement. [81776]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for local primary care and hospital trusts to determine the appropriate level of provision of maternity services in their area.

The maternity standard of the national service framework for children, young people and maternity services sets out the Government's vision for women to have easy access to supportive, high-quality maternity services, designed around their individual needs and those of their babies. It asks all national health service maternity care providers and primary care trusts to plan the provision of maternity services based on an up-to-date assessment of the needs of the local population and involving service users.

New Technologies

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the Department's budget was spent on researching new technologies in the last period for which figures are available. [76801]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Under- Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, responsible for employment relations, on Wednesday 21 June, *Official Report*, column 1882W.

NHS

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to ensure that no organisation which has been indicted or forced to repay the US taxpayer for fraud will be permitted to have a role in the NHS. [81341]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* In securing goods and services for the national health service, the Department is subject to all public procurement regulations when considering the letting of contracts. The rules compel the Department to advertise, negotiate and award any proposed contract in accordance with the legal procedure set out in the regulations. This will ensure that the process is open and honest and upholds the integrity of the Department.

The regulations require that as part of the due diligence all participating organisations must complete a pre-qualification questionnaire to ensure that they are suitable to play a role in the NHS.

NHS Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to monitor NHS expenditure on complementary and alternative medicines. [80164]

Caroline Flint: The Government consider that decision-making on individual clinical interventions, using either complementary or more orthodox treatments, is a matter for local national health service providers and practitioners. There are therefore no centrally held records monitoring overall NHS expenditure on complementary and alternative medicines and there are no current plans to change this.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what costs have been incurred through the replacement of the North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and South Yorkshire strategic health authorities with the Yorkshire and Humber strategic health authority; and how much of this sum was accounted for by costs of *(a)* administration, *(b)* building relocation, *(c)* re-branding *(d)* training events and *(e)* human resources, including hiring new staff. [80267]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The costs of the changes that were announced on the 16 May will depend on a number of factors. New arrangements are currently being developed and discussed with trade unions and staff. Until those discussions have been concluded and the detail of new arrangements agreed it is not possible to confirm or accurately forecast costs. Overall, the changes will free up money to improve front-line services over time.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will be accountable for the breaking even of budgets in *(a)* University College of London Hospital and *(b)* the Foundation Trust sector. [80785]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: National health service foundation trusts (NHSFTs) are independent public benefit corporations. The board of directors of each NHSFT is responsible for the performance and success of their organisation. They are subject to a rigorous and transparent regulatory regime operated by Monitor, whose statutory name is the independent regulator of NHSFTs.

I am informed by the chairman of Monitor that, on 31 May of each year, NHSFTs are required to submit forward planning information to Monitor. Once it has completed its analysis of the annual plans for the 2006-07 financial year, Monitor will assign financial risk ratings that will guide the intensity of its in-year monitoring. The risk ratings, together with the 2006-07 annual plans for each of the 40 NHSFTs, are due to be published on Monitor's website in September 2006 at www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk.

NHSFTs with poor financial risk ratings are required by Monitor to prepare and deliver effective plans for financial recovery. University College London Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, which had a deficit of £35.9 million in the 2005-06 financial year, is implementing a financial recovery plan that will return it to break-even by the 2007-08 financial year.

NHS Performance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to her oral statement of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 258, on NHS performance, on what basis her assertion was made that the letter from my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) of 18 May called for the wiping out of deficits in NHS organisations in Oxfordshire. [80795]

Caroline Flint: The assertion was based on the following line in the right hon. Member's letter of 18 May:

"The debt crippling our health services could be wiped out if Oxfordshire's NHS were funded at the national average."

Obesity

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults are (i) obese and (ii) overweight when measured by body mass index according to the Government's most recent health survey figures in (A) Bury St. Edmunds constituency, (B) Suffolk county council area, (C) the East of England and (D) England. [79393]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2104-05W to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson).

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost was of *(a)* producing the "Obesity care pathway and weight loss guide" booklets and *(b)* sending them to the recipients; [80185]

(2) how the effectiveness of the "Obesity care pathway and weight loss guide" booklets will be measured. [80186]

Caroline Flint: To date, the Department has spent £198,000 on producing the "Obesity care pathway and weight loss guide" booklets and £27,751 in sending these materials to the recipients.

The Department intends to evaluate the effectiveness of the "Obesity care pathway and the weight loss guide" booklets early next year. The detailed process and methodology of the evaluation are currently under consideration.

Older People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures she is taking to ensure the effective implementation of the national service framework for older people for those with sensory impairment; and if she will make a statement. [81072]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A work stream focusing on vision and hearing services for older people is included as part of the implementation programme for the Department's recently published report "A new ambition for old age: Next steps in implementing the National Service Framework for Older People". This work will tie in with the Department's wider 'Healthy Ageing' programme.

Ophthalmic Treatments

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* cataract and *(b)* non-cataract ophthalmic operations were carried out in NHS hospitals and clinics in each year since 1997. [79589]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 23 June 2006]:* The table shows the number of finished consultant episodes for ophthalmic operations that took place in national health service hospitals in England in each year since 1997.

	Cataract operations	*Other ophthalmic operations*
1997-98	163,885	181,174
1998-99	204,074	195,145
1999-2000	213,769	194,568
2000-01	239,625	187,623
2001-02	250,035	179,323
2002-03	272,395	176,553
2003-04	301,667	175,981
2004-05	309,552	180,700

Notes:
1. Finished consultant episode (FCE) A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. The figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
2. All operations count of episodes These figures represent a count of all FCEs where the procedure was mentioned in any of the 12 (four prior to 2002-03) operation fields in a hospital episodes statistics record. A record is only included once in each count, even if an operation is mentioned in more than one operation field of the record.
3. Ungrossed data Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data; that is the data is ungrossed.

Source:
HES, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the letter of 10 May 2006 from the acting chief executive of the NHS on the Operating Framework for 2006-07, Gateway reference 6509, whether all contracts between primary care trusts and providers setting out agreed service requirements and shared activity plans have been signed. [80790]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally.

Private Sector Contracts

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many routine operations have been performed by the private sector for NHS patients in each year since 1997. [61721]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available relating to operations commissioned locally from the private sector. Information on the number of elective procedures performed by centrally procured independent sector schemes from 2003-04 is shown in the table.

	Procedures
2003-04	3,663
2004-05	36,580
2005-06	52,333

Note:
Data prior to 2003-04 is not available.

Source:
Department of Health.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the efficacy of the use of Docetaxel in the treatment of prostate cancer. [79414]

Andy Burnham: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has conducted an appraisal of Docetaxel for the treatment of hormone refractory prostate cancer and published its guidance to the national health service on 28 June

Recombinant Factor VII

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1708W, on recombinant factor VII, what funding her Department is providing for 2006-07; and what funding will be made available for 2007-08 and beyond. [75194]

Caroline Flint: For 2006-07, the moneys previously included within central budgets for allocation to the national health service have now been included as a block sum for strategic health authorities to manage. To ensure that the desired outcomes are achieved this is accompanied by a service level agreement.

We are committed to this area of patient treatment and continue to consider the long-term funding implications.

Residential Care

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many adults were placed in residential care out of area in the last year for which figures are available; and what proportion of state-funded placements this figure represented. [81686]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of adult supported residents placed outside their local authority in England was 48,900 at 31 March 2005. This represented 18 per cent. of the total council supported residents in England.

Severalls Hospital, Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the former Severalls Hospital at Colchester will be put on the market for sale; and when she expects the sale to be completed. [77864]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

The former Severalls Hospital was included in the portfolio of 96 sites acquired by English Partnerships on 6 April 2005 from the Department of Health. I understand English Partnerships anticipates marketing the site in September/October of this year with a view to completing a sale by the summer of 2007.

Stem Cell Research

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* human embryo and *(b)* embryonic stem cell research projects are being supported from public funds; at which research establishments such research is being conducted; how much has been allocated annually to each project; and which researcher is in charge of each project. [81282]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected centrally.

Waiting Lists/Times

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients admitted to out-patient waiting lists by their general practitioner were seen within 13 weeks in each year since 1990. [80786]

Andy Burnham: The figures are shown in the table. Commissioner-based out-patient waiting times figures are only available from June 1997.

Percentage of general practitioner referrals for first out-patient appointment seen within 13 weeks (commissioner-based)

	Quarter	Percentage of patients seen in under 13 weeks	Total number of patients seen in quarter
1997	June	83.5	1,757,243
1998	March	80.7	1,790,658
1999	March	77.0	1,876,685
2000	March	73.4	1,968,469
2001	March	75.6	2,046,691
2002	March	74.4	2,065,774
2003	March	76.5	2,002,030
2004	March	80.1	2,022,454
2005	March	84.0	1,929,415
2006	March	95.8	1,951,789

Source:
QM08.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people waited for treatment on an *(a)* in-patient and *(b)* out-patient waiting list in each year since 1979. [80806]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the table. Note that the full out-patient list was collected for the first time in April 2004.

Number of patients on in-patient and out-patient waiting lists, 1997 to 2006 (provider-based)

As at March each year	In-patient ordinary	Day case	Total	Out-patient
1979	752,422	—	752,422	—
1980	664,919	—	664,919	—
1981	628,333	—	628,333	—
1982	622,480	—	622,480	—
1983	726,186	—	726,186	—
1984	692,945	—	692,945	—
1985	674,453	—	674,453	—
1986	673,107	—	673,107	—
1987[1]	687,945	—	687,945	—
1988	717,892	158,354	876,246	—
1989	741,822	180,854	922,676	—
1990	746,694	212,282	958,976	—
1991	729,061	219,182	948,243	—
1992	663,264	254,453	917,717	—
1993	664,681	330,293	994,974	—
1994	655,287	410,082	1,065,369	—
1995	582,642	461,409	1,044,051	—
1996	540,037	507,992	1,048,029	—
1997	566,588	591,416	1,158,004	—
1998	593,042	704,620	1,297,662	—
1999	508,657	564,203	1,072,860	—
2000	502,174	534,892	1,037,066	—
2001	494,334	512,393	1,006,727	—

Number of patients on in-patient and out-patient waiting lists, 1997 to 2006 (provider-based)

As at March each year	In-patient ordinary	Day case	Total	Out-patient
2002	499,954	535,411	1,035,365	—
2003	462,730	529,345	992,075	—
2004	407,606	498,147	905,753	[2]1,379,502
2005	350,762	470,960	821,722	1,322,685
2006	304,107	480,447	784,554	1,165,659

[1] Prior to 1988, in-patient waiting list did not include day case admissions.
[2] Figure quoted for April 2004. Total number waiting for out-patient appointment not collected prior to April 2004.
Source:
KH07 and QM08.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2109W, on waiting times, how many *(a)* English and *(b)* Welsh patients had been waiting more than six months for an NHS in-patient operation at English hospitals at the end of April 2006. [82219]

Andy Burnham: The table provides details of the number of patients who have been waiting more than six months for in-patient admission within English national health service provider trusts at the end of April 2006. The data is split down to show patient nationality.

	Number of patients
Total	909
of which:	
English	120
Welsh	786
Scottish	2
Guernsey	1

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Central Office of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, pursuant to the written statement of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 97WS, on Central Office of Information for performance targets 2006-07, which official is responsible for progress on each of the targets; to whom each person reports; what recent discussions she has had about implementation of each target; what contingency plans are in place in the event that any target is not met; and if she will make a statement. [81174]

Mr. McFadden: Alan Bishop, the chief executive of the Central Office of Information (COI) is responsible for progress on each of the targets and he reports to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The targets to be set were discussed between myself and Mr. Bishop, in the context of COI's business planning for 2006-07.

Mr. Bishop, together with the management board that he has appointed, reviews progress against the targets on a regular (at least monthly) basis and implements corrective action, should it be needed.

Mr. Bishop reports progress to me during regular meetings.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what draft Bills have been produced by her Department since October 2005; how many were *(a)* examined and *(b)* are planned to be examined by (i) a departmental Select Committee and (ii) a Joint Committee; what draft Bills are still to be produced by her Department; when they are to be published; how many clauses each has; and if she will make a statement. [81255]

Hilary Armstrong: None.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will list deposited papers placed in the Library by her Department since 2000; and when each was published. [81258]

Hilary Armstrong: This information is not collected.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 545W, on departmental staff, why information on the number of staff whose performance has been assessed as unsatisfactory is not available for periods before 1 June 2005. [80759]

Mr. McFadden: On 1 June 2005 the Department established a central database to record all types of personal cases including those staff whose performance had been assessed as unsatisfactory.

Central records prior to that date only show the number of staff who were dismissed owing to unsatisfactory performance. It did not record those unsatisfactory performers who improved and subsequently reached a satisfactory standard.

GovNet Expo 2006

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost is to her Department of supporting GovNet Expo 2006. [79219]

Mr. McFadden: The National School of Government will be exhibiting at the event at a cost of £6,000 and VAT.

Speakers from the Cabinet Office and the National School of Government will also be participating in the event at no cost.

Ministerial Responsibilities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what responsibility she has for *(a)* communities, *(b)* civic renewal and *(c)* the Respect agenda. [78296]

Hilary Armstrong: As the Minister for dealing with social exclusion in the Cabinet Office, I have a strategic role in overseeing Government activity and supporting other Departments across all these areas. This is in the

context of tackling persistent social exclusion and delivering social justice, which is an over-arching challenge facing Government and cuts across the boundaries of any individual Department.

I am chairing a new Cabinet Committee on Social Exclusion and will be supported by a new Social Exclusion Task Force in the Cabinet Office. Under these auspices the Government will publish an action plan in the autumn setting out policies to reach the most excluded people in society, which will be driven forward by the Task Force.

The Task Force will support the work of the Home Office Respect Unit in delivering the cross-Government Respect agenda, and will complement the leading role of the Department for Communities and Local Government in delivering policies around civil renewal and community cohesion.

A new Office of the Third Sector is being set up in the Cabinet Office, led by, the Parliamentary Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, North (Edward Miliband), reporting to me. This draws together different parts of Whitehall that deal with voluntary and community sector organisations and social enterprises, strengthening the Government's approach to the sector.

Public Pensions (Transferability)

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what measures the Government have put in place to assist pension transferability of public pensions for personnel working in Government Departments and agencies who are members of the Civil Service pension scheme. [79768]

Mr. McFadden: All public service pension schemes pay cash equivalent transfer values to other pension schemes in respect of accrued rights in compliance with pensions law. Under the Fair Deal for Staff Pensions there is a requirement to transfer pension rights when employments are transferred to the private sector under public private partnerships/public finance initiatives and subsequent transfers for former public servants. Public service pension scheme members can also transfer accrued pension rights by way of the public sector transfer club. The club is a network of public and private-sector occupational pension schemes which makes it easier for employees who move between employers covered by separate participating schemes to transfer their accrued pension rights.

Transformational Government

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Government plan to include transformational government in the senior civil service competency framework. [80371]

Mr. McFadden: The Cabinet Secretary launched a new leadership framework for the senior civil service (SCS) on 13 March this year as part of the Professional Skills for Government (PSG) programme. The new framework emphasises the need to deliver results that meet the needs of citizens and customers, to build organisational capability through cultivating innovation and to provide direction, seizing opportunities for improvement. PSG also prescribes core skills for the SCS including programme and project management, strategic thinking—including the potential impact of information and communication technology—and communications. All of these skills will be key to ensuring that the SCS provides effective leadership for transformational government.

The PSG framework requires members of the SCS to meet additional skills criteria relevant to their area of professional expertise. For IT professionals within the SCS, nine additional skills critical to the successful delivery of large-scale IT-enabled change have been identified in areas such as the development of strategic relationships, management of risk and commercial management.

Youth and Community Service

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress there has been in setting up the National Youth and Community Service. [79403]

Edward Miliband: Following the recommendations of the Russell Commission, the Russell Commission Implementation Body established the new charity, v, which was launched on Monday 8 May 2006. It aims to engage and inspire one million more young volunteers within five years.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what recent estimate has been made of the carbon emissions of the House of Commons; what commitment has been made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81121]

Nick Harvey: The total quantity of carbon emissions produced on or attributable to the House of Commons element of the estate is estimated at 2,800 tonnes, 60 per cent. of the 4,700 tonnes produced on the Parliamentary Estate during 2005-06.

The House of Commons, together with the House of Lords, has recently adopted a new energy and water savings policy. Features of the new policy include:

£30,000 is being invested annually in energy and water efficiency initiatives;

The Parliamentary Estates Directorate is participating in Whitehall combined heat and power schemes;

Energy and water audits are used when assessing all proposed new building projects;

Efficient appliances, materials and methods will be used when undertaking new works, repairs and maintenance to buildings;

A target 10 per cent. of electricity to be sourced from renewable sources has been set and has already been met;

A system for energy and water monitoring has been established. This will allow progress against agreed targets to be assessed for the estate as a whole, and for each building. Regular feedback on progress and achievements against

targets will be provided to the Energy Savers Group, senior management and appropriate committees;

Members of staff in each departmental office in the two Houses are involved in energy and water management as nominated Energy Savers;

The awareness of occupants of the Palace is being raised through energy and water saving campaigns. A series of sustainability seminars has been organised by the Parliamentary Estates Directorate;

Staff are encouraged to contribute ideas and suggestions for improving energy and water efficiency, maintain interest, learn from failures and promote success;

Consultants are considering the utilisation of renewable energy systems on the parliamentary estate.

Environmental Management

Chris Huhne: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether the House of Commons *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as being in compliance with that standard; and if he will make a statement. [81062]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons has not been externally certified as being in compliance with ISO 14001 standard. The House of Commons Board of Management will be considering the implications of seeking to meet ISO 14001 standard and EMAS accreditation in the autumn. The forthcoming Commission Annual Report (to be published on 12 July) will contain an environmental report.

Officers of the House (Accommodation)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1574W, on Officers of the House (Accommodation), what accommodation is made available to the *(a)* Clerk of the House, *(b)* Serjeant at Arms and *(c)* Speaker's Secretary; what the market value of the property is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [81171]

Nick Harvey: The accommodation provided for the Clerk of the House, Serjeant at Arms and the Speaker's Secretary is integral to the parliamentary estate and therefore would not be saleable on the open market. The values shown are those estimated by the Valuation Office Agency:

The Clerk of the House: 3 Parliament Street: £2,825,000

The Serjeant at Arms: 2 Parliament Street: £2,200,000

The Speaker's Secretary: 4 Canon Row: £1,625,000.

Security

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1574W, on security, at which other posts there is limited protection from the elements; and if he will make a statement. [80938]

Nick Harvey: The previous answer referred to comparable security posts generally. There are none on the parliamentary estate.

Shared Office Accommodation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many hon. Members are in shared office accommodation. [81503]

Nick Harvey: 29 Members are sharing offices with other Members. Of these, 23 Members are occupying accommodation designated for multiple occupancy. A further six Members have chosen to share offices in order to provide accommodation for members of their staff.

TREASURY

Bank Accounts (Identity Checks)

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Financial Services Authority and *(b)* banks on the standard of proof of identity required for people to open a basic bank account. [81707]

Ed Balls: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy analysis, development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Capital Gains Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue implications of replacing capital gains tax taper relief with indexation linked to the consumer prices index; and if he will make a statement. [80663]

Dawn Primarolo: The broad estimate of the revenue implications of replacing capital gains tax taper relief with indexation for 2006-07 is a revenue gain of £2 billion.

The figures are consistent with the assumptions made in Budget 2006 on future asset prices, and take into account the likely taxpayer behavioural responses to the tax change. It has been assumed that taper relief would be replaced completely by indexation and that any taxpayer disposing of an asset from 2006-07 onwards would get indexation relief for the duration of the investment.

Command Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the unnumbered command papers

produced by his Department in each session since 1976; by what means *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if he will make a statement. [81252]

John Healey: All command papers presented to the House of Commons are recorded in the Commons Journal and are available in the Library of the House. Papers in the numbered series are printed by The Stationery Office, from whom copies are obtainable. Unnumbered papers presented by Treasury Ministers are available from the Treasury.

Company Directors

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of company directors drawing salary in dividend form in each year since 2001-02; and if he will make a statement. [81146]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of company directors recorded on self-assessment returns and the number reporting any dividend income in each available year since 2001-02 are given in the following table.

	Number of company directors	*Of which: number with dividend income*
2001-02	770,000	460,000
2002-03	790,000	490,000
2003-04	910,000	600,000
2004-05	970,000	630,000

The information on the tax return does not distinguish between dividend ncome from the director's own company and amounts derived from investments in other companies.

Corporation Tax

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to reduce corporation tax in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [81820]

Dawn Primarolo: The corporation tax regime is a UK-wide system and introducing different rates in one part of the UK could distort competition.

Many companies trade in different regions of the UK. It would not be easy to determine the proportion of their profits liable at a "devolved" rate. In addition, such a measure could create opportunities for some companies to manipulate the rules in order to benefit from the lower rate. That might well result in a system that would place a significant administrative burden on both businesses and the Government.

Customs (Cornwall)

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the possible effects of the withdrawal of front-line customs staff in Cornwall on the import of illegal goods; and if he will make a statement. [81095]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs deploys resource in line with intelligence and risk assessments in order to maximise the impact on criminal activity at the frontier.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many firearms were seized by customs staff in Cornwall in each year since 1997. [81096]

Dawn Primarolo: Information for firearms seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs since 2000 is contained in the annual reports for HM Customs and Excise and HM Revenue and Customs. The figures for the year ending 31 March 2006 will be published in the next annual report.

More detailed information is not available as disclosure of results at specific locations would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of staff retention among customs officers based in Cornwall. [81098]

Dawn Primarolo: No specific assessment has been made of staff retention among customs officers based in Cornwall.

Financial Services Authority

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what percentage of the Financial Services Authority's staff left the Authority in each of the last five financial years; and what the total cost of *(a)* redundancy and other severance payments and *(b)* the recruitment of replacement staff was in each year; [81330]

(2) Howmany IT-related contracts in excess of 153,000 euros, including contracts with external consultants or contractors, have been awarded by the Financial Services Authority in each of the last four financial years; and how many and what total value of such contracts were awarded with no competitive tender in each year; [81331]

(3) what the budgeted cost set out in the original programme business case was of completing the IT outsourcing programme at the Financial Services Authority; [81332]

(4) how many external contractors and consultants employed by the Financial Services Authority's IT division over the last 24 months have been supplied by employment agencies on the FSA's preferred supplier list; how many have been supplied by employment agencies on the S-CAT register; and how many have been supplied by employment agencies that are neither on the FSA preferred supplier list nor on the S-CAT register. [81333]

Ed Balls: These are operational matters for the FSA. The chairman of the FSA will write to the hon. Member directly.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the extent to which the Government-required project methodology and control

is in use on projects and programmes within the Financial Services Authority. [81334]

Ed Balls: The FSA is operationally independent of the Government. However, I understand that the FSA has chosen to base its IS development lifecycleon the PRINCE II methodology and iscurrently working to align this approach with the recommendations of the OGC gateway process.

Gold Bullion (Estonia)

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the British Government returned gold bullion to Estonia which had been deposited by the Estonian Government before the Soviet invasion of Estonia. [77720]

Mr. Hoon: I have been asked to reply.

The Government returned gold bullion to Estonia on 31 March 1992.

Home Births

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many home births there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a percentage of all births in (i) England and (ii) Forest of Dean constituency in each year since 1997. [81755]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 July 2006:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about how many home births there were (a) in total and (b) as a percentage of all births in (i) England and (ii) Forest of Dean constituency in each year since 1997 (81755)

The latest year for which birth data are available is 2005. The table below shows the figures requested for the years 1997 to 2005.

Maternities[1] at home and in total for residents of England and of Forest of Dean constituency 1997 to 2005

	At home	All maternities	Percentage at home
England			
1997	13,621	602,452	2.3
1998	13,104	596,413	2.2
1999	12,561	583,923	2.2
2000	12,108	567,297	2.1
2001	11,543	558,271	2.1
2002	12,055	560,332	2.2
2003	12,746	584,450	2.2
2004	13,523	601,395	2.2
2005	15,327	606,959	2.5
Forest of Dean constituency			
1997	41	912	4.5
1998	42	861	4.9
1999	34	858	4.0
2000	30	884	3.4
2001	39	759	5.1
2002	18	776	2.3
2003	21	845	2.5
2004	33	818	4.0
2005	28	802	3.5

[1] A maternity is defined as a woman giving birth to one or more liveborn or stillborn babies.

Hospital Infections

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths were recorded where *(a)* clostridium difficile-associated disease, *(b)* MRSA, *(c)* vancomycin resistant enterococci, *(d)* multi-resistant acinetobacter spp and *(e)* penicillin-resistant streptococcus pneumoniae was mentioned on the death certificate in the last year for which figures are available; and in how many cases it was also the underlying cause of death. [81691]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many deaths have been recorded where (a) clostridium difficile associated disease, (b) MRSA, (c) vancomycin resistant enterococci, (d) multi-resistant acinetobacter spp and (e) penicillin resistant streptococcus pneumoniae was mentioned on the death certificate for the last year for which figures are available; and in how many cases it was the underlying cause of death. (81691)

The most recently available information is for deaths in 2004 in England and Wales. Figures for Clostridium difficile were published in an annual report in Health Statistics Quarterly 30 on 27 May 2006[1] and figures for MRSA were published in an annual report in Health Statistics Quarterly 29 on 26 February 2006[2]. Figures for vancomycin resistant enterococci and multi-resistant acinetobacter spp are not available from routine death certification data. These are laboratory classifications of micro organisms, details of which are rarely used in describing the illnesses from which patients suffer or die.

Figures on the number of deaths involving Streptococcus pneumoniae are given in the table below for the calendar year 2004.

Numbers of deaths where Streptococcus pneumoniae was mentioned on the death certificate and the number where it was specified as penicillin resistant and the number of these mentions where it was also the underlying cause of death[1], England and Wales, 2004[2]

	Number of deaths
Total mentions[3]	222
Total mentions—specified as penicillin resistant	0
Underlying cause	161
Underlying cause— specified as penicillin resistant	0

[1] Selected using the codes J13, G00. 1 and A40.3 and a text search within codes A49.1 and H66 from the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
[2] Figures are for deaths occurring in the calendar year.
Source:
Office for National Statistics
[1] Office for National Statistics (2005) Report: Deaths involving Clostridium difficile: England and Wales, 1999-2004. Health Statistics Quarterly 30, 56-60.

2 Office for National Statistics (2005) Report: Deaths involving MRSA: England and Wales, 2000-2004. "Health Statistics Quarterly 29, 63-68.

Inheritance Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost to the Exchequer of *(a)* a 20 per cent. marginal rate band under £500,000 and *(b)* a £500,000 allowance for inheritance tax for each year to 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [80664]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers I gave him on 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1134W, and on 27 June 2006, Column 371W.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 94W, on inheritance tax, (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance that informs Departments that it is normal procedure not to publish preliminary regulatory impact assessments; [82040]

(2) when and how his Department determined that it is normal procedure that preliminary regulatory impact assessments are not published. [82041]

Dawn Primarolo: Guidance on how and when regulatory impact assessments should be carried out is publicly available on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/ria/

The decision not to publish preliminary regulatory impact assessments took full account of the criteria contained in the Cabinet Office guidance on when such assessments should be conducted, and when they are not required. To determine whether a change falls within the criteria or not, a preliminary assessment is undertaken. Where the preliminary assessment shows the impact falls outside the criteria, it is taken no further.

ISO 14001

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if he will make a statement. [81192]

John Healey: The environmental management system in the Treasury building at 1 Horse Guards Road has been externally certified to ISO14001 standard.

Nuclear Deterrent

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what dates since May 2005 he has held formal discussions about the nuclear deterrent with Ministry of Defence *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials. [81842]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials discuss a wide range of issues with their counterparts in the Ministry of Defence and other Departments on a regular basis as part of the process of policy analysis, development and delivery.

P810 Form

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how long it took on average for a P810 form to be processed in the last period for which figures are available. [81478]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs do not keep this information.

Personal Allowances

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the revenue implications of introducing a personal allowance of £7,185, absorbing the starting rate band on earnings and savings in the basic rate band, cutting the basic rate of income tax to 20 per cent., with tax rates on dividends unchanged, increasing the basic rate limit to £42,815, and keeping all age-related allowances at their current level; and if he will make a statement. [80665]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 29 June, *Official Report*, column 583W.

Personal Tax Allowances

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the personal tax allowances were for *(a)* a single person, *(b)* a single wage married couple, *(c)* a two-wage married couple, *(d)* a single parent and *(e)* a widowed mother in (i) 1976, (ii) 1979, (iii) 1980, (iv) 1983, (v) 1987, (vi) 1992 (vii) April 1997 and (viii) each year from May 1997. [81243]

Dawn Primarolo: The answer is provided in the table.

	Single person	*Single wage married couple*[1]	*Two wage married couple*[2]	*Single parent*[3]	*Widowed mother*[4]
1976-77	735	1,085	1,820	[5]1,100	[6]1,450
1979-80	1,165	1,815	2,980	1,815	[7]1,815
1980-81	1,375	2,145	3,520	2,145	2,145
1983-84	1,785	2,795	4,580	2,795	2,795
1987-88	2,425	3,795	6,220	3,795	3,795
1992-93	3,445	5,165	8,610	5,165	5,165

	Single person	Single wage married couple[1]	Two wage married couple[2]	Single parent[3]	Widowed mother[4]
1997-98	4,045	[5]4,045 + 1,830 x 15%	8,090 + 1,830 x 15%	4,045 + 1,830 x 15%	[9]4,045 + 3,660 x 15%
1998-99	4,195	4,195 + 1,900 x 15%	8,390 + 1,900 x 15%	4,195+ 1,900 x 15%	4,195 + 3,880 x 15%
1999-2000	4,335	4,335 + 1,970 x 10%	8,670 + 1,970 x 10%	4,335 + 1,970 x 10%	4,335 + 3,940 x 10%
2000-01	4,385	4,385	8,770	4,385	[10]4,385 + 2,000 x 10%
2001-02	4,535	4,535	9,070	[11]4,535 + 5,200 x 10%	4,535 + 5,200 x 10%
2002-03	4,615	4,615	9,230	4,615 + 5,290 x 10%	4,615 + 5,290 x 10%
2003-04	4,615	4,615	9,230	4,615	4,615
2004-05	4,745	4,745	9,490	4,745	4,745
2005-06	4,895	4,895	9,790	4,895	4,895
2006-07	5,035	5,035	10,070	5,035	5,035

[1] Assumes husband is wage earner.
[2] Married allowance withdrawn for 2000-01 et seq, unless one of the couple born before 6 April 1935.
[3] Additional personal allowance (APA) equivalent of married allowance. Given as a tax reduction from 1994-95. Withdrawn for 2000-01 et seq.
[4] Widow's bereavement allowance (WBA) introduced in 1980-81 for year of bereavement. Available for year of death and following year from 1982-83. Equivalent of married allowance. Given as a tax reduction from 1994-95. Withdrawn for deaths after 5 April 2000.
[5] Single person's tax allowance and additional relief for a qualifying child. Further relief possibly due if more than one child.
[6] Single person's tax allowance, relief for a widow with dependants and additional relief for a qualifying child. Further relief possibly due if more than one child.
[7] Single person's tax allowance and relief for a widow with dependants.
[8] Married couple's allowance (MCA) given as a tax reduction at 15% and 10% for 1999-2000.
[9] WBA and APA.
[10] WBA available only if widowed during previous tax year.
[11] Children's tax credit given as a tax reduction at 10% and restricted where income exceeded income limit. Also available to single and two wage married couples who had a qualifying child. Replaced from 2003-04 by child tax credit.

Prudential

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on which occasions in the last 10 years public funds have been made available to the Prudential. [81415]

Ed Balls: The Prudential is a global network of companies including a number of companies in the United Kingdom. The information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Unemployed Disabled People

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many disabled people were registered as unemployed in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire in each of the last five years. [81468]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 3 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about unemployment. (81468)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

The table, attached, shows estimates of the number of unemployed disabled persons of working age (males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59) resident in Lancashire for the 12 months ending February 2001 to February 2004, from the annual local area LFS, and for the 12 months ending March 2005 from the APS. Sample sizes are insufficient to provide estimates for the Ribble Valley Parliamentary Constituency.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Changes in the estimates from year to year should be treated with particular caution.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (ISA). However, the claimant count data are not available by disability.

Number of disabled[1] persons unemployed resident in Lancashire.

12 months ending	thousand Number
February:	
2001	7
2002	5
2003	4
2004	6
March:	
2005	5

[1] Defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and by whether a long-term disability is work-limiting.
Notes:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates from year to year should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps

have been taken as part of alternative livelihood programmes in Afghanistan to address the extent to which opium is used to access services. [80433]

Dr. Howells: Opium is a major source of credit for many households in Afghanistan. It is used to lease land, purchase agricultural inputs and meet the cost of education and health services. Household dependence on opium cultivation for accessing services, and the opium debt which results from using opium as credit, are a growing problem in Afghanistan. Micro-finance can make an important contribution to addressing this problem and helping to promote alternative livelihoods to opium in Afghanistan. In 2005 the Department for International Development provided £5 million to Afghanistan's Micro-Finance and Investment Support Facility (MISFA) to introduce a special funding window to promote and enable the expansion of micro-finance in poppy-growing provinces. This financial support is helping Micro-Finance Institutions develop financial products that better meet the financing needs for alternative livelihoods and the problem of indebtedness. Moreover, the MISFA programme is providing a source of legal credit to the poor and people on low incomes to access services, thus reducing the demand for credit from opium and therefore reducing the risk of Afghan households losing assets or land due to opium indebtedness.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of whether agricultural reconstruction programmes in the Helmand province may have contributed to opium production. [80435]

Dr. Howells: At present some 80 per cent. of the population of Helmand are engaged in farming and a significant number are engaged in opium cultivation. The main contributing factors to opium production in Helmand result from the devastating impact of three decades of war. The conflict led to increasing poverty; a severe decline in investment in essential infrastructure such as roads and the Helmand irrigation system; insecurity and the lack of the rule of law; and the absence of a credible Government providing basic services. As a result, the people of Helmand have become increasingly dependent on illegal opium cultivation for income to meet basic needs.

The Afghan Government are looking to improve the situation for farmers in Helmand, but progress has been hampered by problems delivering Government development programmes there. To help address this problem, the Department for International Development will be spending £30 million over the next three years in Helmand through the Helmand Agriculture and Rural Development Programme. This programme will deliver assistance through the Afghan Government's National Programmes in the province. These aim to extend the Afghan Government's authority and demonstrate that they can be a credible provider of public services, such as the provision of safe drinking water, credit for investment in agricultural business and essential investment in much needed infrastructure, particularly irrigation. These are all essential elements for increasing the number of legal employment opportunities available to households and reducing the dependence on opium cultivation.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the political situation in Afghanistan. [80637]

Dr. Howells: Afghanistan has made significant political progress since 2001. Parliamentary and provincial elections were successfully held in September 2005. Parliament went into Session in December. Most Cabinet Ministers are approved and the budget endorsed. Afghan Government influence is increasing throughout the country with assistance from the International Security Assistance Force and the UN. As part of our efforts in southern Afghanistan, we are working to support Afghan-led reconstruction.

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what average hourly rate was paid by her Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81496]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) uses various agencies under the National Framework for Temporary Staff. The majority are employed at grade A2 (administrative officer) level. Although rates between agencies vary depending on the assignment, the three agencies most commonly used by the FCO are charged an average hourly rate of £13.74 in 2005-06.

Antarctic Treaty

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the *(a)* administering and *(b)* effectiveness of the Antarctic Treaty in relation to environmental protection. [79015]

Mr. Hoon: The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1991. By the commencement of the 29th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Edinburgh from 12 to 23 June 2006, all 28 consultative parties to the treaty, as well as 4 non-consultative parties, had ratified the Protocol. The United Kingdom ratified the Protocol on 25 April 1995.

The Protocol sets out a framework of stringent provisions for the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic environment. Under the Protocol, all activities in Antarctica must be planned and their potential environmental impacts assessed and minimised.

The Committee for Environmental Protection meets annually in conjunction with the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, to administer the Protocol, thereafter providing advice and formulating recommendations on the protection of the Antarctic environment.

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what issues the Government will be raising at the next round of the Antarctic Treaty consultative meetings. [79016]

Mr. Hoon: The UK submitted a range of Working Papers to the 29 Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, held in Edinburgh from 12 to 23 June 2006. Topics covered included guidelines for visitor sites in the Antarctic Peninsular region, wildlife awareness information, Marine Protected Areas, guidelines on the exchange of ballast water by vessels in the waters surrounding Antarctica and a summary of the UK-led environmental workshop to identify future environmental challenges in Antarctica, which preceded this meeting.

The UK has contributed robustly to discussions of wider Antarctic tourism, environmental, operational and scientific matters. The UK-drafted Edinburgh Declaration on Antarctica, published on 19 June, sets out the commitment of the Antarctic Treaty Parties to the development of polar science during the forthcoming International Polar Year 2007-2008.

Climate Change

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the *(a)* Chinese and *(b)* Indian Governments on tackling climate change. [80922]

Mr. McCartney: Following her appointment, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not yet had direct discussions with the Indian or Chinese Governments on tackling climate change. She looks forward to visiting both countries to discuss climate change and other issues of mutual interest in the coming months. I will be travelling to China from 10-17 July 2006 and will be raising climate change with my counterparts while there.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has announced that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will play an increasing role in delivering the Government's international objectives on climate change. On 8 June, she announced the appointment of a special representative for climate change, John Ashton. His primary focus will be to build a stronger political foundation for international action on climate change, working to build consensus among key governmental and non-governmental actors in priority countries, including China and India.

East Timor

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 315W, on East Timor, to the right hon. Member for Cynon Valley (Ann Clwyd) by what date her Department expects to make a formal response to the recommendations that the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in East Timor made in its final report. [81723]

Mr. McCartney: We do not intend to make a formal response to the report of the East Timorese Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation. The document has been made public, but it is not yet clear whether the UN Secretary-General will ask the Security Council to consider the findings.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answers of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 471W, on East Timor, whether her Department has urged Indonesia's authorities to investigate crimes committed in East Timor in September 1999 by Indonesia's Battalion 745, including *(a)* the murder of Sander Thoenes and *(b)* the attack on Jon Swain and his three companions in the last 12 months; and if she will raise those matters with Indonesia's Foreign Minister at the earliest opportunity. [81725]

Mr. McCartney: We have made no representations in the past 12 months to the Indonesian Government regarding investigation of specific crimes committed in East Timor in September 1999. The East Timorese Government have made it clear that, having achieved independence, they do not seek criminal justice or compensation for past human rights violations but rather prioritise the need for reconciliation with Indonesia. East Timor and Indonesia have jointly set up a Commission for Truth and Friendship (CTF) as the way in which they wish to promote reconciliation and deal with previous human rights violations by both sides. We will continue to monitor the work of the CTF.

Ethiopia

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Ethiopia regarding incursions into Somalia. [80270]

Mr. McCartney: My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, spoke with Prime Minister Meles late last week and our ambassador in Addis Ababa spoke with the Ethiopian Deputy Foreign Minister in mid-June. We made clear to the Ethiopian Government our concerns about the current situation in Somalia and also that, with the UN, the UK regards the Transitional Federal Government as the legitimate Government of Somalia. The UK believes it is important that all states refrain from any actions that might destabilise the situation, respect Somalia's borders and comply with the current UN arms embargo on Somalia. The international community, including regional states, should focus on promoting dialogue among the Somalia parties in support of the agreement reached between the Transitional Federal Government and the Islamic Courts in Khartoum on 22 June 2006.

EU Finance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have had with (i) the Chancellor of the Exchequer and

(ii) Treasury officials regarding the proposals to reduce the proportion of the UK abatement in the agreement on the next EU financial perspective. [81822]

Mr. Hoon: All Departments with an interest continue to work together to secure the successful implementation of the December deal on the EU Budget for 2007-2013.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether her Department *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make representations to (i) the EU Commission, (ii) the EU Presidency and (iii) other member state Governments to seek agreement to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's proposals to reduce the proportion of the UK abatement in the agreement on the next EU financial perspective. [81823]

Mr. Hoon: The Own Resources Mechanisms for the next Financial Perspective 2007-13, including the UK Abatement, were agreed unanimously by member states at the December 2005 European Council. Discussions are continuing in Brussels concerning the technical details for implementation of the December agreement. As is usual, these involve the European Commission, the EU Presidency and all member states. We are considering the draft texts of the new Own Resources Decision carefully to make sure that they accurately reflect the outcome of the December European Council, including the agreement that the UK Abatement should remain.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will reiterate their policy on self-determination for the Falkland Islands following the Argentine Government's pressing of their claim to the islands at the recent Organisation of American States annual assembly. [80324]

Mr. Hoon: The permanent observer of the United Kingdom to the Organisation of American States (OAS) wrote to the chair of the General Assembly of the OAS on 6 June reiterating that the Government have no doubts about their sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

There can be no negotiations on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands unless and until such time as the Falkland Islanders so wish. The principle of self-determination underlies the Government's position on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands.

Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to her Answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1720W, on family planning, if she will make it her policy *(a)* not to recognise abortion as a method of family planning and *(b)* not to support abortion in reproductive health assistance; and if she will make a statement. [81165]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

DFID does not promote abortion as a method of family planning. However, we recognise that if a woman decides she cannot go through with a pregnancy, she needs to be able to access services that are safe, as well as family planning services. This is in line with the consensus agreed by the International Conference for Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994.

Globally, 137 million couples who say they would like to use family planning do not have adequate access to modern contraception, with an estimated 87 million unintentional pregnancies as a result. DFID support for sexual and reproductive health is to enable women and men to exercise informed and safe choices in matters of childbearing and to provide a comprehensive range of information and services that can help to save women's lives and to reduce the need for abortion.

Hospitality Expenses

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by her Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77100]

Mr. Hoon: Government Hospitality, part of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services, an Executive agency of the FCO, maintains separate records of its spend on alcohol annually. Government Hospitality is responsible for official hospitality at ministerial level across Whitehall. Maintaining separate central records of total annual spend on alcohol for hospitality purposes across the FCO as a whole and UK missions overseas would, however, incur disproportionate costs.

Infraction Proceedings

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many infraction proceedings for breach of EU *(a)* legislation and *(b)* treaties were outstanding against the United Kingdom at each formal stage notified to Government at the end of each calendar year since 1990; and how many were outstanding against the Governments of Scotland and Wales in each year since devolution. [80076]

Mr. Hoon: A table setting out the number of infraction proceedings brought against the UK at each formal stage in the calendar years stated is as follows. The records kept by the Government concerning reasoned opinions only started during 1998, which means that the figure for 1998 is incomplete, and the records concerning cases before the court are only available since 1997. To provide details before these dates, to break down the figures in respect of legislation and treaties or to provide figures for outstanding cases at the end of each calendar year

would incur disproportionate cost. Infraction proceedings are brought against the UK not the devolved Administrations.

	Article 226		Article 228	
	Reasoned opinions	Court applications	Reasoned opinions	Court applications
1997	n/a	1	n/a	0
1998	10	1	0	0
1999	24	5	0	0
2000	29	4	1	0
2001	38	9	0	0
2002	28	15	1	0
2003	26	8	1	0
2004	25	11	0	0
2005	28	7	1	0
2006 (to date)	3	3	0	0

n/a = not available

Iraq

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total UK expenditure towards support in training, equipping and deploying of military and protective services and border personnel in Iraq was in each year since 2003. [78909]

Dr. Howells: The Ministry of Defence has so far approved expenditure of £82.2 million to equipping the Iraqi security forces. The yearly approved expenditure is as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	27.3
2005-06	34.6
2006-07	20.3

The UK has also contributed £423,000 so far to the NATO training mission in Iraq, through the NATO Training Mission Trust Fund. The yearly approved expenditure is as follows:

	€/(£)
2004-05	250,000 (173,000)
2005-06	367,400 (250,000)

Since 2004 the cross-Government Conflict Prevention Pools contributed over £22 million towards the training of the Iraqi security forces. The yearly approved expenditure is as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	7
2005-06	12.6
2006-07 (to end May 2006)	2.5

All these projects commenced in 2004. We are unable to provide figures for 2003, as prior to this date expenditure on equipping Iraqi security forces came from the UK forces general budget for Iraq, and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Lebanon

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any deportations have *(a)* taken place and *(b)* are being considered under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Lebanon to facilitate deportation of persons suspected of activities associated with terrorism; and if she will make a statement. [80997]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* No deportations have so far taken place to Lebanon under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). We do not comment on whether deportations are currently being considered under the MOU.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1000W, on ministerial visits (accommodation), if she will keep a central record of the *(a)* number, *(b)* standard of hotel used and *(c)* cost of overnight stays for (i) civil servants, (ii) special advisers and (iii) Ministers. [77099]

Mr. Hoon: There are clear guidelines in place for all Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff, special advisers and Ministers concerning overnight accommodation when travelling on business at public expense, whether in the UK or overseas. These rates are also used by staff from other Whitehall Departments and by parliamentary Select Committees. Staff are reminded of the need to ensure they obtain value for money at all times.

There are no plans to keep a central record of all hotel accommodation used as to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Moldova

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the ability of the judiciary in Moldova to act independently of Government. [80762]

Mr. Hoon: Like other former Soviet Union members, Moldova has had to create an independent judiciary system from scratch. While there has been some progress, the Government share the assessments by the European Commission and the Council of Europe that there is still much to do. We continue to take every opportunity to remind the authorities in Chisinau that this is essential for closer integration with the EU states, and to urge and assist them to adopt the necessary legislation as required by the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan for Moldova.

Mr. Ching Cheong

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will urge the

authorities of the People's Republic of China to bring the detained British journalist Mr. Ching Cheong to a fair and public trial as soon as possible; and if she will request the Chinese authorities to ensure that *(a)* the trial is held in public *and (b)* Mr. Ching has legal representation. [80857]

Mr. McCartney: Although Mr. Ching Cheong holds a British National Overseas (BN(O)) passport he did not use this passport to enter China and he is deemed by the Chinese authorities to be a Chinese national. We have made representations, through our embassy in Beijing and our consulate in Guangzhou, to the Chinese authorities in respect of Mr. Ching's case and we will continue to do so at every appropriate opportunity. We have serious and long-standing concerns over the use of arbitrary detention in China, inadequate fair trial guarantees and the treatment of prisoners, and we make these concerns known to the Chinese authorities. However, as Mr. Ching has been charged with espionage, while he will have legal representation, his trial will take place in a closed session in accordance with current Chinese law.

Sri Lanka

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support her Department is giving to the Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission. [80618]

Dr. Howells: Under the terms of the Cease-Fire Agreement the Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission (SLMM) was established to monitor the cease-fire and investigate and record violations by either side. It has done so since 2002. We continue to support fully the important work of the SLMM as ceasefire monitors and the Norwegian Government as facilitators of the peace process. In relation to the SLMM, we completely endorse the view that its members are appointed as ceasefire monitors and not as representatives of their countries.

We welcome the recent statements of commitment by the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to the Ceasefire Agreement. In that respect we urge all parties to the ceasefire to co-operate with the SLMM and urge the LTTE and the Government to return to face-to face talks so they can discuss concerns about the cease-fire and work towards a lasting peace agreement.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will assess the implications for the Sri Lankan peace process in light of the recent increase in violence in the country. [80619]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr. Davey) on 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 183-184W.

Student Visas

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many student visas have been issued for students to study in the UK in each of the last eight years, broken down by country of origin. [79782]

Dr. Howells: The hon. Member can find this information in UKvisas' annual published statistics, which are available in the Library of the House. From 2001-02 the relevant statistics are in the section entitled "Part 2: Visa Demand and Outcome of Applications". Before this, the figures are under "Other categories and DNA".

Terrorist Deportations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in identifying a monitoring body in accordance with the UK-Lebanon Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the deportation of persons associated with terrorism. [80926]

Dr. Howells: It is expected that the monitoring body for Lebanon under the Memorandum of Understanding will be appointed shortly by the Government and Lebanese Government.

Timor-Leste

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what stabilisation measures for Timor-Leste are being considered under the Rapid Reaction Mechanism set out in the European Council Presidency Conclusions of 15 and 16 June. [80924]

Mr. McCartney: The European Commission will send a fact-finding mission to East Timor shortly. It will then be in a position to consider the measures available under the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). We will remain in regular contact with the Commission as this work progresses. Council Regulation 381/2001 provides details of the full range of measures available under the RRM. The full text of the regulation can be found at the following website: http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2001/l_057/l_05720010227en00050009.pdf.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her *(a)* European and *(b)* US counterparts regarding the agreement of the mandate of a new UN mission to Timor-Leste; and what the outcomes were of those discussions. [80925]

Mr. McCartney: We are liaising closely with our US counterparts regarding the mandate of a new UN mission to East Timor. We have also been in touch with various European partners, including Portugal, Germany and France. A number of discussions have taken place, both bilaterally and within the UN Security Council. We all agree that the UN has a continuing role to play in assisting the Government of East Timor in the lead-up to the national elections in 2007, particularly in light of recent unrest. The current UN Mission's mandate has been extended until 20 August 2006 while the UN Secretary-General prepares further recommendations on the mandate and structure of the new mission.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her officials have made of the attempt in June 2006 to loot the offices of the Reception, Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Timor-Leste; and if she will make a statement. [81720]

Mr. McCartney: During the height of the recent civil unrest in East Timor, the grounds of the building housing the Commission of Reception, Truth and Reconciliation (CAVR) were broken into. Thirty-two motorbikes were stolen from the compound, but there is no evidence to suggest that there was any attempt to break into the CAVR offices themselves.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her officials have made of the looting in May 2006 of files held by the Serious Crimes Unit in Dili, Timor-Leste; and if she will make a statement. [81721]

Mr. McCartney: The prosecutor general, who is the legal custodian of the Serious Crimes Unit (SCU) files, has told our ambassador in Dili that approximately 5-10 per cent. of the SCU case files are missing. However, a full digital copy of all SCU files is held by the UN.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support her Department plans to offer to the United Nations investigation into recent violence in Timor-Leste; and if she will make a statement. [81722]

Mr. McCartney: The United Kingdom supported UN Security Council Resolution 1690 (2006), which welcomes the initiative of the UN Secretary-General to ask the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to take the lead in establishing an independent Special Inquiry Commission to review the recent unrest in East Timor. We have not received any specific requests for assistance, but will follow the work of the High Commissioner closely.

Travel Advice

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* information her Department provides and *(b)* grants it makes available for the purpose of advising gap year students on personal safety issues when travelling overseas. [81471]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has run the travel safety campaign, "Know Before You Go", since 2001. Its aim is to help British travellers prepare for their trips and stay safe while they're abroad.

Gap year students are one of the key target groups for this campaign: they are both less likely to prepare for their trips and more likely to get into trouble while away. We work closely with partners from the travel industry and related groups to promote the FCO's travel website (www.fco.gov.uk/travel) and call centre (0845 850 4849) which give detailed travel safety information on specific countries as well as important general tips.

Over the last year this activity included

the publication and distribution of 500,000 copies of a "Travel Safe Guide" jointly produced with Lonely Planet. This is being distributed through partners including Millets, Snow and Rock, Ellis Brigham (adventure travel shops) and through the Lonely Planet website, so as to reach the target audience;

a sixth-form schools tour conducted by the FCO's Consular Communications Team jointly with a number of noted travel writers, including Simon Calder of the *Independent*;

FCO Student Ambassadors in 15 universities across the UK. Articles placed in university publications by the student Ambassadors have reached 467,000 students over the past year. We will be appointing new students in new universities over the course of the coming year;

a dedicated FCO gap year website (www.gogapyear.com) which will be re-launched in July this year with many new features.

The Department has close working relationships with a number of organisations promoting the safety of gap year travellers. We do not make any direct grants for this activity, preferring to work through partnerships with relevant organisations—for example, promoting each other's information materials, co-branding.

Uganda

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her assessment is of the *(a)* loss of lives, *(b)* destruction of property and *(c)* threat to security in Uganda as a result of the demonstrations in the wake of the arrest of Dr. Besigye on 14 November 2005; and if she will make a statement. [79947]

Mr. McCartney: The UK, on behalf of the EU, issued a statement on 18 November 2005 expressing deep concern at the events following the arrest of Dr. Besigye on 14 November 2005. In the two days following the arrest there was rioting, vandalism and looting in the streets and 57 suspects were arrested, but later released. Five Government cars and two telephone kiosks were set ablaze.

In the statement, the EU said that it was particularly concerned about the use of live ammunition by the Ugandan Police on 14 November 2005, which resulted in the tragic death of one person and injuries to six others. The EU also called on Dr. Besigye's party, the Forum for Democratic Change, to

'encourage people to avoid violence and confrontation and to respect the Law and Constitution'.

The full text of the statement can be found at the following website: http://www.eu2005.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1107293561746&a=KArticle&aid=1131976425734&date=2005-11-18

Western Sahara

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of human rights in Western Sahara. [80261]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made no recent assessment of the human rights situation in Western Sahara.

I visited Morocco on 6-7 June and raised the issue of Western Sahara. That included human rights. I have urged Morocco to respect human rights in the Territory, for instance in my speech at Chatham House on 22 June.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Bank and Shop Closures

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* bank branches and *(b)* independent retail shops which closed in (i) Nottingham, South and (ii) the East Midlands in 2005-06. [79224]

Margaret Hodge: The number of local bank branch closures is not available.

Value-added tax (VAT) deregistrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business closures. Data for 2005 will be available in autumn 2006 at www.sbs.gov.uk/vats.

VAT deregistrations in retail in 2004 for the parliamentary constituency of Nottingham, South and the Government office region of the East Midlands are shown in the following table. For comparison, registrations are also given.

	Nottingham South	*East Midlands*
VAT Registrations in retail[1]	50	1,345
VAT De-registrations in retail[1]	35	1,420

[1] Retail comprises Standard Industrial Classification 52.

VAT registration and deregistration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that deregister may not have closed. In the retail sector 63 per cent. of enterprises in the UK (200,000 out of 320,000) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

Broadband

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what the reasons are for the delay in publication of the Broadband Stakeholders Group's independent rates review, and if he will make a statement; [81833]

(2) when he expects the Broadband Stakeholders Group to publish the final report on the independent rates review, and if he will make a statement. [81834]

Margaret Hodge: In November 2003, the Broadband Stakeholder Group (BSG) established terms of reference for reviewing the regime for property taxes in respect of cable/duct infrastructure. These were:

To review the effects of the business rating system on the providers of communication apparatus and their possible affect on competition within the communications industry.

To consider whether or not the assessment methodology is having a detrimental effect on the roll out of broadband, with special emphasis on the provision of broadband in rural areas and to isolated communities.

To consider the methods of assessment as between leased and owned fibre and any possible double payment as between fibre lessees and the owners of the ducts in which the fibre is carried and any material differences between business rates payable on owned or leased fibre.

To determine the scope of the works for Phase II of the project, subject to budget approval.

The BSG published an interim status report in late 2004. While the interim report proposed options for a way forward, the working group driving the report felt that there were insufficient hard data (as opposed to anecdotal material) to draw firm conclusions at that stage. It was planned that the review could be concluded by March 31 2005, three months on from the interim report.

However, the review could not be taken forward from that point as, at the start of 2005, the European Commission launched a state aids investigation, which directly involved two BSG members. A decision on this case is expected imminently, at which point the review can progress as planned.

Businesses

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many businesses in *(a)* England and *(b)* Beverley and Holderness have (i) started up and (ii) ceased trading in each of the last nine years; and if he will make a statement. [81447]

Margaret Hodge: Value-added tax (VAT) registrations and deregistrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures. DTI data on the number of VAT registrations and de-registrations in *(a)* England and *(b)* the Beverley and Holderness constituency in each year from 1997 to 2004 are shown in the table. Data for 2005 will be available in autumn 2006. For comparison, the start of year stock of VAT-registered businesses is also given.

VAT registration and deregistration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that deregister will not necessarily have closed. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million businesses (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

VAT deregistrations and registrations 1997-2004

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*
England				
Registrations	159,730	160,235	155,390	157,615
Deregistrations	125,490	124,990	128,580	134,005
Start of year stock	1,376,795	1,411,035	1,446,280	1,473,090
Beverley and Holderness				
Registrations	230	215	200	245
Deregistrations	230	190	195	205
Start of year stock	2,845	2,845	2,875	2,875

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
England				
Registrations	148,835	155,175	166,505	158,535
Deregistrations	132,995	136,425	146,390	156,140
Start of year stock	1,496,700	1,512,545	1,531,295	1,551,410
Beverley and Holderness				
Registrations	230	265	275	260

Deregistrations	220	230	205	250
Start of year stock	2,915	2,930	2,960	3,025

Note:
Owing to rounding, the stock at the end of the previous year, plus registrations during the year, minus de-registrations during the year, may not exactly match the stock at the end of the year.
Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2004, Small Business Service, available from the Library of the House and also at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/vats.

In both England and Beverley and Holderness the stock of VAT registered businesses has increased or stayed constant each year since 1997, as registrations have matched or exceeded deregistrations in every year.

The number of VAT deregistrations in England has increased since 1997. However, business closures are part of the functioning of a dynamic economy and represent willingness among the business population to take risks or the displacement of less productive and innovative firms by more productive ones. Research indicates that improvements in productivity and economic growth are more likely to come from higher levels of both business entry and business exit.

Regional disparities in start-up and closure rates can have their root in the different economic histories and different opportunities available in each region. The Government's aim is for every region to achieve success and good economic growth, which is why increasing resources have been put at the disposal of each Regional Development Agency.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many new businesses registered in each London borough in 2005; and if he will make a statement. [81516]

Margaret Hodge: Value-added tax (VAT) registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups. The latest available figures for VAT registrations in individual London boroughs from 1994-2004 are shown as follows. Data for 2005 will be available autumn 2006.

However VAT registrations do not capture all start-up activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million enterprises (42 per cent.) in the UK were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

	1994	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Inner London	16,720	16,285	17,500	18,830	20,160	20,205
City of London	1,100	1,015	1,030	1,065	1,220	1,275
Camden	1,895	2,035	2,230	2,420	2,405	2,285
Hackney	1,000	970	980	985	1,130	1,110
Hammersmith and Fulham	820	805	825	985	1,135	1,030
Haringey	840	800	925	945	975	975
Islington	1,185	1,155	1,260	1,555	1,595	1,445
Kensington and Chelsea	1,120	1,020	1,070	1,095	1,130	1,195
Lambeth	740	735	795	865	915	890
Lewisham	515	490	530	635	665	635
Newham	530	505	485	530	580	560
Southwark	835	775	970	1,015	1,090	1,025
Tower Hamlets	880	835	900	980	1,095	1,095
Wandsworth	1,015	960	1,040	1,160	1,220	1,235
Westminster	4,245	4,190	4,470	4,600	5,005	5,450
Outer London	14,550	14,585	14,785	17,065	17,610	16,135
Barking and Dagenham	270	370	260	290	310	345
Barnet	1,795	1,980	1,970	2,330	2,315	1,995
Bexley	510	485	515	650	580	560
Brent	1,015	1,005	1,005	1,200	1,185	1,150
Bromley	895	920	940	1,060	1,125	920
Croydon	970	910	960	1,045	1,070	985
Ealing	1,075	990	1,065	1,245	1,230	1,190
Enfield	720	710	750	815	865	845
Greenwich	415	430	455	560	570	525
Harrow	915	840	850	950	1,050	895
Havering	575	570	600	715	755	655
Hillingdon	835	760	795	905	915	840
Hounslow	695	730	695	800	845	820
Kingston upon Thames	540	515	560	680	695	610
Merton	570	635	600	750	835	725

	1994	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
Redbridge	740	740	765	835	930	860
Richmond upon Thames	820	890	900	970	1,010	955
Sutton	565	490	510	595	610	535
Waltham Forest	625	615	585	670	725	730

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Inner London	20,045	17,870	17,680	19,635	19,235
City of London	1,460	1,085	1,045	1,090	1,120
Camden	2,215	1,870	1,900	2,035	1,995
Hackney	1,155	1,015	1,030	1,075	975
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,015	995	940	965	1,065
Haringey	970	880	830	895	905
Islington	1,365	1,190	1,230	1,240	1,310
Kensington and Chelsea	1,225	940	1,095	1,160	1,175
Lambeth	845	1,000	875	900	1,025
Lewisham	605	605	595	600	625
Newham	575	530	545	650	635
Southwark	1,100	955	975	1,085	1,080
Tower Hamlets	1,095	935	970	1,110	1,045
Wandsworth	1,195	1,115	1,115	1,235	1,350
Westminster	5,225	4,765	4,535	5,590	4,930
Outer London	16,360	15,390	15,365	16,270	16,225
Barking and Dagenham	370	320	320	360	395
Barnet	2,045	1,760	1,700	1,635	1,610
Bexley	590	620	540	570	535
Brent	1,175	1,090	1,030	1,160	1,150
Bromley	955	965	950	985	995
Croydon	960	945	985	1,070	945
Ealing	1,195	1,150	1,185	1,315	1,295
Enfield	900	820	845	900	905
Greenwich	530	490	485	515	560
Harrow	945	915	920	1,045	1,205
Havering	650	640	620	620	600
Hillingdon	865	760	845	850	870
Hounslow	825	815	800	855	845
Kingston upon Thames	625	600	595	575	630
Merton	770	690	640	720	700
Redbridge	860	795	770	850	815
Richmond upon Thames	955	890	995	1,010	985
Sutton	505	505	490	540	535
Waltham Forest	650	630	650	685	695

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1576W, on the Business Review, how he plans to ensure that the information on companies' relationships with suppliers will be comparable *(a)* between companies and *(b)* over time. [80697]

Margaret Hodge: As clause 399 (4) of the Company Law Reform Bill sets out, the Business Review is required to be a balanced and comprehensive analysis of the company's business consistent with the size and complexity of the business. There is no explicit requirement for companies to report on their relationships with suppliers. Where reporting on relationships with suppliers is necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the company's business, it will be for the directors to consider what type of information to include in their review. The purpose of the Business Review is to inform members of the company and help them assess how the directors have performed their duty under clause 158 (duty to promote the success of the company). The statutory provisions therefore set out the framework of the Business Review, but it is for directors of each company to determine its content according to the circumstances of the particular

company. These are matters for the directors' judgment and it is for the company's shareholders to hold the directors to account.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1576W, on the Business Review, what *(a)* financial and *(b)* non-financial key performance indicators companies will be required to use when reporting on their relationships with suppliers in the Business Review; what estimate he has made of how many companies will be required to report on their relationships with overseas suppliers under the provisions of clause 399 of the Company Law Reform Bill; what types of information companies will be required to include in their reports on relationships with overseas suppliers within the Business Review; what the provisions are of the Company Law Reform Bill which will oblige companies to include information on relationships with suppliers; whether he plans to introduce statutory guidance on what types of information on supplier relationships must be included in the Business Review; and if he will make a statement. [80865]

Margaret Hodge: Companies must include financial and non-financial key performance indicators in their Business Review to the extent necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the company's business. The review is required to be a balanced and comprehensive analysis of the company's business consistent with the size and complexity of the business, but there is no explicit requirement for companies to report on their relationships with suppliers. Where reporting on relationships with suppliers—whether domestic or overseas—is necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the company's business, it will be for the directors to consider what type of information to include in their review. This is a matter for the directors' judgment and it is for the company's shareholders to hold the directors to account. We will be debating the Business Review provisions in Committee.

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many firms in the Carlisle district council area have *(a)* started and *(b)* ceased trading in each year since 1995. [80328]

Margaret Hodge: Value-added tax (VAT) registrations and deregistrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business starts and closures. DTI figures based solely on VAT registrations and deregistrations for Carlisle local authority are shown in the table for 1995 to 2004 inclusive. Data for 2005 will be available in autumn 2006. For comparison, the VAT-registered business stock in Carlisle is also shown.

	Registrations	*De-registrations*	*Registered business stock at end of year*
1995	205	250	3,075
1996	180	220	3,030
1997	210	195	3,045
1998	210	195	3,060
1999	215	215	3,060
2000	220	210	3,060
2001	245	195	3,115
2002	260	200	3,175
2003	280	215	3,240
2004	285	210	3,315

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2004, Small Business Service, available from the Library of the House and also at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/vats. Owing to rounding, the stock at the end of the previous year, plus registrations during the year, minus deregistrations during the year, may not exactly match the stock at the end of the year

In Carlisle local authority the stock of VAT-registered businesses has increased every year from 2,000 onwards, as registrations have exceeded deregistrations throughout this period.

VAT registration and deregistration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that deregister will not necessarily have closed. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million businesses (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

According to Barclays Bank's latest survey of business creation, which includes non-VAT registered businesses, Carlisle local authority had 400 business start-ups in 2005. Barclays business closure data are not available for local authorities. Barclays business start-up data are not available for local authorities before 2005.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many small businesses that began trading since 1997 have subsequently ceased trading in *(a)* England and *(b)* Beverley and Holderness; and if he will make a statement. [80452]

Margaret Hodge: Value-added tax (VAT) registrations and deregistrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business starts and closures. Latest VAT data on the total number of registrations since 1997 and the number of these registrations that subsequently de-registered, covering the period up to 2004, are shown in the table for *(a)* England and *(b)* Beverley and Holderness constituency.

VAT registration and deregistration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that deregister may not have closed. Only 1.8 million out of the 4.3 million businesses in the UK (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

VAT registrations and subsequent deregistrations, 1997 to 2004

	Registrations/ deregistrations
England	
New registrations 1997 to 2004	1,261,665
Number deregistering by end of 2004	429,510
Percentage still registered, end of 2004	66
Beverley and Holderness constituency	

VAT registrations and subsequent deregistrations, 1997 to 2004[1]

	Registrations/ deregistrations
New registrations 1997 to 2004	1,910
Number deregistering by end of 2004	520
Percentage still registered, end of 2004	73

[1] VAT registration and de-registration data are not available by size of business. However, 98 per cent. of the total stock of VAT registered businesses are small (0-49 employees). Source: Office for National Statistics, UK Business: Activity, Size and Location—2005, available from http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=933

Source:
New analysis of VAT Survival Rates data 1994-2003, Small Business Service, available at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/survival: SBS analysis of ONS Inter Departmental Business Register data.

Business closures are part of the functioning of a dynamic economy and represent an increased willingness among the business population to take risks or the displacement of less productive and innovative firms by more productive ones. Research indicates that improvements in productivity and economic growth are more likely to come from higher levels of both business entry and business exit.

Regional disparities in start-up and closure rates can have their root in the different economic history and different opportunities available in each region. The Government's aim is for every region to achieve success and good economic growth, which is why increasing resources have been put at the disposal of each Regional Development Agency.

Car Companies (Government Support)

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* funding, *(b)* tax incentives and *(c)* other financial support the Government have provided to (i) Peugeot, (ii) LTI vehicles, (iii) British-owned automotive producers and (iv) overseas automotive producers over the last 10 years. [79759]

Margaret Hodge: The main source of Government finance provided to the automotive industry in recent years has been regional selective assistance (RSA), which in England was supplanted by Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE) in 2004. Since 2000, around £150 million has been paid in grants to a wide range of vehicle manufacturers and component suppliers, nearly £100 million of which was paid to vehicle makers. Grants are only available to companies in assisted areas, but the scheme does not discriminate as to nationality of the parent company.

In 1998, Peugeot was offered a £2 million RSA grant towards the cost of investment to add a third shift at a time of strong demand for its 206 model. This project created 900 jobs, and the grant has been paid in full. In November 2004, the company was offered a £14.4 million grant in support of 207 manufacture, but the project did not proceed.

LTI has not been in receipt of RSA or SFI finance.

The Government also offer various forms of technology grant from which companies in the automotive sector have benefited. At various times, both Peugeot Citroen and LTI have participated in consortia which have received grants, but accurate figures on individual shares of consortium funding are not available to DTI. That said, supported projects have included the Efficient-C project (involving PSA Peugeot Citroen, QinetiQ and Ricardo) and the LTI 'e-Mercury' electric vehicle. The latter was subsequently spun out as a stand-alone project. The independent company Modec now runs this project, and production commences in Coventry later this year.

The principal source of specific automotive industry-related funding is the Automotive Innovation and Growth Team (AIGT) suite of initiatives, including Supply Chain Groups, Automotive Academy and Centres of Excellence, against which a total commitment of £45 million has been made. Again, these do not discriminate as to nationality of ownership, although direct funding is available only to UK-based companies and organisations.

Tax incentives such as

R&D tax credits, to encourage greater R&D spending in order to promote investment in innovation,

R&D allowances for capital expenditure on research and development, and enhanced rates of Industrial Buildings Allowances for qualifying enterprise zone expenditure

are available to all companies in the UK irrespective of their ownership or the specific industrial sector in which they operate. The amounts by which individual companies have benefited from such measures are not a matter of public record and no breakdown would be available distinguishing between companies on the basis of their ownership.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date the grant to Peugeot for investment in its plant at Ryton in Coventry was offered; and what terms and conditions were attached to that grant. [80849]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 28 June 2006]:* In November 2004, a grant of £14.4 million was offered to Peugeot for manufacture of the 207 at Ryton, but the project did not proceed.

The terms and conditions of the grant are confidential between the Government and Peugeot.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the *(a)* dates and *(b)* amounts were of each (i) grant and (ii) loan offered to Peugeot by the Government in each of the last 10 years; and what terms and conditions were attached. [80850]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 28 June 2006]:* In 1998, Peugeot was offered a regional selective assistance grant of £2 million towards the cost of investment to add a third shift at a time of strong demand for their 206 model. In November 2004, a further grant of £14.4 million was offered to Peugeot for manufacture of the 207 at Ryton, but the project did not proceed.

The terms and conditions of the grants are confidential between the Government and Peugeot.

No loans have been offered to the company.

Cast Medals Federation

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent representations he has received from the Cast Metals Federation; and if he will make a statement. [81476]

Malcolm Wicks: The Cast Metals Federation is an active member of the Metals Forum, with which the Department has a regular dialogue on a number of issues affecting the UK metals industry. Indeed, I have a meeting with the Forum scheduled for 13 July.

Compensation Claims

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on how many occasions his Department has met a hearing loss claims including the full payment of medical examinations conducted by Melex Ltd. [81041]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 24 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 827W.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to how many hearing loss claimants in Bassetlaw his Department has written since Easter to confirm payment of their claim to their solicitor; and on what date in each case. [81042]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* The Department wrote to 73 claimants on 22 May confirming that compensation had been paid to the claimant's solicitor but that a dispute existed over the level of the solicitor's costs.

Competition Commission

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many reports he has received from the Competition Commission in each year since its inception; how many gave rise to Government action; what the subject matter was of each; and if he will make a statement. [80409]

Mr. McCartney: The Department has received the following reports from the Competition Commission in each of the years since its inception:

	Merger or acquisition inquiry	*Market inquiry*
1999	9	2
2000	12	3
2001	10	0
2002	10	1
2003	8	2
2004	0	0
2005	0	0
2006	0	0

I will write separately setting out the subject matter of each case and whether action was taken.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry who is responsible for appointments to the Competition Commission; whether posts are advertised; how many persons applied for each post currently held; how many were shortlisted for interview; and if he will make a statement. [80410]

Mr. McCartney: Appointments to the Competition Commission are made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. In the case of the chair, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister must be consulted.

Posts are advertised. The only occasion when this has not been done was the recent appointment of the current chair. Following the sudden death of the previous chair, the senior deputy chair was appointed to the post of chair without a competition. This was done with the agreement of OCPA.

With respect to the other posts, the figures are as follows:

Deputy chairs: 81 applications, 6 interviewed, 2 appointed
CEO: 60 applicants, 7 interviewed
Panel members: 283 applicants, 60 interviewed, 24 appointed.

The figures for the panel members relate to the last recruitment round in 2004-05.

Departmental Premises (Security)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures are in place to ensure that no illegal immigrants are employed in the manned guarding of his Department's premises. [80802]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department currently out-sources its staffed guarding services.

The Department's security contractor carries out pre-employment identity and residency checks in compliance to the standards set by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). All security personnel employed on the Department's premises are also subject to security vetting before commencing work.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether his Department has *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly employed illegal immigrants as security guards. [80811]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department of Trade and Industry has not employed, either directly or indirectly any illegal immigrants as security guards.

The Department's security contractor carries out pre-employment identity and residency checks in compliance with the standards set by the Security Industry Authority (SIA). All security personnel employed on the Department's premises are also subject to security vetting before commencing work.

Electricity Prices

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received about the impact of recent changes in electricity prices on manufacturing industry; and if he will make a statement. [81475]

Malcolm Wicks: I have received a number of letters and have held several meetings with manufacturing sectors regarding the impact of recent changes in electricity prices.

The Government fully appreciate that high electricity prices have an impact on the competitiveness of industry, and, of course, take very seriously the potential loss of jobs and investment.

I have also had discussions with the Energy Intensive Users Group and others to help us focus our efforts on maximising gas and electricity supplies, improve the

operation of the market, encourage demand-side response and pursue fair access to markets across Europe.

Over the summer we are pursuing a detailed work plan with Ofgem, the national grid, industry and others to ensure that we are in the best possible position ahead of next winter. The new Business Energy Forum, which my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 16 May, will hold its inaugural meeting on 5 July to discuss security of supply from a strategic viewpoint and enable us to maintain the high level of dialogue and input from these and other sectors.

Environmental Standards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether his Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if he will make a statement. [81190]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department for Trade and Industry has operated an Environmental Management System (EMS) certified to ISO 14001 since November 1999, which is compliant with the framework for sustainable development in Government. The EMS is a management tool used in achieving the Department's commitment to the environment. The certificate has been externally verified by a verification organisation certified by the United Kingdon Accreditation Service.

EU Committees

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the dates on which *(a)* the EU Anti-dumping and Anti-subsidy Committee and *(b)* the Article 133 Committee met during the past 12 months; and if he will publish the minutes of those meetings. [70906]

Mr. McCartney: The EC Anti-dumping and Anti-subsidy Advisory Committee has met on the following dates during the past 12 months:

8 June 2005
30 June 2005
20 July 2005
7 September 2005
20 October 2005
10 November 2005
1 December 2005
15 December 2005
12 January 2006
14 February 2006
9 March 2006
16 March 2006
20 April 2006
11 May 2006

The minutes of the Advisory Committee are not available to the public. However, a person may apply to the Commission for access to these documents in accordance with the procedures set down in Regulation (EC) No. 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and the Council. When a request is received, the Commission will consider whether the documents can be released or are covered by the exceptions set down in Article 4 of the Regulation.

The Article 133 Committee meets weekly, once a month in full members format and three times a month in deputy members format. There are no formal minutes of these meetings. However the Secretariat of the Council of the European Union publishes outcomes from the Article 133 Committee in accordance with Council Regulation 1049/2001 (Regulation of the European Parliament and Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents). These documents can be accessed through the Council's website at http://ue.eu.int.

EU Structural Funds

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) when he expects an announcement to be made on the allocation of EU structural funds, and if he will make a statement; [81420]

(2) what consideration is being given to the alignment of future EU structural funding with the Government's domestic spending priorities, and if he will make a statement; [81421]

(3) what consideration is being given to providing additional domestic resources to support the objectives of regional development through EU structural funding, and if he will make a statement. [81422]

Margaret Hodge: The Government are currently considering responses to our consultation documents published on 28 February setting out an approach to the allocation of EU structural funds and potential for alignment with domestic programmes. We hope to publish our conclusions by the beginning of September.

The Government are committed to increasing the rate of growth of every region, to addressing the disparities between the nations and regions and, in England, to reducing the persistent gap in growth rates between regions. To this end, they are already providing significant resources to support regional economic development, including £2.2 billion annually for the Regional Development Agencies.

Insurance Industry

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to prevent the loss of insurance-related jobs in the UK to offshore locations. [74753]

Mr. McCartney: In this globalised world, companies must be allowed to take the steps required to remain competitive. Location is a business decision for companies.

The Government are well aware of concerns about the effects of offshoring, including those on employment in the insurance sector. But we know from our consultations that there is a broad consensus in the

UK that trade protectionism is not the right response. Instead, we must do all we can to ensure that those who are affected by decisions to offshore work are found alternative work as quickly as possible. We also need to ensure that the UK remains competitive and an attractive place in which other countries wish to do business.

Local Loop Unbundling

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what further targets he plans to set for local loop unbundling. [75270]

Margaret Hodge: The responsibility for local loop unbundling and further targets falls to the telecommunications regulator, Ofcom, and the Telecommunications Adjudicator.

The Telecommunications Adjudicator Scheme was initiated by Ofcom, the independent regulator of the communications sector, in July 2004 to ensure that the unbundling process takes place in a timely and effective way. Membership of this industry scheme is voluntary for BT Group PLC and the LLU operators. Any targets set by the independent Adjudicator are a matter for him on the basis of the best information then available.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to ensure that the target for 1.5 million lines to be unbundled from the local loop network by April 2007 is met. [75271]

Margaret Hodge: The target of 1.5 million lines to be unbundled was set by the telecommunications regulator, Ofcom, and the Telecommunications Adjudicator. The responsibility for ensuring that the target is met falls to Ofcom, the industry and the Telecommunications Adjudicator within that regulatory framework.

However, I fully expect the target to be reached.

Local loop unbundling offers greater scope for innovation and competition in broadband services and as such its roll-out is welcome.

London Olympics

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which officials in his Department *(a)* are responsible for Olympics-related activity and *(b)* sit on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group for the Olympics. [81565]

Margaret Hodge: David Hendon, Head of Business Relations 2 Directorate, is the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for the Olympics project in DTI. He also sits on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group for the Olympics.

Military-technical Co-operation (Export Licences)

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for which countries an export licence relating to military-technical co-operation has been granted since January 2006; what assessment is made of a third country's arms transfer control system prior to an export licence relating to military-technical co-operation being authorised; and if he will make a statement. [81611]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government do not issue export licences for the act of military-technical co-operation.

North West Regional Development Agency

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the public transport schemes which the North West Regional Development Agency supports; and which are in Morecambe and Lunesdale. [79478]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* The North West Regional Development Agency's priorities for transport are set out in the 2006 Regional Economic Strategy (RES). The RES seeks to reduce levels of congestion by encouraging the use of public transport and reducing peak traffic volumes in all areas across the region.

The 10-year regional transport priorities have been submitted to Government as part of the Regional Funding Allocation process. There are no public transport schemes specifically in Morecambe and Lunesdale, but a number of public transport schemes across Lancashire are included in the investment programme.

The NWDA is financially supporting the Lancashire Rural Pathfinder Project, which is seeking to establish alternative approaches for access to services in rural communities. It covers a number of constituencies in Lancashire including Morecambe and Lunesdale.

Nuclear Energy

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much power was generated in the UK by nuclear energy in the last period for which figures are available. [81423]

Malcolm Wicks: Nuclear power accounted for 19 per cent. of electricity supplied in the first quarter of 2006. This equates to 20.5 TWh (electricity).

Full details of UK energy statistics are available on the DTI Energy website at www.dti.gov.uk/energy/statistics/index.html.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1635W, on nuclear power, if he will place in the Library a copy of the studies referred to, including a translation into English where the study is in a foreign language. [78936]

Malcolm Wicks: I have arranged for a copy of the studies referred to in my previous answer to be placed in the Library of the House.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what financial contribution has been

made by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* other Government Departments, *(c)* the UK's public sector nuclear industry and *(d)* the UK nuclear industry's private sector to the work done by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate/Health and Safety Executive on the pre-licensing of nuclear power generation plants. [81070]

Malcolm Wicks: The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has not done any work on the pre-licensing of new nuclear power plants.

In its Expert Report for the Energy Review published on 28 June 2006, HSE describes its proposed approach to dealing with any future requests for pre-licensing assessments of new designs of nuclear power station. HSE's proposal was devised using existing HSE resources and no additional funding has been provided from any source.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the feed-in tariff system for encouraging the use of electricity generated from renewable sources or from nuclear energy. [82133]

Malcolm Wicks: The Energy Review has looked at a wide range of options for bringing forward low carbon energy technologies of all kinds. The current intention is to publish the results of the Energy Review in July.

Offshore Wind Development

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department has taken to facilitate the development of offshore wind after 2010. [81432]

Malcolm Wicks: The Renewables Obligation is the Government's key mechanism for encouraging new renewable generating capacity and will stay in place until 2027. The current Energy Review is looking at a wide range of issues including emerging renewable technologies such as offshore wind and will report shortly.

The DTI has a 2010 Target Team to remove the barriers to development of renewable energy and achieve the Government's target of 10 per cent. of electricity by 2010.

Many of the issues being tackled will assist the development of offshore wind beyond 2010. The higher cost of developing offshore wind remains an issue, and the costs of connection to the electricity grid are part of that. Grid connections are likely to form 10-15 per cent. of capital costs for the Round 2 wind farms, given the considerable cable lengths involved.

Certainty about how the grid connection costs will be funded, and the regulation that controls them, is therefore a key factor that developers need in preparing their business models.

In March this year the Government announced their decision to extend the existing onshore model of regulation of transmission links. Following a joint consultation with Ofgem the Government concluded that this approach has a number of clear advantages for offshore projects.

First, extending the regulated price control approach offshore will ensure consistency with the regulatory arrangements onshore. Secondly, it will provide a financial benefit to offshore developers by spreading the costs they face to connect to the onshore electricity system over a number of years. Finally, it will mean that the responsibility for developing the offshore transmission network will be shared by the system operator and the transmission asset owners who can bring their existing expertise to bear.

The DTI and Ofgem are now leading the project to put the new regime in place to connect a proportion of Round 2 projects in time to contribute to the 2010 target, and to ensure there is an enduring framework in place beyond 2010 for offshore wind and other forms of offshore renewables.

The Government have provided capital grants of £107 million to stimulate early development of a significant number of offshore wind farms under the Round 1 offshore wind programme. This will have a significant benefit in the development of offshore wind post-2010 by underpinning the development of the industry and equipment supply chains and will build skills, providing a learning experience which can improve confidence and help reduce future costs and enable future projects to proceed without the need for grant support.

The DTI established the Research Advisory Group (RAG) to facilitate a co-ordinated approach among the regulatory and funding bodies to address the key impact issues of Round 2 wind farm proposals. The DTI has allocated an initial programme budget of up to £2.5 million for offshore wind farm issues, and has collated a list of the potential environmental issues in relation to offshore wind farms and has taken forward and funded a number of these projects.

The DTI, MOD and Civil Aviation Authorities are working to develop mitigation technologies for offshore and onshore radar issues.

The Renewables Advisory Board is also working on the longer term economics of offshore wind to identify cost savings for Round 2 projects.

While Round 2 offshore wind projects will contribute to our targets for 2010 and beyond, there are also enormous economic benefits for the UK in offshore wind. The DTI's Business Development Team is working to ensure that UK companies maximise the opportunities for offshore wind projects.

Opium Plants

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has investigated the scientific potential for opium plants to be developed as a bio-fuel energy source. [80162]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are not aware of any specific research on using opium plants as a source of fuel. Compared with other plants which are used to make biofuels or energy, opium plants have a relatively low

yield. In countries where they are grown for the unregulated drug trade, a better solution would therefore be for the growers to change to other crops.

Outer Mongolia

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the implications for British and other foreign investment in outer Mongolia of the recent introduction in that country of an excess profits windfall tax; and if he will take steps to impress upon the Mongolian authorities the importance of retaining a stable, reasonable, competitive, consistent and predictable tax regime for foreign companies investing in Mongolia. [80856]

Mr. McCartney: The windfall tax to which the question refers is a tax of 68 per cent. on gold and copper, and was introduced by the Mongolian Parliament in May 2006. While I am not aware of any British investment in either of these sectors, this move will undoubtedly have negative implications for other foreign investors. British companies are however active in other sectors, albeit at an exploratory stage. In addition, a new minerals law is currently before the Mongolian Parliament, and as drafted, this law contains a number of provisions that in our view would discourage investment. Our embassy in Ulaanbaatar is monitoring the situation carefully, and we take every opportunity to impress upon the Government the need to provide a fair and transparent business environment in order to encourage the large-scale investment that the country badly needs.

Reduced ignition Propensity Cigarettes

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the outcome was of the recent discussions between UK Government officials and European Union officials on Reduced Ignition Propensity cigarettes; and if he will make a statement. [81043]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* There have been recent discussions within the General Product Safety Directive Committee meeting on 14 June 2006. The UK position in those discussions (agreed between my Department, the Department of Health and the Department for Communities and Local Government) was that there was sufficient evidence to recommend the development of a European technical standard for Reduced Ignition Propensity cigarettes. The European Commission has indicated that it will undertake further investigation of the need for such action.

The Government will issue a statement regarding Reduced Ignition Propensity cigarettes shortly.

Research and Development Grants

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* businesses in (i) the Lewisham, Deptford constituency and (ii) Lewisham borough received a grant for research and development in each of the past two years. [79163]

Margaret Hodge: The London Development Agency, which has have responsibility for administering the Grant for Research and Development in London, has confirmed that no individuals or businesses have been offered grants in the Lewisham, Deptford constituency or within the London borough of Lewisham in the past two years.

Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the interpretation and implementation of the restriction of hazardous substances directive in the UK with that in *(a)* Germany, *(b)* Spain and *(c)* other European member states; and what assessment he has made of the extent of a risk of an illegal barrier to trade being created. [81663]

Malcolm Wicks: The assessment of legislation in other member states is a matter for the European Commission. Owing to the single-market legal basis of the RoHS Directive, the Commission is obliged to take action where any member state's legislation does not fully meet the aims and objectives. In addition, it should be noted that member states cannot go beyond the requirements imposed by a single-market directive.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the published guidance by ORGALIME, The European Engineering Industries Association representing the interests of the mechanical, electrical, electronic and metalworking industries, on the scope of products included in the restriction of hazardous substances and waste electrical and electronic equipment directives; and whether the European Commission has informed him that it has accepted this guidance. [81664]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI has published its own guidance material for these two directives and the development of guidance by the industries affected by legislation is encouraged by the Department. It has to be understood, however, that such guidance is not legally binding and it should not conflict with the overall aims and objectives of the directives. The directives themselves, at a European level, and the regulations, at a UK level, are the only legally binding texts.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the National Weights and Measures Laboratory's proposed guidance on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive will bring into its ambit a significant proportion of fixed industrial manufacturing machinery; what assessment he has made of the extent to which the proposed guidance will conform with the EC's original intention for the Directive not to include large-scale stationary industrial tools; and whether the proposed guidance will expand on the requirements of the Directive. [81665]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI's and NWML's guidance reflects the scope of the Directive and the Commission's frequently asked questions document.

Small Businesses

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many small businesses that began trading in 1997 have subsequently ceased trading in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire; and if he will make a statement. [81467]

Margaret Hodge: Value-added tax (VAT) registrations and deregistrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business starts and closures. Latest VAT data on the total number of registrations since 1997 and the number of these registrations that subsequently deregistered, to the end of 2004, are shown in the following table for *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire.

VAT registrations do not capture all start-up activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million enterprises (42 per cent.) in the UK were registered for VAT at the start of 2004. Similarly, not all businesses that deregister will necessarily have closed.

VAT registrations and subsequent deregistrations, 1997 to 2004[1]

Ribble Valley	
New registrations 1997 to 2004	2,435
Number deregistering by end of 2004	695
Percentage still registered, end of 2004	71
Lancashire	
New registrations 1997 to 2004	24,070
Number deregistering by end of 2004	8,010
Percentage still registered, end of 2004	67

[1] VAT registration and deregistration data are not available by size of business. However, 98 per cent. of the total stock of VAT registered businesses are small (0-49 employees). Source: Office for National Statistics, UK Business: Activity, Size and Location—2005, available from http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp? vlnk =933.

Source:
New analysis of VAT survival rates data 1994 to 2003, Small Business Service, available at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/survival: SBS analysis of ONS Inter Departmental Business Register data.

Business closures are part of the functioning of a dynamic economy and represent an increased willingness among the business population to take risks or the displacement of less productive and innovative firms by more productive ones. Regional disparities in start-up and closure rates can have their root in the different economic history and different opportunities available in each region. The Government's aim is for every region to achieve success and good economic growth, which is why increasing resources have been put at the disposal of each regional development agency.

Sunbed Industry

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate has been made of the number of companies in the UK which offer sunbeds for *(a)* hire and *(b)* sale to members of the public. [80699]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has not made estimates of the number of companies in the UK which hire or sell sunbeds to members of the public. Official statistics on the relevant sections of the retail and service sectors, which are collected by the Office for National Statistics, are not sufficiently detailed to separately identify companies dealing in sunbeds.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent *(a)* representations he has received and *(b)* meetings he has had with members of the sunbed industry about trading issues. [80700]

Margaret Hodge: We have received no representations from the sunbed industry on trading issues and held no meetings with them.

UK Energy Requirements

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of UK energy requirements is dependent on Russian sources. [81573]

Malcolm Wicks: An estimate of the dependency on Russia for energy imports, by main fuel type, in 2005, is shown in the table.

Fuel	*Thousand tonnes of fuel imported from Russia*	*Percentage of fuel imports originating from Russia*
Coal and other solid fuels	17,646	39
Crude oil and oil products	12,459	15

Source:
HM Revenue and Customs

It is not possible to identify the country of origin of natural gas molecules imported to the UK via the Bacton to Zeebrugge interconnector. No electricity was imported from Russia.

In total, 18 per cent. of all energy imported to the UK in 2005 is known to have originated in Russia, which equates to 10 per cent. of primary UK energy demand.

UK Regulatory Framework

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the extent to which the UK regulatory framework encourages domestic and inward investment; and if he will make a statement. [81799]

Mr. McCartney: International studies rate the UK as having one of the most favourable regulatory regimes for business in the world. In 2005 the OECD ranked the UK second only to Australia with regard to the quality of its product market regulation, while the World Bank placed the UK top among the major economies for regulatory quality.

An assessment of the UK's productivity and competitiveness is reported annually in the Productivity and Competitiveness Indicators. This reveals that the UK's light-touch product market regulation makes the UK an attractive place for foreign

investors: it has the highest stock of inward investment of any G7 country, as a percentage of GDP. The UK Government recognise that these benefits stem from an effective regulatory framework, which is why better regulation is an important focus of current Government policy.

The UK's competition regime also forms an important part of its regulatory framework, and here again independent assessment by expert peer reviewers KPMG placed the UK's regime third in the world in 2004. Also, the Global Competition Review has praised the UK's Competition Commission as one of the best competition enforcement agencies in the world, coming joint first (with the US Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice). Encouraging a high level of competition acts as a catalyst for firms to invest and innovate in order to stay ahead of their competitors.

UK Trade (Baltic States)

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of UK trade was with *(a)* the Baltic states and *(b)* each Baltic state in the latest period for which figures are available. [81571]

Mr. McCartney: The percentage of total UK trade with the Baltic states in 2005 was 0.34 per cent. The percentage of total UK trade in 2005 with Estonia was 0.10; with Latvia 0.16 per cent. and with Lithuania 0.09 per cent.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of how UK trade with *(a)* the Baltic states and *(b)* each Baltic state has developed since they joined the EU. [81572]

Mr. McCartney: The information is as follows.

(a) Total UK trade with the Baltic states increased from £1,482 million in 2003 to £1,647 million in 2005, representing an increase of 11.2 per cent.

(b) Changes in UK trade with the individual Baltic states since EU accession are as follows:

	2003 (£ million)	*2005 (£ million)*	*Percentage increase/ decrease*
Estonia	382	462	21 (increase)
Latvia	621.3	767	23.5 (increase)
Lithuania	478.6	417	11.2 (decrease)

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the cost to public funds was of servicing the activities of the Union Modernisation Fund in the last period for which records are available; and if he will make a statement. [80980]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I estimate the cost to be £113,000.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many individuals applied to be members of the current Supervisory Board of the Union Modernisation Fund. [80981]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Twelve individuals applied for the post of chair; 32 applied to be members of the Supervisory Board. Some individuals applied for both roles.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures are in place to ensure that trades unions do not breach the Union Modernisation Fund operating guidelines on political campaigning; and if he will make a statement. [80990]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All successful bidders are obliged to sign a grant offer letter setting out the terms on which money is provided and circumstances in which funds may be reclaimed. Grant offer terms are those applied to all DTI financial assistance schemes on the basis of Government accounting rules. Additional sanctions are available to the Secretary of State in case of misuse of funds through expenditure on political objects.

Section 116A(4) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992 (as inserted by section 55 of the Employment Relations Act 2004) prevents money from the Union Modernisation Fund being paid into the political fund of a union. Therefore, money from the Union Modernisation Fund cannot legally be used by a trade union for political objects.

Accountability is ensured through regular monitoring of progress and expenditure for all UMF projects. All projects are required to allow site visits by DTI officials. Failure to comply with monitoring activity may result in sanctions including withholding or reclaiming of funds.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how he monitors the effectiveness of *(a)* the Supervisory Board of the Union Modernisation Fund and *(b)* the Union Modernisation Fund; and if he will make a statement. [80991]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Members of the Supervisory Board are selected by open competition. Recruitment is conducted in accordance with the Commissioner for Public Appointments' Code of Practice for Ministerial Appointments to Public Bodies, with support from the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). The Nolan Principles of Public Life, which are the foundations of the public appointments process and provide guidance on the standards expected of public appointees, apply to this appointment.

The Supervisory Board advises Ministers on applications to the UMF and other issues. The secretariat to the board is provided by DTI officials, who are in regular communication.

The DTI is working with Leeds University Business School to conduct a phased evaluation of the fund. Phase 1 is evaluating the operational effectiveness of the first round of bidding. Phase 2 will evaluate the success of supported projects and impact of fund monies via a series of case studies. All successful unions are obliged under grant offer terms to co-operate with this evaluation activity.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which unions have received funding from the Union Modernisation Fund in 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [81017]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following organisations were successful under Round One of the UMF: Retained Firefighters Union; Nationwide Group Staff Union; GMB; Communication Workers Union; Bakers, Food

and Allied Workers Union; Wales TUC, Lloyds TSB Group Union; National Union of Teachers; Society of Chiropodists and Podiatrists; Royal College of Midwives; Union of Finance Staff; United Road Transport Union; Equity; Transport and General Workers Union; Community and District Nursing Association; Community; British Dental Association; Transport Salaried Staffs Association; Connect; USDAW; Prospect; National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers; National Union of Journalists; Trades Union Congress; Community and Youth Workers Union; ASLEF; West Bromwich Building Society Staff Union; General Federation of Trade Unions; Portman Group Staff Association; Ceramic and Allied Trades Union (now Unity); and Amicus.

This information is available on the DTI website at reference: http://www.dti.gov.uk/employment/trade-union-rights/modernisation/page 16097.html.

Waste Strategy

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which areas are being considered for storage of nuclear waste. [80966]

Malcolm Wicks: The low-level waste facility in West Cumbria is the only site in the UK licensed for the disposal of low-level waste (LLW). LLW is transported there by rail and road in purpose designed and licensed containers for disposal in the engineered vaults.

Options for the long-term management of higher-activity wastes are currently the subject of consideration and evaluation by the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM). CoRWM is due to make its final recommendations to Government in July 2006. The long-term management policy for these higher activity wastes will then be decided by UK Government and the devolved administrations in the light of CoRWM's recommendations.

CoRWM has made a preliminary announcement that its recommendation is for deep geological disposal with robust interim surface storage.

The process of selecting a site or sites for whatever facility is ultimately chosen for dealing with these wastes will be undertaken in a similarly open and transparent manner as the work of CoRWM, with opportunities for the public to be involved and to influence the decisions directly.

Wind Turbines

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent estimate he has made of the number of birds which have been killed or injured by flying into wind turbines in England. [81465]

Malcolm Wicks: None.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on the number of birds that have been killed or injured by flying into wind turbines in England. [81466]

Malcolm Wicks: None.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what account is taken of the risk of death or injury of birds from wind turbines in the formulation of Government policy on wind farms. [81469]

Malcolm Wicks: Government policy ensures that all wind farm applications made under Section 36 of the Electricity Act are accompanied by an environmental impact assessment which includes details of the likely impact on all parts of the environment, including birds. Application for smaller-scale windfarms are submitted to the relevant planning authority to determine under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and it would be for that authority to say whether an EIA was required.

When an application is considered, consultation will take place with a range of stakeholders, including statutory advisers on nature conservation and protection of the environment, as well as others who express an interest in the proposal. This ensures that decisions on whether to give approval for a wind farm are considered in the light of the best available information about its likely impacts.

In addition, should it be considered that there could be an impact on protected species or their habitats then an appropriate assessment must be undertaken pursuant to the Conservation (Natural Habitats,&c.) Regulations 1994, irrespective of who the decision taker may be. In such circumstances the decision taker must consult the appropriate nature conservation body (English Nature, the Countryside Council for Wales or Scottish Natural Heritage) and take its views into account before making any decision on whether to approve the application.

Furthermore, the DTI has established a Research Advisory Group to fund research into the impact of wind farms on the environment. This includes a joint study with wind farm developers and DEFRA to collect data on the distribution of sea birds in the three strategic offshore wind farm areas, the results of which will inform decisions on the grant of consent for wind farm projects in those areas.

World Expo 2010

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what resources his Department has allocated to British participation in the World Expo in 2010. [73618]

Mr. McCartney: The Government are considering the Chinese Government's formal invitation to participate in the Shanghai Expo 2010. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is looking at how UK participation might be funded and is discussing this with a wide range of possible stakeholders including Government Departments, other parts of the public sector, and many private sector companies. The Department is involved in this process.

There is a strong support across Whitehall for UK participation in Shanghai Expo. We want to deliver an impressive UK presence. The Government are drawing

up detailed plans (including financial plans) in consultation with the British business community and other key organisations, to identify how best to maximise UK presence at the Expo.

Zimbabwe

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1422W, on Zimbabwe, which UK companies *(a)* import goods or services from Zimbabwe, *(b)* export goods or services to Zimbabwe and *(c)* otherwise operate in Zimbabwe; and if he will break down the figures by industrial sector. [80263]

Mr. McCartney: Data are not available on UK exports to or imports from Zimbabwe by individual companies. The following statistics provide information on the main exports and imports by product for 2005.

Top 10 UK Exports in 2005 to Zimbabwe

Division and Description	*£000*
78 Road vehicles	3,473
75 Office machines and ADP equipment	3,379
72 Specialised industrial machinery	2,370
76 Telecommunications and sound recording and reproducing apparatus	1,545
74 General industrial machinery and equipment, nes and machine parts nes	1,528
71 Power generating machinery and equipment	1,238
00 Live animals other than of Division 03	740
26 Textile fibres	716
87 Professional, scientific and control instruments (and apparatus nes)	702
77 Electrical machinery, apparatus and appliances, nes and electrical parts thereof	670
Total of top 10	16,362
Total trade	22,113

Top 10 UK Imports in 2005 from Zimbabwe

Division and Description	*£000*
66 Non-metallic mineral manufactures	14,970
06 Sugar, sugar preparations and honey	13,087
05 Vegetables and fruit	7,182
12 Tobacco and tobacco manufactures	4,768
82 Furniture and parts thereof; bedding, mattresses, supports, cushions and similar stuffed furnishings	912
07 Coffee, tea, cocoa, spices and manufactures thereof	495
65 Textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, nes	374
67 Iron and steel	217
84 Articles of apparel and clothing accessories	144
79 Other transport equipment	117
Total of top 10	42,266
Total trade	43,564

Source:
DTI Analysis of HM Revenue and Customs data.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 3 July 2006

HOME DEPARTMENT

Accession State Workers

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications from the EH postcode area have been made for worker registration by workers from the EU accession states since 1 May 2004. [80593]

Mr. Byrne: During the period 1 May 2004 to 31 March 2006, 6,205 applications were made to the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS) by applicants in the EH postcode area, of which 6,010 were approved.

British Muslim Citizenship Toolkits

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British Muslim citizenship toolkits have been issued to *(a)* mosques, *(b)* parents and *(c)* young people in Luton since their introduction. [75922]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

The development of a British Muslim citizenship toolkit was one of the recommendations of the "Preventing Extremism Together" report published in November 2005 by workgroups from the Muslim community.

The Government are supporting individuals and organisations to implement the recommendations but responsibility for them lies with the Muslim community. Good progress is being made on a number of the recommendations and Government are encouraging Muslim organisations to develop this toolkit.

Charities

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list inquiries into charities with annual incomes of less than £1,000,000 undertaken by the Charity Commission in each of the last 10 years; and what the annual income of the charity concerned was in each case. [67900]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

This is a matter for the Charity Commission, which is an independent regulator, independent of Government. I understand from the Commission that it has carried out 2,163 inquiries into charities with annual incomes of less than £1,000,000 since the start of the financial year 1996-97. I have asked the chief executive of the Charity Commission to write to the hon. Member with the details of those inquiries. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter of 4 April 2006 from the hon. Member for Walsall, North, reference M9042/6. [78028]

Mr. Byrne: My hon. Friend the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety replied to the hon. Member for Walsall, North on 4 May 2006 and I also replied on 26 June 2006.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to his Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80483]

Mr. Byrne: The Cabinet Office publishes, on an annual basis, a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS.

The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department will reply to the letter of 8 March 2006 from the right. hon. Member for Warley regarding Jaswinder Singh, Marion road, Smethwick. [80496]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the right hon. Member for Warley on 28 June 2006.

Crime Statistics

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of *(a)* (i) serious, (ii) major and (iii) organised crime and *(b)* counter terrorism activity there have been in Cumbria in each year from 1996 to 2006. [64424]

Mr. McNulty: There are no commonly recognised definitions of serious and major crime. Figures are instead provided in the following tables for violent crimes recorded by Cumbria Constabulary.

Corresponding figures for organised crime are not collected centrally.

The only available information on counter terrorism activity indicate that Cumbria Constabulary made three stop/searches under anti-terrorism legislation in 1996-97 but did not make any over the period 1997-98 to 2004-05.

Table 1: Recorded offences of violent crime in Cumbria

	Number of offences
1996	2,873
1997	3,158

Table 2: Recorded offences of violent crime in Cumbria[1]

	Number of offences
1998-99	5,901
1999-2000	5,456
2000-01	4,414
2001-02	5,723

[1] In April 1998, the coverage was expanded and counting rules revised. Data are therefore not comparable with those for earlier years.

Table 3: Recorded offences of violent crime in Cumbria[1]

	Number of offences
2002-03	6,069
2003-04	7,291
2004-05	9,641

[1] In April 2002, the National Crime Recording Standard was introduced. Data are therefore not comparable with those for earlier years.

Damages

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 20 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2882W, on damages, how many cases of damages were paid out by his Department for the last year in which figures are available; and what the total sum paid was. [68687]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Elliot House

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department since what date sex offenders have been housed in Elliot House in Birmingham; what causes for concern have been drawn to his Department's attention since that time; what his rationale is for deciding that such offenders should no longer be housed in this hostel; and what steps are being taken to ensure that the risk of their re-offending is minimised. [80055]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Elliott House opened as a bail hostel in June 1993 and, from the outset, accommodated individuals on bail with mental disorders. In June 1994, it was re-designated as a probation and bail hostel. In August 2001, it was re-designated as an approved premises, this permits the site to be used for accommodating persons granted bail in criminal proceedings and persons convicted of offences in connection with their supervision or rehabilitation. Since Elliott House opened in June 1993, it has housed a range of individuals including those either charged with sex offences and on bail or, since August 2001, those on licence from custody having been convicted of sex offences.

The Home Department has not collated any concerns that have been raised about the presence of sex offenders in Elliott House. There has been no recorded incident of sexual offending by any resident against the community.

Certain sex and violent offenders are accommodated in approved premises in order to provide public protection. Offenders may be closely monitored and supervised in approved premises, in order to ensure compliance with their licence conditions and to ensure that swift enforcement action is taken, where offenders' behaviour presents a risk of harm to the public.

It is important that the public feels secure. In order to maintain public confidence in our systems for managing the risks posed by such offenders, it was decided that child sex offenders should no longer be housed in approved premises that are immediately adjacent to schools and nurseries.

Offenders will be moved from Elliott House following a thorough risk assessment once suitable alternative accommodation has been found, where supervision and treatment may continue. The supervision and treatment are both necessary to address the offender's risk of re-offending.

Foreign Criminals

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign offenders have been released from prisons in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Northern Ireland without being considered for deportation in each of the last eight years; and for what offences each was originally convicted. [77128]

John Reid: I refer the right hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, Official Report, column 77WS. I set out in this statement the eight priority areas for management action to deliver our long term agenda for change on radically improving the system for deporting foreign national prisoners. The sixth point deals specifically with the position in Scotland and Northern Ireland concerning foreign national prisoners. We shall update the House with our progress on this point shortly.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign criminals released from prison in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years have been recommended for deportation but have not yet been deported. [69294]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 9 May 2006]:* I refer the hon. Lady to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out in this statement the eight priority areas for management action to deliver our long term agenda for change on radically improving the system for deporting foreign national prisoners. The sixth point deals specifically with the position in Scotland and Northern Ireland concerning foreign national prisoners. We shall update the House with our progress on this point shortly.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign nationals convicted of serious offences and serving sentences in Scottish prisons who were recommended for deportation by a court were subsequently *(a)* deported and *(b)* released since January 1999; [67592]

(2) when he first raised the issue of release of foreign national criminals with *(a)* the Scottish Prison Service and *(b)* the Scottish Executive; and what discussions his Department had with each on the matter. [67590]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answers 2 May 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out in this statement the eight priority areas for management action to deliver our long-term agenda for change on

radically improving the system for deporting foreign national prisoners. The sixth point deals specifically with the position in Scotland and Northern Ireland concerning foreign national prisoners. We shall update the House with our progress on this point shortly.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals convicted of serious offences *(a)* are serving a sentence in Scottish prisons and *(b)* have served sentences in Scottish prisons since January 1999. [67617]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out in this statement the eight priority areas for management action to deliver our long-term agenda for change on radically improving the system for deporting foreign national prisoners. The sixth point deals specifically with the position in Scotland and Northern Ireland concerning foreign national prisoners. We shall update the House with our progress on this point shortly.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign prisoners were released from Scottish prisons in each year from 1999-2000 to 2004-05. [75861]

Mr. Byrne: I refer my hon. Friend to the most recent written ministerial statement of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 77WS. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary set out in this statement the eight priority areas for management action to deliver our long term agenda for change on radically improving the system for deporting foreign national prisoners. The sixth point deals specifically with the position in Scotland and Northern Ireland concerning foreign national prisoners. We shall update the House with our progress on this point shortly.

Hollesley Bay Prison (Absconded Prisoners)

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have absconded from Hollesley Bay Prison in each of the last five years. [73429]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There have been 106 absconds from Hollesley Bay open prison in the last five years. Details of these are shown in the following table.

Absconds from HMP Hollesley Bay 2001-02 and 2005-06

	Total number of absconds
2001-02	8
2002-03	14
2003-04	36
2004-05	32
2005-06	16
Total	106

Human Trafficking

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what range of sentences were given in cases involving human trafficking in each of the last five years. [78809]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* We have introduced comprehensive legislation to criminalise trafficking in human beings. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force in May 2004, introduces new, wide-ranging offences covering trafficking into, within, and out of the UK for any form of sexual exploitation. A new offence of "trafficking people for exploitation" covering forced labour, removal of organs and the trafficking of vulnerable people, including children, is included in the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004 and came into force in December 2004. Prior to 2003, the Immigration Act 1971 was adopted for trafficking offences. There was one conviction in 2003 under that piece of legislation. In that case the defendant received a sentence of 10 years. This sentence was increased on appeal in 2004 to 23 years by the court of appeal on application by the Attorney-General as it was deemed unduly lenient.

In 2004 sentences for trafficking offences ranged from six to 18 years. In 2005 sentences for trafficking offences ranged from four to 21 years. In 2006 sentences for trafficking offences have so far ranged from four to seven years.

To date no convictions have been achieved for trafficking for labour exploitation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what prosecutions have been successfully concluded for people trafficking; and what the nationality was of those convicted of this offence in cases where proceedings are complete. [77907]

Mr. Coaker: To date there have been 29 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, in 15 different cases. Prior to 2003, the Immigration Act 1971 was adopted for trafficking offences. There was one conviction in 2003 under that piece of legislation. The nationalities of the people convicted of trafficking offences are Albanian, Kosovan, Macedonian, Lithuanian, Turkish, Chinese, Moldovan and Thai.

To date there have been no convictions for trafficking for labour exploitation under the Asylum and Immigration (treatment of claimants etc) Act 2004.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate have (a) resigned and (b) been sacked in each of the last 36 months. [76192]

Mr. Byrne: The following data provide the numbers of employees who have left the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in each year. Reliable data on leavers broken down by month or prior to January 2004 can be provided only at disproportionate cost to the Department excluding dismissals.

	Leavers[1]
2006[2]	998
2005	2,717
2004	1,176

[1] Data include all leavers including resignations, retirements, end of contract etc. and will include agency staff, many of whom will leave at the end of their contract and possibly re-join the organisation.
[2] Data from 1 January 2006 to 18 June 2006.

Number of employees of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate who have been dismissed[1] in each month from January 2005 to May 2006[2]

	Dismissals
2006	
May	10
April	7
March	3
February	8
January	8
2005	
December	8
November	4
October	4
September	5
August	6
July	6
June	9
May	10
April	6
March	12
February	7
January	14

[1] The data for dismissals include all dismissals for misconduct, poor performance, and poor attendance.
[2] Reliable data on dismissals prior to January 2005 can be provided only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

London Bombings Inquiry

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department has had in the last month about a public inquiry into the 7 July bombings; and if he will make a statement. [80835]

Mr. McNulty: The Government have carefully considered the possibility of a public inquiry into the 7 July London bombings but have concluded that this would not add to our understanding of the causes of those atrocities. The Government continue to hold this view. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and officials in my Department have had a number of discussions on this issue recently with families of the victims of the bombings.

A number of parliamentary and other inquiries (some of which are complete and some of which are on-going) address specific aspects of the events. A public inquiry would divert resources at a time when the police and agencies are actively engaged in the continuing investigation into the events of 7 July and the detection and prevention of further atrocities.

Mohamed Kargbo

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the application by Mr. Mohamed Kargbo, of Christchurch (reference: K414597) for indefinite leave to remain, received by his Department on 24 June 2004, will be determined; and if he will make a statement. [76132]

Mr. Byrne: Officials from the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to Mr. Kargbo's legal representatives on 23 June 2006 with details of the outcome of his application.

National Insurance Numbers

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals applying for a national insurance number and referred to the immigration and nationality directorate due to *(a)* suspicion about their eligibility to work in the UK, *(b)* the use of false documents and *(c)* other reasons were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted in each of the last five years. [75857]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of investigations and prosecutions from specific referrals to the immigration and nationality directorate (IND) from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) could be obtained only by individually searching IND databases for the outcome of each referral received.

	October 2004 to March 2005	*April 2005 to March 2006*
Investigations initiated	412	703
Prosecutions	150	359
Convictions	149	354

Note:
Invalidated management information which excludes IND's border control directorate crime team investigations as they fall outside the referrals process.

Non-custodial Sentences

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to question 78652, what the differences are between the non-custodial sentences referred to. [80501]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This table describes the community sentences and other relevant community disposals available for young offenders. Further information on these sentences is available on the Youth Justice Board Website.

Community sentences available for juveniles

Order	*Who it applies to*	*Description*	*Length*
Action plan order	10-17s	A short intensive community based programme which may include reparation, attendance centre and offence conformation sessions.	Three months
Attendance centre order	10-17s	The centres are run on Saturdays. Sessions (usually two hours long) involve physical exercise and group work.	Between four and 24 hours

Community sentences available for juveniles

Order	*Who it applies to*	*Description*	*Length*
Curfew orders with electronic monitoring	10-17s	Courts have the power to make curfew orders backed with electronic monitoring for juvenile offenders. The tagged curfews can help to break patterns of offending by keeping juvenile offenders off the streets and out of trouble at the times they are most likely to offend.	Up to six months
Supervision order	10-17s	The young person is supervised by a member of the YOT. A range of conditions may be attached for more serious offences. These include drug treatment (for 16+s since the Crime and Disorder Act) residence requirements, curfews, activities specified by the YOT (normally reparation, offending behaviour, group work, anger management etc.).	From six months to three years (usually one year)
Referral order	10-17s	Youth courts refer young people, who plead guilty and are convicted for the first time, to youth offender panels. The youth offender panels design an intervention programme with the young person to tackle his/her offending behaviour.	From 3-12 months
Community punishment and rehabilitation order	16+	Requires the offender to be under supervision and to perform unpaid work for not less than 40 and not more than 100 hours.	Between 12 months and three years
Community punishment order	16+	Involves undertaking unpaid work in the community—e.g. carpentry workshops, conservation, decorating or caring tasks for the elderly/vulnerable.	Between 40 to 240 hours
Community rehabilitation order	16+	The equivalent of supervision, overseen by the probation service and only available for "mature" 16 and 17-year-olds. It can have conditions attached (e.g. residence at probation hostel).	From six months to three years (usually one year)
Intensive supervision and surveillance programme (ISSP)	10-17s	Not a court order. Route onto ISSP is either via bail, as part of a community order or community part of the DTO. Young offender is subject to intensive supervision consisting of highly structured, individual programmes to tackle the causes of offending behaviour and intensive surveillance consisting of either tracking, electronic tagging, voice verification, or intelligence-led policing.	6-12 months intensive supervision of at least 25 hours per week for first 3-6 months, reassessed thereafter
Reparation order	10-17s	Not within the stable of community sentences as such. The young person is required to make reparation to the victim of the offence or to the community in general. This engages the individual in some practical reparative activity which brings home the consequences of their offence.	No more than 24 hours in aggregate

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to provide a substantive answer to Question 63882, on Khalid Rashid; and if he will make a statement. [78509]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2016W.

Police

Mr. Michael Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the proposals for the merger of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire police forces. [25363]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend, the then Home Secretary, announced on 11 April that he was initiating the statutory consultation process on this merger. However, the Home Secretary announced on 19 June that he would not be laying any orders for Home Secretary initiated mergers before the summer recess. This will provide the opportunity for further discussion and dialogue.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department where Cumbria and Lancashire's new merged police force headquarters will be based. [61322]

Mr. McNulty: The location of the new Headquarters will be a decision for the chief constable and police authority of the newly merged force.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meetings his civil servants have had with chief constables to discuss police restructuring in England and Wales. [68620]

Mr. McNulty: Senior officials and other members of the Home Office police restructuring team have met chief constables and other colleagues on numerous occasions from police forces and authorities throughout England and Wales to discuss police restructuring.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress is being made with the proposed mergers of police forces in the North East region. [76812]

Mr. McNulty: On 3 March my right hon. Friend, the then Home Secretary, announced his intention to initiate a merger of the police forces in the North East.

My right hon. Friend, the Home Secretary, announced on 19 June he would not be laying any Home Secretary initiated amalgamation Orders before Parliament before the summer recess. This will allow further discussions to take place and outstanding matters to be resolved.

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which members of the *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Lancashire police authority (i) supported and (ii) opposed the merger of Lancashire and Cumbria police. [81704]

Mr. McNulty: That information is a matter for the police authorities concerned and is not held centrally.

Mr. Borrow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which sites are being considered as a possible headquarters for the merged Lancashire and Cumbria police force; and when a decision on the site will be made. [81705]

Mr. McNulty: The location of the headquarters for a merged Cumbria and Lancashire police force will be a matter for the Chief Constable and police authority of the newly merged force.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many representations he has received from people in Yorkshire supporting the police mergers. [61675]

Mr. McNulty: We have received a number of representations from people across the country, both in favour of, and opposed to police force mergers.

It is not possible to identify those relating to Yorkshire separately.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he will take in relation to police authorities who do not submit business cases on the proposed police structure reforms by the 23 December deadline. [39464]

Mr. McNulty: I apologise to my hon. Friend for the delay in answering his question and will write to him in full.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that the Cumbria Police Authority remains a separate organisation. [50812]

Mr. McNulty: No. My right hon. Friend has made it clear that the new merged force will have a single police authority.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate of the cost of the police restructuring proposals has been carried out by his Department; and when they will be published. [48617]

Mr. McNulty: For areas where options have been identified as viable and effective a case for amalgamation has been provided. The cases for amalgamation contain indicative projected costs for amalgamation of the relevant forces. These documents have been sent to the police forces and police authorities concerned.

They are also available on the Home Office website—http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/police-reform/Force-restructuring.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Minister of State in the Department for Constitutional Affairs and *(b)* other ministerial colleagues on the possible impact of proposed police force mergers on court services; and if he will make a statement. [64734]

Mr. McNulty: Discussions are ongoing with colleagues on the possible impact of proposed police force mergers.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many responses *(a)* favourable to and *(b)* opposed to a full merger of the Yorkshire and Humberside police forces his Department has received. [64984]

Mr. McNulty: To date, the Home Office has received submissions on merger options for Yorkshire and the Humber police forces from North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and Humberside police forces and authorities. All of these considered a full region merger as a viable option among a range of proposed possibilities.

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the proposed timetable is for the establishment of the new Yorkshire and Humber Regional Police Force; and if he will make a statement. [67510]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 May 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary's announcement on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1057-62W and the letter which he sent to all hon. Members on that date. He said that the formal objection period for the Yorkshire and Humber merger, which would have expired on 11 August, will be extended. The replacement timetable will be subject to further discussion.

Deportation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the nationality is of those foreign nationals who following a prison sentence should have been considered for deportation; whether the UK has active deportation arrangements with each country concerned; and whether deportation may not be possible because of the political situation in each country. [68656]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has updated the House on this matter in a written ministerial statement on 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 18WS and the Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Department (IND) wrote to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee on the 29 June on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Prisoners (Licensed Releases)

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners were charged with offences committed whilst they were released on *(a)* special purpose licence, *(b)* resettlement day release licence, *(c)* resettlement overnight release licence and *(d)* child care resettlement licence in each year between 1997 and 2006. [79024]

Mr. Sutcliffe: To provide the information required would involve a manual interrogation of the individual records for each prisoner. This could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, temporary release failures represent 0.1 per cent. of the number of licences issued each year. These failures include other breaches of licence conditions such as prisoners returning late from temporary release and prisoners returning under the influence of alcohol as well as commission of offences.

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the possible correlation between overcrowding and self-harm in the *(a)* male, *(b)* female and *(c)* juvenile prison estate; and if he will make a statement. [78134]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Overcrowding, and its subsequent effects in terms of prisoners' distance from home, prisoner transfers and the time prisoners spend out of their cells, may be one factor in heightening the distress linked to suicide. However, the most important explanation of why prisoners harm and kill themselves is that a high proportion of prisoners arrive in prison with risk factors such as a history of abuse or drugs/alcohol problems. This is true for all parts of the prison estate.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people sit on the Prison Service committee with responsibility for dealing with suspected staff wrongdoing; how often the committee meets; who chairs it; to whom it reports; and if he will make a statement. [80528]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Professional Standards Steering Group, which reports to the director general, meets quarterly to ensure the effective implementation of the Prison Service professional standards strategy. Its membership consists of the deputy director general who chairs the meeting, the director of personnel, the director of operations, the head of security group and the head of the professional standards unit.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which prisons he has visited since his appointment; [80610]

(2) which prisons the Minister for prisons has visited in each of the last eight years. [80611]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Secretary of State for the Home Department visited Wandsworth prison on 28 June 2006.

No single Minister has sole responsibility for prisons policy. However, the Ministers listed in the following table have had responsibility for areas of prison policy in the last eight years.

Ministerial prison visits by Home Office Ministers since 1999

	Date
Lord Bassam of Brighton	
Lewes	10 November 1999
Chelmsford	3 December 1999
Bullwood Hall	3 December 1999
Downview	10 December 1999
Highdown	10 December 1999
Feltham	17 March 2000
Albany	1 June 2000
Camp Hill	1 June 2000
Parkhurst	2 June 2000
Dover	13 October 2000
Birmingham	4 May 2001
Hilary Benn	
Leeds	14 June 2002
Winchester	4 July 2002
Wormwood Scrubs	9 July 2002
Belmarsh	10 July 2002
Askham Grange	15 July 2002
Brixton	25 July 2002
Portland	27 August 2002
The Weare	27 August 2002
Lewes	28 August 2002
Ashfield	29 August 2002
East Sutton Park	3 September 2002
Wayland	17 September 2002
Reading	20 September 2002
Feltham	23 September 2002
Holloway	23 September 2002
Wetherby	7 October 2002
Lincoln	24 October 2002
New Hall	15 November 2002
Feltham	26 November 2002
Leeds	24 January 2003
Wandsworth	29 January 2003
Leicester	10 March 2003
Wandsworth	27 March 2003
Exeter	7 April 2003
Aylesbury	10 April 2003
Paul Boateng	
Durham	2 July 1999
Aylesbury	3 August 1999
Whitemoor	4 August 1999
Wandsworth	6 August 1999
Leeds	14 September 1999
Parc	23 September 1999
Brixton	4 October 1999
Holloway	5 October 1999
Wormwood Scrubs	13 October 1999
Littlehey	20 October 1999
Feltham	28 October 1999
Wandsworth	2 November 1999
Brixton	4 November 1999
Feltham	11 November 1999
Belmarsh	25 November 1999

Ministerial prison visits by Home Office Ministers since 1999

	Date
Highpoint	15 December 1999
Lindholme	21 December 1999
Wormwood Scrubs	31 December 1999
Pentonville	31 December 1999
Manchester	11 February 2000
Forest Bank	11 February 2000
Pentonville	13 February 2000
North Sea Camp	15 February 2000
Coldingley	23 February 2000
Altcourse	21 March 2000
Portland	13 April 2000
Weare	13 April 2000
Featherstone	8 May 2000
Styal	6 June 2000
The Mount	8 June 2000
Frankland	19 June 2000
Low Newton	19 June 2000
Holloway	5 July 2000
Blantyre House	5 July 2000
Exeter	7 July 2000
Wormwood Scrubs	9 July 2000
Bristol	11 July 2000
Leyhill	11 July 2000
East Sutton Park	11 July 2000
Grendon/Springhill	13 July 2000
Wandsworth	20 July 2000
Birmingham	7 September 2000
Norwich	21 September 2000
Hatfield	4 October 2000
Moorland	4 October 2000
Blantyre House	16 October 2000
Reading	25 October 2000
Holloway	31 October 2000
Brixton	2 November 2000
Littlehey	2 November 2000
Grendon	16 November 2000
Gloucester	19 November 2000
Woodhill	23 November 2000
Bedford	23 November 2000
Wandsworth	24 November 2000
Pentonville	11 December 2000
The Mount	14 December 2000
Holloway	18 December 2000
Feltham	31 December 2000
Whatton	6 February 2001
Ashfield	28 February 2001
Chelmsford	27 March 2001
Stoke Heath	28 March 2001
Brinsford	28 March 2001
Wellingborough	10 April 2001
Littlehey	10 April 2001
Pentonville	25 April 2001
Wandsworth	25 April 2001
Liverpool	1 May 2001
Paul Goggins	
Brixton	2 June 2003
Onley	12 June 2003
Wandsworth	19 June 2003
Pentonville	7 July 2003
Styal	21 July 2003

Ministerial prison visits by Home Office Ministers since 1999

	Date
Frankland	21 August 2003
Birmingham	6 September 2003
Liverpool	10 September 2003
Brixton	15 September 2003
Wealstun	9 October 2003
Holloway	23 October 2003
Everthorpe	11 November 2003
Whitemoor	11 December 2003
Garth	10 December 2003
Wymott	10 December 2003
Whitemoor	12 December 2003
Manchester	25 December 2003
Styal	22 January 2004
Wandsworth	27 January 2004
Belmarsh	3 February 2004
Manchester	9 February 2004
New Hall	25 February 2004
Wandsworth	4 March 2004
Norwich	10 March 2004
Ford	11 March 2004
Holme House	18 March 2004
Bedford	21 April 2004
Birmingham	23 April 2004
The Verne	28 April 2004
The Weare	28 April 2004
Low Newton	6 May 2004
Cardiff	17 June 2004
Wandsworth	30 June 2004
Exeter	16 September 2004
Dartmoor	17 September 2004
Askham Grange	21 October 2004
Parkhurst	11 November 2004
Camp Hill	11 November 2004
Albany	11 November 2004
Elmley	18 November 2004
Swaleside	18 November 2004
Gloucester	29 November 2004
Brixton	9 December 2004
Forest Bank	25 December 2004
Grendon	13 January 2005
Springhill	13 January 2005
Lancaster Castle	27 January 2005
Lancaster Farms	27 January 2005
Liverpool	24 February 2005
Usk	2 March 2005
Prescoed	2 March 2005
Featherstone	3 March 2005
Preston	10 March 2005
Styal	17 March 2005
Peterborough	23 March 2005
Ranby	24 March 2005
George Howarth	
Feltham	10 July 1997
Moorland	2 September 1997
Lindholme	2 September 1997
Lancaster Castle	13 October 1997
Lancaster Farms	13 October 1997
Wetherby	4 November 1997
Thorn Cross	6 November 1997
Channings Wood	26 November 1997

Ministerial prison visits by Home Office Ministers since 1999

	Date
Liverpool	15 December 1997
Portland	13 January 1998
Manchester	26 January 1998
Usk/Prescoed	29 January 1998
Huntercombe	17 February 1998
Pentonville	7 April 1998
Reading	23 July1998
Hindley	7 January 1999
Cardiff	26 January 1999
Beverley Hughes	
Feltham	16 January 2001
Feltham	20 June 2001
Parc	22 June 2001
Brixton	5 July 2001
Risley	9 July 2001
Leeds	8 August 2001
East Sutton Park	4 September 2001
Full Sutton	10 October 2001
Belmarsh	24 January 2002
Leyhill	31 January 2002
Cardiff	1 February 2002
Nottingham	5 February 2002
Huntercombe	7 February 2002
Whitemoor	7 March 2002
Bristol	14 March 2002
Low Newton	18 March 2002
BullwoodHall	9 May 2002
Fiona Mactaggart	
Holloway	17 May 2005
Feltham YOI	20 May 2005
Frankland	1 June 2005
Leicester	25 July 2005
Holloway	27 July 2005
Durham	15 August 2005
Kirklevington Grange	15 August 2005
Reading	17 August 2005
Eastwood Park	22 August 2005
Gloucester	22 August 2005
Bristol	23 August 2005
Dorchester	23 August 2005
Wandsworth	13 September 2005
Rochester	15 September 2005
Lewes	26 September 2005
Downview	29 September 2005
Birmingham	30 November 2005
Bullingdon	12 December 2005
Dartmoor	23 December 2005
Belmarsh	14 February 2006
Coldingley	16 February 2005
Hindley	10 April 2006
Wakefield	11 April 2006
New Hall	11 April 2006
Baroness Scotland of Asthal	
Bristol	16 October 2003
Manchester	26 May 2005
Wellington	16 June 2005
Brixton	30 June 2005

Ministerial prison visits by Home Office Ministers since 1999

	Date
Pentonville	12 July 2005
Liverpool	15 July 2005
Altcourse	15 July 2005
Chlemsford	3 October 2005
Askham Grange	4 November 2005
Wetherby	4 November 2005
Preston	24 November 2005
Wandsworth	8 March 2006
Wormwood Scrubs	8 March 2006
Parc	9 March 2006
Gerry Sutcliffe	
Holloway	25 May 2006
Leeds	26 May 2006
Lord Williams of Mostyn	
Wandsworth	19 June 1998
Belmarsh	19 June 1998
Coldingley	6 August 1998
Cardiff	26 August 1998
Manchester	9 September 1998
Woodhill	11 September 1998
Parc	14 September 1998
Thorn Cross	16 September 1998
Blakenhurst	18 September 1998
Cookham Wood	22 September 1998
Rochester	22 September 1998
Brixton	25 September 1998
Whitemoor	29 September 1998
High Point	29 September 1998
Doncaster	9 October 1998
Lindholme	9 October 1998
Bristol	23 October 1998
Elmley	30 October 1998
Gloucester	31 October 1998
Brockhill	13 November 1998
Heysham site	20 November 1998
Preston	20 November 1998
Garth	27 November 1998
Wymott	27 November 1998
The Verne	11 December 1998
Weare	11 December 1998
Newbold Revel	4 February 1999
Haverigg	5 February 1999
Newbold Revel	16 February 1999
Woodhill	18 February 1999
Buckley Hall	19 February 1999
Gloucester	20 February 1999
Sudbury	26 February 1999
Glen Parva	5 March 1999
Kirkham	9 April 1999
Lancaster	9 April 1999
Birmingham	16 April 1999
Holloway	12 May 1999
Bullwood Hall	14 May 1999
Chelmsford	14 May 1999
Huntercombe	28 May 1999
Buckley Hall	2 June 1999
Wymott	2 June 1999
Cardiff	4 June 1999

Ministerial prison visits by Home Office Ministers since 1999

	Date
Eastwood Park	4 June 1999
Blundeston	25 June 1999
Askham Grange	9 July 1999
Wetherby	9 July 1999
Wakefield	23 July 1999

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what buildings and refurbishment works are planned for *(a)* the gymnasium, *(b)* the chapel, *(c)* the workshop and *(d)* other areas of HMP Lewes; and what the (i) estimated cost and (ii) expected start date is in each case. [81046]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No major building works or refurbishments are currently planned for the gymnasium, the chapel or the workshops at HMP Lewes. A major capital refurbishment of F wing is planned to start on site in January 2007 at a cost of around £11.5 million, and a maintenance scheme at a cost of around £0.25 million to render the chapel is due to start on site in November 2006. The local works department has recently improved the showering facilities for the gymnasium.

Probation Service

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total funding allocated for the *(a)* recruitment and *(b)* training of probation officers was in each of the last eight years. [79955]

John Reid: The recruitment and training of probation officers is funded by the Home Office via grants to local probation areas. The recruitment responsibility is delegated to areas therefore there is no information available centrally about the specific amount dedicated to this function.

Figures for the funding of the training programme are available from the time of the creation of the National Probation Directorate in 2001. They are as follows:

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2002-03	43,860,860
2003-04	53,373,300
2004-05	56,164,000
2005-06	51,400,000
2006-07	40,365,259

Proceeds of Crime Act

Mr. Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many actions for recovery of assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 have been undertaken following conviction for the employment of illegal migrants. [58727]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally but I understand that asset recovery action is currently under consideration in at least one major case involving the employment of illegal migrants. I am unable to comment further at this stage.

Security Industry Authority

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his written statement of 16 February 2006, on the Private Security Industry Approved Contractor Scheme, what assessment he has made of whether companies should achieve membership of the scheme under Option 3 if they *(a)* meet standards that do not correspond directly and exactly to the 89 indicators of the Option 4 scheme as set out by the Security Industry Authority and *(b)* cover different criteria in more depth. [59021]

Mr. Coaker: To provide assurance that all approved contractors have achieved the necessary standards all of the 89 requirements must be met. An approved contractor cannot compensate for failure to meet some requirements by excelling in others—this would lead to uncertainty over what approval means and could undermine the credibility of the scheme.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether employers in the security industry will be able to *(a)* employ staff and *(b)* use contractors who have applied for a licence to the Security Industry Authority but who have not yet received a licence. [62265]

Mr. Coaker: The Private Security Industry Act 2001 imposes sanctions on those who undertake defined security activities without a licence from the SIA and those who supply unlicensed security operatives undertaking those activities. Companies that hire security firms whose personnel include unlicensed staff are not committing any offence, since the Private Security Industry Act 2001 places the onus on the individual and the company that provides security services, not on the customer. Where in-house employees are required to be licensed, the employer and individual are both responsible for ensuring this occurs.

Companies that have been awarded approved contractor status by the SIA are able to legally deploy a proportion of security staff while their licence applications are being processed.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed by the Security Industry Authority to process licence applications; and what training they are given. [77803]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has contracted BT Syntegra as its Managed Service Provider (MSP) to process all aspects of licence applications, with the exception of the final licensing decision. BT Syntegra has employed and extensively trained 152 full-time employees to carry out this task.

To increase processing capacity during this period of high demand, the SIA has supplemented the MSP staffing levels with a temporary in-house processing centre employing an additional 12 security cleared temporary staff who work directly to the SIA. These temporary staff members are supervised at all times and are only utilised to initially check accurate completion of application forms and identification documents. They

received comprehensive induction training prior to deployment, and are issued with training notes and guidance templates. Following induction they shadow experienced permanent employees for a minimum of one week, and are subject to daily coaching and supervision. Also daily training sessions provide extra guidance on application/document checks.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had on the potential dismissal of workers in the private security industry on 20 March 2006 due to licences not being issued by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) by that date; and what steps he has taken to prevent such an occurrence. [60529]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 March 2006]:* I took on ministerial responsibility for the SIA on 4 May. My predecessor Paul Goggins met with the SIA on a number of occasions to discuss the impact of the implementation date of 20 March 2006. The SIA put in place a system 14 months before the 20 March 2006 to manage the transition to licensing. This date was agreed after consultation with the industry, who had undertaken to submit their applications in good time. While some did submit their applications in good time, other parts of the industry failed to do so. The SIA wants all of the security industry to be compliant with the law as soon as possible and has taken additional steps to speed up the processing of licence applications. These include temporarily doubling the capacity of the SIA's licensing system and working closely with companies to reduce applicant error rates. Enforcement action is a matter for the SIA and the police. ACPO and the SIA have issued joint Enforcement Guidelines in which they stated they intend to take a measured and proportionate approach to enforcement.

Sexual Offenders

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of sexual offences against children have been deported to the UK from abroad in each of the last five years. [77158]

Mr. Byrne: Anyone encountered by the Immigration Service being deported to the UK back from abroad is referred to the police for appropriate registration, and so records are not collected by IND.

Criminal Records

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of Regulation 7 (1) of the Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Registration) Regulations 2006 on small and medium-sized organisations; [76155]

(2) which organisations have had their registered body status cancelled as a result of the Police Act 1997 (Criminal Records) (Registration) Regulations 2006; [76156]

(3) if he will commission a race equality impact assessment in relation to the decision of the Criminal Records Bureau to cancel the registration of organisations that submit fewer than 100 disclosure applications each year; [76157]

(4) for what reason the Criminal Records Bureau requires a minimum of 100 disclosure applications to be made by a body for that body to qualify as a registered body. [76158]

Joan Ryan: Following a public consultation exercise last year, a full regulatory impact assessment was completed, and placed in the Library along with the regulations. This included a small firms impact test which acknowledged that small organisations would probably not be able to satisfy the minimum threshold and would need to approach other organisations in order to obtain checks on their employees and incur the associated costs. However, in some cases it was concluded that the costs of using such an organisation would be lower than the administrative costs of running and maintaining a small volume registered body. No race related issues were identified during the consultation.

The changes arose from a key recommendation of the 2002 independent review of the CRB and were supported by the recent Bichard inquiry that recommended reducing the number of registered bodies from over 14,000 that existed at the time. It also follows the CRB's own research that revealed that up to a third of registered bodies were not fully complying with the guidance and the code of practice and explanatory guide issued by the CRB which is a condition of registration. One of the areas of weakness was in completing the requisite identity checks on applicants.

The intention is to make the registered body network more professional and more experienced in the disclosure process which will allow the CRB to ensure that the network of users is proficient in the security and policies of the CRB. Setting an annual threshold is a key part of the CRB's strategy to enhance the effectiveness of, and improve standards within the registered body network.

The CRB will provide advice, guidance and support to organisations on the options available to access the disclosure service before their registration is cancelled due to low volume.

The CRB has written to some 2,800 organisations to inform them that they are to become deregistered. These organisations have submitted 10 or fewer applications in the last 12 months.

Taxis

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent by his Department on taxi travel in the 2005-06 financial year; and what proportion of such travel was undertaken in each nation and region of the UK, including London. [37482]

Mr. Byrne: The recorded total cost of taxi travel in the 2005-06 financial year in the Home Department was £806,000.

Obtaining the proportion of such travel as undertaken in each nation and region of the UK, including London, could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Visas

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2128-29W, on visas, why records are not maintained of the number of visitors who leave the country before or at the expiry of their permitted stay; and if he will make a statement. [81124]

Mr. Byrne: Physical embarkation controls were withdrawn at seaports in 1994 and reconfigured at major airports in 1998. The five year immigration strategy for asylum and immigration, published in February 2005, contains details of our plans, through the e-Borders programme, to strengthen and modernise our border control including providing an electronic record of all those entering and leaving the UK. This is scheduled to commence in 2008.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 4 July 2006

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Climate Change

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* reviewed on the (i) chemical make-up and (ii) environmental impact of aircraft trails; and if he will make a statement. [79517]

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has evaluated on the effects of condensation trails on climate change. [80666]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs does not directly undertake work in this area, but closely monitors research commissioned by the European Union, Research Councils and other Government Departments to identify, characterise, and assess the impact of aircraft emissions on global climate change.

A major scientific report assessing the contribution of aircraft to climate change, "Aviation and the Global Atmosphere", was published in 1999 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). More recently, research carried out under the EU 5th Framework Project, TRADEOFF, has improved modelling techniques and reduced estimates of contrail radiative forcing by two fold compared with the previous estimate from the IPCC. Research carried out under the TRADEOFF project also supported the conclusion that aviation potentially enhances cirrus cloud coverage.

Aircraft-induced cirrus clouds reduce the amount of solar radiation reaching the surface of the Earth, and so mitigate global warming. However, significant uncertainty surrounding this area of study makes it difficult to assess whether increased cloudiness would reduce or increase global warming trends.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1692W, on greenhouse gases, what assessment he has made of the reasons for the rise in carbon dioxide emissions between 1997 and 2004. [81214]

Ian Pearson: The rise in carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions between 1997 and 2004 was caused by higher than anticipated levels of economic growth and the recent rise in global energy prices which has altered the relative prices of coal and gas. However, CO_2 emissions were still about 5.6 per cent. below 1990 levels and we expect CO_2 emissions to fall again in the future given longer term expectations on fuel prices and as a result of policies introduced under the new Climate Change Programme.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of achieving the target of increasing by 20 per cent. by 2010 the energy efficiency of residential accommodation in England pursuant to Section 217 of the Housing Act 2004; and if he will make a statement. [77962]

Ian Pearson: The net costs and benefits of existing and new policies were calculated for the Climate Change Programme review and presented in 2005 prices. Existing household energy efficiency measures have a net present value benefit of £65 billion and new household energy efficiency measures announced in the 2006 Climate Change Programme have a net present value benefit to consumers in the region of £13.5 billion, over the life of the policies. This is because the energy savings far outweigh the up front costs of the measures. This figure excludes improvements in air quality, which would make the benefits greater, if included.

The evaluation synthesis report can be found at http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/ukccp/pdf/synthesisccpolicy-evaluations.pdf. We intend to publish the appraisal synthesis report in due course.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department has assessed published research into the use of the gamma interferon tuberculosis test in other countries; [81472]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the gamma interferon tuberculosis test; and what sources of information he has used to inform that assessment. [81473]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* Defra has assessed research on the value and uses of the gamma interferon (gIFN) blood test in other countries, including Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Europe. The test is now a standard tool in the cattle testing armoury of European countries with endemic TB problems, like the Republic of Ireland, Italy, Spain, Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

The gIFN test can detect some infected animals that are negative in the SICCT test (skin test) and may detect animals at an earlier stage of infection. However, the gIFN test is slightly less specific than the SICCT test, which means that it is also more likely to incorrectly identify negative animals as being infected.

In addition to evidence from overseas research, and in order to further improve bTB diagnostics, the Government have conducted a field trial to assess the potential benefits of using of the gIFN blood test in GB. This helped to establish that the use of this test, in parallel with the skin test, has the potential to significantly increase the detection of infected cattle where TB has been confirmed, and so hasten the elimination of infected cattle. Preparations are now being made for wider use of the gIFN test in prescribed circumstances. The results of the field trial on gIFN usage will be published shortly.

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what total land area of England was under an *(a)* annual, *(b)* two yearly, *(c)* three yearly and *(d)* four yearly bovine tuberculosis testing regime in 2005. [80151]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The information requested is set out in the following table:

	Hectares
12 monthly testing	2,358,772.91
24 monthly testing	1,186,483.65
36 monthly testing	81,928.38
48 monthly testing	9,660,595.9

Earthships

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of possible energy savings from *(a)* the construction and *(b)* use of buildings known as earthships; and what estimate he has made of the number of such constructions in each of the last five years. [81774]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* My Department has made no assessment on possible energy savings from earthships, either in the construction, or the use of the buildings. We are not aware of any estimates made on the number constructed in the UK.

Independent Scientific Group

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet representatives of the Independent Scientific Group to discuss their findings. [81474]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer given 3 July 2006]:* I met representatives of the Independent Scientific Group (ISG) on 24 April to discuss their findings and other related matters. The ISG inform me of new findings as they become available and their secretariat regularly send me summaries of all ISG meetings.

Landfill

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of land-filled waste in Gloucestershire came from commercial sources in the last period for which figures are available; and what steps are being taken to reduce this figure. [81314]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency publishes full details of the production and management of wastes in England and Wales on its website. The latest available figures, for 2002-03, show that 37.5 per cent. of landfilled waste in Gloucestershire came from commercial and industrial sources.

Action to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill is driven by regional and local strategies and supported by nationally funded programmes.

In its Regional Spatial Strategy, the South West regional assembly seeks to achieve a maximum of just 17 per cent. of commercial waste sent to landfill by 2020, reflecting the Regional Waste Strategy. Gloucestershire county council is the Waste Planning Authority, statutorily responsible for preparing a waste local plan. The current plan calls for a reduction of waste to landfill in support of national and regional targets.

Defra's Business Resource and Efficiency Programme (BREW) funds a number of initiatives designed to help business use resources more efficiently and thus reduce waste. For example, Envirowise provides free advice to business on resource efficiency. The National Industrial Symbiosis Programme enables businesses to divert waste from landfill. The South West regional development agency manages local BREW funds within the region.

Organic Food

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government plan to take as part of their Organic Action Plan to encourage greater public procurement of organic food. [79893]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following recommendations made in the Organic Action Plan's "Two years on" document, Defra has made organic food an integral part of its sustainable food strategy.

My Department is currently leading a major initiative across Whitehall to support and encourage the purchase of more sustainable food by public authorities. The Food Procurement Implementation Group oversees this initiative and includes a number of bodies that are working on local initiatives to increase the demand for organic food and encourage more small producers to compete for public contracts.

Scientific Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Department has spent in each of the last five years on scientific research. [79320]

Mr. Bradshaw: Defra's research budget for the years in question is:

	£ million
2001-02	144
2002-03	144
2003-04	146
2004-05	152
2005-06	156

Water Companies

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received in each year since 2001 on Thames Water's price increases. [80960]

Ian Pearson: Ministers receive representations from customers, Members of Parliament and lobbyists, relating to water price increases. However, water price increases are a matter for Ofwat, who are responsible for regulating and fixing water and sewerage price limits.

Water Pollution

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what is the cause of the green bloom in the waters of the Hampshire Avon below Amesbury; and what steps are *(a)* being taken and *(b)* planned to remedy the problem. [81120]

Ian Pearson: The cause of the green bloom in the waters of the Hampshire Avon below Amesbury is likely to be a combination of environmental factors, including high temperatures, low water flow and consequential increases in the concentration of nutrients. There have been no significant pollution incidents at this location in the river. Rainfall and river flows have been significantly depressed over the last 20 months and, in combination with other environmental factors, this may create opportunities for algal growth. However, the May 2006 period was characterised by periods of very high rainfall. Urban and agricultural runoff may lead to direct discolouration and also contribute to nutrient enrichment in the river.

There is, and has been, significant investment and action to improve the quality for the Hampshire Avon in recent years.

For example, four Wessex Water sewage treatment works discharging into the River Avon have had phosphate stripping installed in their treatment process as part of the previous environmental programme periodic review. Wessex Water's current water quality environment programme for 2005-10 includes schemes to further reduce nutrient loads from sewage effluent discharges. By the end of the 2010 period, two additional sewage treatment works discharging into the River Avon are expected to receive phosphate stripping and the phosphate limits set for the four original works are expected to be reduced to half of their currently permitted limit.

In addition, as part of the requirement introduced by the habitats directive, the Environment Agency have asked Wessex Water to review their abstractions on the Hampshire Avon and assess their effect on the ecology of the river. The findings from this project, which will conclude by March 2008, will contribute to the Habitats Directive Review of Consents and may result in a requirement to reduce the amount of water abstracted by the water company, or for other improvements to be made in the companies' water management operations.

Most recently, the Hampshire Avon catchment has been identified as a priority catchment under the England Catchment-Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative (ECSFDI). The key objective of this initiative is to raise awareness of agricultural pollution and encourage farmers to take action to mitigate the impact of agriculture on the water environment, including the reduction of nutrient inputs.

The water framework directive (WFD) is a key driver of future action on water quality. The directive came into force on 22 December 2000 and requires member states to establish a range of measures to manage water quality by 2009 and to make them operational by 2012. A central objective of the directive is that water bodies should aim to reach good ecological and chemical status by 2015. We are working with stakeholders to develop mechanisms to tackle pressures, including both point and diffuse sources, for inclusion in River Basin Management Plans, and aim to consult on potential options for tackling non-agricultural, agricultural and hydromorphological pressures in the later part of 2006.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by his Department since October 2005, in date order. [81322]

Mr. Thomas: Since October 2005, DFID has published the following documents as part of the Command Paper Series:

Autumn Performance Report, December 2005

Departmental Report, May 2006

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what draft Bills have been produced by his Department since October 2005; how many *(a)* were examined and *(b)* are planned to be examined by (i) a Departmental Select Committee and (ii) a Joint Committee; what draft Bills are still to be produced by his Department; when each is expected to be published; how many clauses each has; and if he will make a statement. [81323]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not produced any draft Bills since October 2005. Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be indicated in the Queen's Speech.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the deposited papers placed in the Library by his Department since 2000; and when they were published. [81326]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development has not kept a record of documents deposited in the Libraries prior to February 2003. Records of publication dates have not been kept. The titles are as follows:

Additional IDA Resources: Financing the Multilateral Debt Initiative.

Announcements at Asia 2015: Promoting Growth, Ending Poverty. 7th March London.

Asia 2015: Summary of Conference Sessions.

Asia 2015: Promoting Growth, Ending Poverty.

Caribbean Development Bank: Replenishment of the Resources of the Special Development Fund SDF6: Resolution and Report of Contributors on SDF6.

Contracts Awarded between 1/4/99 and 31/03/04.

Contracts Awarded to Maxwell Stamp plc, HTS Consultants, British Council, Adam Smith Int Ltd and Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations between 2000 and 2005.

Death and Denial: Unsafe Abortion and Poverty.

DFID - Iraq Update. October 2004.

DFID - Iraq Update. Issue 3. November 2004.

DFID - Iraq Update. Issue 4. December 2004

DFID - Iraq Update. Issue 5. January 2005.

DFID - Statistics on International Development 2000/01 - 2004/05.

DFID - The UK and the World Bank 2005.

DFID Contracts Issued 1st April 2004 - 31st March 2005.

DFID Interim Strategy for Afghanistan 2005/06.

DFID Skills and Development Plans. 2005 - 2006.

DFID Top 20 Consultancy Firms, 1999 to 2004.

DFID Water Sanitation Projects funded during the Financial Years 2003/04 and 2004/05.

DFID's Maternal Health Strategy, Reducing Maternal Deaths: Evidence in Action; First Progress Report.

Disability, Poverty and Development.

Expenditure by DFID on Development Assistance to Developing Countries from 1995/96 to 2004/05.

Fighting Poverty to build a safer World.

From Commitment to Action.

GCPP Iraq Strategy Projects Supported in Iraq - 2003 Onwards.

Gleneagles Implementation Plan for Africa. February 2006 Update.

Gleneagles Implementation Plan for Africa. April 2006 Update.

Gleneagles Implementation Plan for Africa. May 2006 Update.

Gleneagles Implementation Plan for Africa. June 2006 Update.

Governance Matters IV: New Data, New Challenges.

Growth and Poverty Reduction: The Role of Agriculture.

Harm Reduction. Tackling drug use and HIV in the developing world.

Implementation of the Commission for Africa recommendations and G8 Gleneagles commitments on Poverty - The UK.

Iraq Update. Issue 6. February 2005.

List of CDC's New Investment and Disposals, 1999 - 2004.

Memorandum for Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and the Government of the Republic of Rwanda.

Mortality Survey among Displaced Persons and the other affected populations in Greater Sudan, Darfur.

Partnerships for Poverty Reduction: Rethinking Conditionality.

Policy on Religious Observance.

Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit - Consultancy document.

Projects Funded under DFID's Civil Society Challenge Fund - 2002/03 and 2003/04.

Reducing The Risk of Disasters - Helping to achieve sustainable poverty reduction in a vulnerable world. A DFID Policy Paper.

Regional Assistance Plan for Latin America 2004/07.

Report on DFID's Response to the Indian Ocean Disaster: March 2006.

Report on the Outcomes of DFID Nigeria's CAP Consultations with Key Stakeholders in Nigeria and the UK. Final Draft 16/7/04.

Responding to Children and AIDS. Speech by Gareth Thomas PUSS. Washington. December 2004.

Response to HM Government to the Recommendations in the report of the Africa All Party Parliamentary Group: 'The Other Side of the Coin'

St Helena: Access.

Statement by Executive Directors Representing European Countries on the Selection of the President of the World Bank.

Statistics on International Development 99/00 - 03/04.

Statistics on International Development 99/00 - 03/04 to IDC.

The Commission for Africa Report vs the Gleneagles Communique on Africa.

The UK and Afghanistan.

The UK and the World Bank.

Trade and Development Package for G90.

Trade Matters, Eliminating World Poverty.

Trade Matters.

Tsunami Follow Up.

UK Presidency Conclusions from Tsunami Follow-Up Event, 20th December 2005: Brussels.

Why we need to work more effectively in fragile states.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in his Department are carbon neutral; and if he will make a statement. [81396]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is strongly committed to the targets set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate. DFID has established its own pilot carbon offsetting scheme (the Earthmiles initiative), whereby air miles from official travel with certain airlines are donated for the benefit of environmental projects.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel is being offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases Certified Emissions Reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

Health Sector Assistance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations his Department has received from developing countries regarding health sector assistance. [81795]

Mr. Thomas: DFID receives a variety of representations from groups and organisations seeking support. However, most of our development assistance is managed through DFID's country offices, who are in daily contact with developing country partners, non-governmental organisations and civil society in-country. We are therefore unlikely to receive formal representations as such because we keep in regular contact regarding health sector development and assistance through our strong in-country partnerships.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of his Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80486]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Malawi

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the implementation of the health sector support plan for Malawi. [81787]

Mr. Thomas: Progress with Malawi health sector-wide approach (SWAp) is reviewed jointly, twice a year by Government and donors, of whom DFID is the largest with a commitment of £100 million over six years.

Progress has been good. In addition to the earlier successes of the eradication of polio and the elimination of neonatal tetanus and the increasing distribution of bed nets and their re-treatment (up from 7 per cent. in 2002 to 71 per cent. in 2004-05), the health service has taken on a rapid increase in antiretroviral treatment for HIV and AIDS. 50 sites have treated 46,000 people up from 3,000 two years ago. This is making a real difference: both saving lives and improving the quality of life of those living with HIV and AIDS.

Critical to this success has been the additional resources made available at hospital and clinic level as a result of the increased aid channelled through the health SWAp. The Emergency Human Resources Programme has in its first year recruited an extra 580 Malawian health professionals. There are 60 volunteer specialists and nurse tutors from overseas filling key vacant posts. The intake of Malawian trainee nurses and doctors has been increased in anticipation of the improvements in infrastructure at training schools that are now under way. New, internationally recruited senior managers have taken over the central medical stores management and are charged with bringing to an end the perennial stock outs that have frustrated the health services. A new maternal mortality road map offers a way forward to address the unacceptably high level of maternal deaths in Malawi. The Ministry of Health is entering service level agreements with private sector providers, particularly the Christian Hospital Association of Malawi, that will also provide the basic essential health package free-of-charge at point of delivery.

We are encouraging the Government of Malawi to plan for universal access for HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment and to address the further human resources and management requirements that will create. We stand ready to help.

Ministerial Conference (Paris)

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2006 to the right hon. Member for Leeds, West (John Battle), *Official Report*, columns 429-30W, on Ministerial Conference (Paris), whether the UK has agreed to implement the airline ticket levy for international development; what progress has been made on negotiations on whether part of the levy will go towards health and sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services; and if he will make a statement. [81410]

Ed Balls: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is committed to developing innovative financing mechanisms to support accelerated progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, and announced at the Paris Conference on Innovative Financing on 28 February and 1 March 2006 that it will hypothecate part of its existing air passenger duty to provide a long-term stream of finance to the International Finance Facility (IFF) and the pilot IFF for Immunization.

The International Finance Facility is specifically designed to provide the immediate and significant level of funding that is required to support progress towards all the millennium development goals by 2015. The IFF would support significant progress on health in general, as well as on sexual and reproductive health and rights information and services. The frontloading principles of the IFF are already being applied to the health sector through the IFF for immunisation, which will provide $4 billion for vaccinations and is expected to save a total of 10 million lives, including five million children before 2015.

Plant Breeding

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the potential of effective competition legislation to tackle monopolies of rights relating to plant varieties by private sector companies. [79790]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Government consider that the UK's system of plant breeders' rights already provides adequate provisions to address any potential anti-competitive practices. The UK's system is based on the 1991 Convention of the Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (the UPOV Convention) enabled by the Plant Varieties Act 1997 (the Act).

Plant breeders who hold rights exercise control over their protected varieties in order to enable them to recoup development costs and to fund further breeding programmes. Although this is necessary for the development of this sector, there are exceptions to their rights:

i. Section 8 of the Act provides that breeders' rights do not extend to acts done for either private or non-commercial purposes, for experimental purposes, or for the purpose of breeding another variety, and;

ii. Section 17 of the Act makes provision for compulsory licences to be granted to third parties where the Controller of Plant Variety Rights is satisfied that this is necessary to ensure that the variety in question, is available to the public at reasonable prices, is widely distributed, or is maintained in quality.

These provisions ensure that plant breeders' rights are not monopolistic.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the recommendations of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR), how the Government are promoting *(a)* through the Treaty of Amsterdam Article 133 committee and *(b)* at the meeting of the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, the rights of countries (i) not to grant patents for plants and animals, including genes and genetically modified plants and animals and (ii) to provide for the rights of farmers to save and plant-back seed and to allow informal sale and exchange of seeds; and if he will make representations to revise the Convention on the Protection of New Varieties of Plants to support the CIPR's recommendations. [79796]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have no immediate plans to make representations through either the Treaty of Amsterdam Article 133 Committee or the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), which deals with systems of plant variety protection but not patents, to promote the recommendations of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights (CIPR).

In their response to the CIPR report, the Government stressed their commitment to the effective protection of intellectual property rights to stimulate continued innovation. The Government do not regard this as incompatible with the interests of developing countries in respect of plant variety protection or the rights of farmers to plant farm-saved seed which are afforded protection by Article 27.3(b) of the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Article 15 (2) of the 1991 UPOV Convention respectively.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Atomic Energy Agencies

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the United Kingdom's annual contribution has been to the *(a)* European Atomic Energy Agency and *(b)* International Atomic Energy Agency since 1997; what proportion of each payment was made by the United Kingdom (i) public sector and (ii) private sector nuclear industries; and what plans he has to review the level of the annual UK contribution to each organisation. [81069]

Malcolm Wicks: As a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UK is obliged to pay its contribution to the Regular Budget, which pays for most of the IAEA's work and the running of the Agency itself, and is expected to make a payment to the Technical Cooperation Fund, which pays for the IAEA's development programmes in less developed countries. As a UN Agency, UK Government have the responsibility for making these payments.

The UK's contributions to the Regular Budget and Technical Cooperation Fund since 1997 are as follows:

£

	Regular budget	*Technical cooperation fund*
1997	7,670,799	2,249,969
1998	5,950,148	2,368,000
1999	6,143,449	2,267,527
2000	6,291,197	2,386,354
2001	6,561,613	2,577,181
2002	7,459,727	2,504,581
2003	8,019,673	2,470,974
2004	9,083,332	2,250,836
2005	9,811,000	2,405,954
2006	10,994,536	2,656,536

The UK's Regular Budget and Technical Cooperation Fund payments are fixed by reference to slightly modified standardised UN contribution rates. The modification arises because the state membership of the IAEA is not identical to that of the UN, and developing countries were initially "shielded" from paying the full costs of the safeguards component of the Regular Budget. The UK accordingly, this year, paid 6.137 per cent. of the total Regular Budget. The future level of the annual UK contribution to the IAEA will be determined by UN contribution rates at the time.

In addition, the UK has made a number of voluntary contributions to the IAEA since 1997, including contributions totalling £2.6 million to support the Agency's safeguards work, £2 million to the IAEA's Nuclear Security Fund, and £500,000 to support IAEA work to improve internal management processes. Additional non-financial "in-kind" support to help the Agency deliver its safeguards and other activities is provided through the UK nuclear industry, however the financial value of this could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

The UK remains committed to our contribution to the IAEA and the only review of the UK contribution we would seek is to manage down the budget through the achievement of organisational efficiencies.

The UK's contribution to the European Atomic Energy Agency (EAEA) is paid through the UK's general contribution to the European Commission's budget. The EAEA's share of the UK contribution could be calculated only at disproportionate cost.

Business Reviews

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what measures will be put in place to ensure that the business reviews proposed in the Company Law Reform Bill [Lords] will be comparable *(a)* over successive years and *(b)* between companies. [80373]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* As clause 399 subsection (2) of the Company Law Reform Bill sets out, the purpose of the Business Review is to inform members of the company and help them assess how the directors have performed their duty under section 158, which requires a director, in performing his duty to promote the success of the company, to have regard (among other matters) to: (a) the likely consequences of any decision in the long term, (b) the

interests of the company's employees, (c) the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others, (d) the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment, (e) the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct, and (f) the need to act fairly as between members of the company. Subsection (4) of clause 399 requires that the Review is a balanced and comprehensive analysis of (a) the development and performance of the company's business during the financial year, and (b) the position of the company's business at the end of that year, consistent with the size and complexity of the business. The statutory provisions therefore set out the framework of the Business Review, but it is for directors of each company to determine its content according to the circumstances of the particular company. As subsection (6) requires, to the extent necessary for an understanding of the development, performance and position of the company's business, the review must include analysis using key performance indicators. Such indicators will make it easier for members to assess the development, performance and position of the company from year to year.

Compensation Claims

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, *(b)* vibration white finger and *(c)* hearing loss claims have been registered by his Department without further particulars of claim subsequently being submitted. [81040]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* As at 26 June 2006, the Department has 18,203 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims and 1,043 vibration white finger claims with insufficient information to enable them to be progressed. This situation does not arise for hearing loss claims which do not have to be registered in the same way as they are not schemed.

Energy Use

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the energy models his Department uses *(a)* to calculate the geographic and sectoral distribution of UK energy usage and *(b)* to project future energy usage are made available to independent energy analysts on request. [82094]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows:

(a) The breakdown of energy usage by local authority area for domestic, industrial and commercial users are only partially based on energy models. The gas and electricity data are based on actual metered consumption and are collected by DTI under the National Statistics code of practice and protocols. Since these data relate to individual consumers this precludes release to independent energy analysts. The road transport and other fuels data are modelled, and are prepared for DTI by independent consultants. The way these estimates are put together has been described in various articles in the DTI's statistical bulletin "Energy Trends", copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House and at http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/statistics/publications/trends/index.html

(b) The DTI routinely shares knowledge and experience of our modelling with outside agents. The model has not been made available to other users, though substantial material on the basis of the modelling approach can be found on the Updated Energy Projections webpage at http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/environment/projections/index.html

Environmental Regulations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what regulatory simplification proposals his Department has received in relation to environmental regulations since the start of the initiative; which stakeholders have been consulted on each proposal; and if he will make a statement. [81030]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has received two proposals in relation to environmental regulations under the simplify@dti system. These were in relation to the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive and the restriction of hazardous substances directive. In the first instance, since the request was received, I initiated a wide-ranging review of all elements of WEEE policy. Following this review my Department conducted an informal consultation in which a large number of stakeholders were consulted. In the second instance, the suggestion received was examined and found to be untenable as it would have undermined the purpose of the directive.

Nuclear Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what annual fees have been recovered from *(a)* publicly owned nuclear companies, *(b)* non-departmental public bodies dealing with nuclear issues and *(c)* privately owned nuclear companies for the security-related service provided to them by his Department's Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) in each year since the OCNS has had semi-autonomous status. [81071]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows:

OCNS fees

£

	Financial year				
Category	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
(a) Publicly owned	813,531	1,047,561	1,317,639	1,405,489	1,339,775
(b) NDPB	328,271	503,378	370,532	423,792	495,647
(c) Privately owned	186,265	168,060	105,000	375,234	524,288
Total fees	1,328,067	1,718,999	1,793,171	2,204,515	2,359,710

A breakdown of fees for the period 1 October 2000 (when OCNS became part of DTI) and 31 March 2001 is not readily available and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Waste Strategy

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which organisations were consulted during the waste strategy consultation; and if he will make a statement. [80928]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

The consultation on the review of England's waste strategy was open to the public and anyone was welcome to respond. More than 2,500 invitations were sent out to stakeholders including environmental non-Government organisations, central Government, local government, universities, waste and recycling industry, media, consultancies, voluntary and community organisations, trade associations and other interested parties. A full list of the organisations invited to respond is available on the Defra website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/wastestratreview/consultlist.htm.

DEFENCE

Defence Training Review

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the forecast date is for financial close of the two packages of the Defence Training Review public finance initiative programme. [81605]

Mr. Watson: The current forecast date for financial close of the two packages of the Defence Training Review is end 2007. This date, however, is subject to a satisfactory conclusion to the evaluation and approval process, the Preferred Bidders selected and future analysis currently being conducted on the management of risks related to the delivery of the solutions.

Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Apache Mk1 helicopters have been grounded since entering service. [81131]

Mr. Ingram: The term "grounded" has a particular meaning for the Ministry of Defence and refers to an aircraft which is awaiting the resolution of a specific technical query where the answer may affect airworthiness.

Since entering service in January 2001 no Apache Mk1 helicopters have been grounded.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times Lynx *(a)* Mk7 and *(b)* Mk9 helicopters have been grounded because of mechanical problems in the last 12 months. [81137]

Mr. Ingram: The term "grounded" has a particular meaning for the Ministry of Defence and refers to an aircraft which is awaiting the resolution of a specific technical query where the answer may affect airworthiness.

No Lynx Mk7 or Mk9 helicopter has been grounded for any reason in the last 12 months.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Air Force *(a)* Chinook, *(b)* Merlin, *(c)* Sea King and *(d)* Puma helicopters are (i) in service and (ii) fit for purpose. [81132]

Mr. Ingram: "In service aircraft" are those located at front line and training units. An aircraft described as "fit for purpose" is available, reliable, airworthy and capable of carrying out its planned mission on a given date. The numbers of "fit for purpose" aircraft will vary; the following figures are the average for May 2006.

	In service	*Fit for purpose*
Chinook Mk2/Mk2a	28	16
Merlin Mk3	14	8
Sea King	17	9
Puma	26	18

Iraq/Afghanistan Visits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on which occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* his Ministers have visited (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan since January 2005. [81966]

Des Browne: Defence Ministers make frequent visits to all theatres of operation where United Kingdom forces are serving. Since I became the Secretary of State for Defence I have visited Iraq on two occasions and Afghanistan once. Information about these and other visits made by Defence Ministers since 1 January 2005 is in the following table.

	Countries visited
Secretary of State for Defence	
16 to 18 May 2005	Iraq
20 September to 3 October 2005	Afghanistan
2 to 3 December 2005	Iraq
17 to 20 March 2006	Iraq
23 to 26 April 2006	Afghanistan
16 to 18 May 2006	Iraq
11 to 14 June 2006	Afghanistan
18 to 22 June 2006	Iraq
Minister for the Armed Forces	
6 to 9 March 2005	Iraq
14 to 18 July 2005	Afghanistan
Minister for Defence Procurement	
6 to 8 July 2005	Iraq

Military Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank, *(b)* Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle, *(c)* Saxon Armoured Personnel Carrier and *(d)* (i) Sabre, (ii) Spartan, (iii) Scimitar, (iv) Striker, (v) Samson, (vi) Samaritan and (vii) Sultan armoured vehicles are (A) in service and (B) operationally deployable. [81130]

Mr. Ingram: The following table details the numbers of armoured vehicles currently in service and operationally deployable as at 21 April 2006:

Equipment	*Fleet size*	*Operationally deployable*
Challenger 2 Main Battle Tank (CR2 MET)	385	327
Saxon	622	579
Warrior Infantry Fighting Vehicle (all variants)	794	735
Spartan	478	452
Scimitar	328	303
Striker	48	47
Samson	50	48
Samaritan	50	46
Sultan	205	196

The figures quoted for the fleet size include vehicles that are undergoing planned programmed repair and modification, being used for training, with the Design Authority for trials and testing, or in storage.

The operationally deployable figures include vehicles that are undergoing repairs at Unit level and undergoing Bowman conversion.

At any one time a number of the deployable fleet will be undergoing minor repairs in situ at the Unit, and a proportion may be involved in scheduled upgrade programmes, for example Bowman conversion. The number of vehicles available for immediate deployment therefore fluctuates continuously. If a Unit drops below a pre-determined number of deployable vehicles, due to vehicles requiring repair beyond the capability of the Unit and its supporting Battalion, a replacement vehicle is provided.

The Sabre and Scorpion (and variants) have not been included as these vehicles were withdrawn from service in 2004 and 1995 respectively.

Nuclear Deterrent

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether it is his policy to retain a strategic nuclear deterrent in the long-term. [81534]

Des Browne: The Labour party manifesto at the 2005 general election committed the Government to retaining the United Kingdom's independent nuclear deterrent. We have previously made clear that this commitment effectively applies for the life of the current system. No decisions, either in principle or detail, have yet been taken on the position beyond that point. But as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made clear in the House on 28 June, these decisions will be taken later this year.

Records Management

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what rules are established in the Joint Service Defence Records Management Manual concerning the classes or categories of documents that must be retained in the circumstances of a sudden or controversial death; how long these records have to be retained; and what penalties are available following the successful prosecution of a person responsible for the retention of a document or piece of evidence in the event of its destruction. [79839]

Mr. Ingram: The Defence Records Management Manual does not refer specifically to classes or categories of documents relating to sudden or controversial death. Retention of such records may be defined separately: for example, copies of the reports of all Boards of Inquiry into unnatural deaths are required to be held centrally for a minimum of 25 years. Personnel files are preserved in the Department for at least 100 years from the individual's date of birth. The penalties available in the event of any prosecution would depend on the offence that it was alleged had been committed.

Reservists

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reservists have not received bounty payments for training year 2005-06; what the reasons are for the delay; what steps are being taken to compensate reservists for late payments; and what steps his Department is taking to address any impact on the morale of those reservists affected. [80448]

Mr. Watson: Of those reservists who qualified for a bounty in 2005-06, six RNR cases have not yet been paid due to technical queries but they are in the pay system and should be paid in July. In addition, there are 25 members of the RNR who have not fulfilled the strict bounty and eligibility requirements but whose cases are being considered further to see if a waiver is appropriate.

The TA is currently looking into around 27 cases to check that eligibility requirements have been met.

The RAuxAF have paid bounty to all eligible personnel and have no outstanding cases.

SA80 Rifle

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long he expects the SA80 rifle to remain in service in the UK armed forces; and what research is being conducted on a possible replacement. [81110]

Mr. Ingram: The SA80 rifle has an out of service date of 2020. The UK has completed a calibre study to determine the effect required by the next generation of small arms. This research will be continued by the Ministry of Defence.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on reform of the Arts Council. [81232]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* The Arts Council underwent a Peer Review in 2005 which identified a number of key areas for reform. These included the role and structure of its national office, how the Arts Council engages with its stakeholders and how it works with Government.

The Arts Council is responding in each of these areas. A new structure and role for the Arts Council's national office will be in place by the autumn. Engagement with its stakeholders will be improved by addressing issues that arise during an extensive consultation exercise with the sector and the public more widely over the coming months. A new Funding Agreement between my Department and the Arts Council will provide a central focus for the way the Arts Council works with Government.

Casinos

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether guidance will be issued to local authorities to ensure that new casino licensing regulations are applied consistently. [82537]

Mr. Caborn: The Gambling Commission is responsible for issuing guidance to licensing authorities on the manner in which they exercise their functions under the Act. The Commission published the first part of its "Guidance to Licensing Authorities" in April 2006, and this dealt with the development and preparation of local premises licensing policies, including those in respect of casinos.

The Commission will issue further guidance about the regulation of casinos and other gambling premises in due course. All local authorities must have regard to this guidance when carrying out functions under the Act.

The Department is also developing a training package for local authority councillors and officers.

Commonwealth Institute

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library a copy of her correspondence with the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the Commonwealth Institute building. [81021]

Mr. Lammy: It is a long standing convention that information relating to internal discussions and advice is not normally disclosed.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the cost of making payments to the victims of terrorism abroad at the level of the Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme. [82286]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* The Government have announced that they will make a £1 million donation to a charitable fund to offer immediate financial assistance to victims of terrorism abroad.

Details of the fund are still being finalised in discussion with the British Red Cross, but it will not be a statutory compensation scheme in the manner of the Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme. Payments made will not be comparable to those of the CICS but will be at a level that ensures that the contributions made to the fund can support all those who need to claim from it.

Further details will be announced in the coming months.

Free TV Licences

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will extend free television licences to those pensioners below the age of 75 years who are in receipt of pension credit; and if she will make a statement. [81123]

Mr. Woodward: No. As indicated in the BBC Charter Review White Paper published in March this year, concessions have been proposed for a wide range of groups during the Charter Review process. However, there was little consensus as to the criteria on which such concessions should be allocated or how they should be funded. The Government do not therefore propose any changes to the existing range of concessions.

Heritage Protection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to publish the White Paper on heritage protection. [81484]

Mr. Lammy: We hope to publish a White Paper in the autumn 2006.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what Private Members' Bills were drafted by her Department in each session since 1997; and which subsequently received Royal Assent. [77832]

Mr. Lammy: Members will consider a range of possible subjects before introducing their Private Members' Bills.

Government draftsmen do draft some Bills in advance which are available as one of the options for Members to consider before they make their selection.

However, Members may make subsequent amendments or revisions to a Government drafted Bill, or use it as the basis for a Private Members' Bill in the future.

The information requested is therefore not collected.

Music

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on Government support for music and music education. [81485]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are committed to supporting music in all its forms. We are achieving this through increased investment—funding for music through Arts Council England has more than doubled since 1997 to over £100 million this year.

My Department continues to work very closely with the Department for Education and Skills on the Music Manifesto, which will celebrate its second anniversary this month. This sets out a series of shared aims for music education and has the support of over 550 signatories from across the education, cultural and music sectors.

Responsibility for music within schools falls to the Department for Education and Skills.

Through the Live Music Forum, we are working to ensure that opportunities for the promotion of live music are realised to the full.

Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the likely impact of the removal by Sport England of grant to the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group; and if she will make a statement. [81075]

Mr. Caborn: I am advised that Sport England has supported the work of the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) for a number of years, with a grant of £12,000 per annum. This sum was a contribution towards PWTAG's general work in connection with pool water treatment and the preparation of its reference book, "Swimming Pool Water". Unfortunately, due to budgetary pressures, Sport England is now unable to continue this funding and has had to reluctantly withdraw it.

I have asked Sport England for further background information on this decision.

Select Committee Recommendations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what action has been taken by her Department to implement Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee recommendations since the 2001-02 session; and if she will make a statement. [77835]

Mr. Lammy: The following table lists all the Reports from the Culture, Media and Sport select committee to which the Government have responded since the 2001-02 session. An update on all select committee recommendations could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Government in their responses to reports make clear whether or not they accept the Committee's recommendations.

	Government response
Session 2005-06	
Analogue Switch-off: A signal change in television (HC 650)	Cm 6850
Broadcasting Rights for Cricket (HC 720)	Cm 6772
Session 2004-05	
Public Libraries (HC 81)	Cm 6648
A public BBC (HC 82)	Cm 6474
Theatre (HC 254)	Cm 6644
Maritime Heritage and Historic Ships (HC 296)	HC 385 of session 2005-06
Market for Art (HC 414)	Cm 6643
Session 2003-04	
Cultural objects: developments since 2000 (HC 59)	Cm6149
Broadcasting in Transition (HC380)	HC 380 of session 2003-04
Reform of the National Lottery (HC 196)	Cm 6232
Arts Development: Dance (HC 587)	Cm 6326
Drugs and role models in sport: making and setting examples (HC 499)	Cm 6347
Work of the Department in 2002-03 (HC 404)	Cm 6242
Session 2002-03	
National Museums and Galleries: Funding and Free Admission (HC 85)	Cm 5772
A London Olympic bid for 2012 (HC 268)	Cm 5867
The structure and strategy for supporting tourism (HC 65)	Cm 5790
Privacy and media intrusion (HC 458)	Cm 5985
The British film industry (HC 667)	Cm 6022
Session 2001-02	
The Government's proposals for gambling: nothing to lose? (HC 827)	Cm 5622
Communications (HC 539)	Cm 5554
Arts Development (HC 489)	Cm 5533
Testing the waters: the sport of swimming (HC 418)	Cm 5480
Revisiting the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games (HC 842)	Cm 5576
Wembley National Stadium project: into injury time (HC 843)	Cm 5582
Unpicking the Lock: The World Athletics Championships in the UK (HC 264)	Cm 5448

Urban Regeneration

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment she has made of the role of culture in urban regeneration. [81483]

Mr. Lammy: Responses to the Department's consultation document "Culture at the Heart of Regeneration", published in June 2004, made clear the huge interest there is in culturally driven regeneration in a variety of contexts, both urban and rural.

We know, therefore, that culture can be a driving force in achieving urban regeneration. Examples of where this has happened can be found right across the country, from the iconic cultural buildings of Newcastle-Gateshead and Salford Quays to the Eden Centre in Cornwall. We are working across Government and with our cultural bodies to ensure that the value of culture is understood by planners, developers and others, and supports regeneration.

Welsh Language TV

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Government provided to support the production of television programmes in the Welsh language in each year since 1997. [82296]

Mr. Woodward: Government funding for the Welsh Fourth Channel Authority, S4C, for each calendar year since 1997, was:

	£ million
1997	72.223
1998	74.895
1999	77.134
2000	78.218
2001	80.745
2002	81.468
2003	83.634
2004	85.729
2005	88.690

S4C also receives a minimum of 10 hours of Welsh language programmes each week from the BBC, free of charge.

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what date airlines using UK airports will be required to comply with EU legislation on the rights of passengers with disabilities travelling by air. [78988]

Gillian Merron: The European Commission's proposal for a regulation on air passenger rights for people with reduced mobility has been agreed by the European Parliament and was adopted at a meeting of the Council on 9 June. The majority of the provisions will enter into force two years after adoption, although a ban on discrimination against disabled persons and those with reduced mobility will enter into force after one year.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the Access to Air Travel for Disabled People Code of Practice following the treatment by Iberia Airlines of a group of deaf passengers on their flight from London Heathrow in July 2004. [79006]

Gillian Merron: As a Spanish carrier, Iberian Airlines are not subject to the UK voluntary code "Access to Air Travel for Disabled People Code of Practice".

The European Commission's proposal for a regulation on air passenger rights for people with reduced mobility has been agreed by the European Parliament, and was adopted at a meeting of the Council on 9 June.

The Government is looking to publish the findings of a research project shortly, which assessed the UK aviation industry's adherence to the voluntary code "Access to Air Travel for Disabled People Code of Practice". These findings will be used to determine whether to bring UK aviation within the scope of domestic disability legislation, having regard to the forthcoming EU Regulation.

Concessionary Parking

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which local authorities provide *(a)* wholly free parking and *(b)* a concessionary parking scheme for (i) disabled blue badge holders and (ii) senior citizens. [81199]

Gillian Merron: This information is not collected centrally and an estimate could be made only at disproportionate cost

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost to his Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum was accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80491]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS.

The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Credit Unions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will provide information and membership forms for credit unions to its employees. [79936]

Gillian Merron: The Government welcome the contribution made by the various savings institutions in providing for greater choice and diversity in the financial services sector.

The Government's guiding principles are to ensure impartiality and to help create a level playing field for all providers of financial services in order that their specific attributes can be properly harnessed.

It would therefore be inconsistent for a Government Department to favour credit unions above other financial institutions. Employees are of course free to join credit unions if they meet the relevant membership criteria and Departments may provide appropriate levels of support if employees wish to set up a credit union.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list in date order the *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by his Department since October 2005. [81639]

Gillian Merron: There have been no Green or White Papers published by the Department since October 2005.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many successful applications for the release of information from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency vehicle register were made in each year since 2002; and how many such applications were made by *(a)* the police, *(b)* local authorities, *(c)* motor manufacturers, *(d)* housing associations, *(e)* the Environment Agency and *(f)* organisations enforcing parking restrictions on private land in each year. [81426]

Dr. Ladyman: The approximate number of requests for information from the police since 2002 is:

	Million
2002-03	9.6
2003-04	11.2
2004-05	9.8
2005-06	10.2

DVLA does not maintain separate figures on the total number of requests made by local authorities, motor manufacturers, housing associations or organisations enforcing parking restrictions on private land. The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department expects to publish its conclusions relating to its recent review of regulations governing the release of Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency information. [81427]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1416W.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many requests were made to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for the release of information from the vehicle register under Regulation 27 of the Road Vehicles Regulations 2002 in each year since 2002; and how many were successful in each year. [81428]

Dr. Ladyman: The agency does not record how many requests were received and subsequently approved or declined under each individual piece of legislation. Consequently the agency does not have a record of how many requests were received, approved or declined under Regulation 27 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 2002.

Local Transport Budgets

Mr. Fiello: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what formula is used for calculating how much local transport authorities receive for their annual transport budget; and what factors were included in compiling this formula. [81768]

Gillian Merron: Two formulae influence different parts of local authorities' transport capital allocations from the Department for Transport.

Firstly a formula is used to distribute the vast majority of the funding support provided for capital highways maintenance. The factors currently considered in this formula relate to roads and bridges. For roads, they are the lengths and conditions of an authority's principal, classified non-principal and unclassified roads. For bridges, they are the size of the bridge stock and the numbers of bridges requiring strengthening or major maintenance. A minimum amount for bridges per authority of £100,000 is applied. The combined roads and bridges allocations are adjusted to ensure an authority's total allocation does not vary by more than 25 per cent. from the previous year.

Secondly, a formula is being introduced to influence the distribution of the integrated transport block (which is for improvements to local roads and public transport, each of which generally costs less than £5 million). The factors considered in this formula are related directly or indirectly to the transport shared priorities, as agreed between Government and the Local Government Association in 2002. The priorities and variables are shown in the following table. In addition, the formulaic distribution of funding takes into account previous ministerial commitments, European Union objective one designations and South East growth areas.

Transport shared priority	*Formula variable (More = more funding)*
Road safety	Road casualty numbers
Accessibility	Degree of deprivation rural population
Congestion and accessibility	Bus and light rail patronage
Congestion	Population (weighted towards large towns)
Air quality	Districts in Air Quality Management Areas

A further formula related to highways maintenance is used within the calculations for the distribution of revenue support grant. This grant supports local authority transport budgets, but it is not allocated by the Government between individual council services.

London Underground

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much Government subsidy was paid to London Underground in each year between 1997 and responsibility passing to Transport for London. [81743]

Gillian Merron: London Underground Limited (LUL) was transferred from central Government to Transport for London (TfL) on 15 July 2003. The following table sets out the grant paid to London Regional Transport (LRT), the subsequent amount provided to LUL from that grant including funding for the Jubilee line extension.

£ million (cash)

	London Regional Transport Grant[1,2]	*Of which for London Underground capital and operations*[3]	*Of which for Jubilee Line extension construction*
1997-98	630	544	506
1998-99	411	313	267
1999-2000	816	637	498
2000-01	315	227	—
2001-02[3]	483	460	—
2002-03[3]	767	742	—
2003-04[4,5]	867	1,218	—

[1] Up to July 2000 (when TfL was established) a single grant was paid to LRT to support LUL, London Buses, Croydon Tramlink etc. LUL grant was not recorded separately by the Department and figures for LUL are provided by their accounts.
[2] Between July 2000 and July 2003 the grant provided to LRT was primarily for LUL, but see [3] as follows.
[3] In 2001-02 LRT spent £24 million and in 2002-03 £25 million on restructuring and re-organising LT Group, principally on LUL prior to the implementation of the Public Private Partnership (PPP).
[4] In 2003-04 the grant for LUL was paid to LRT until July 2003 when LUL transferred to TfL. The remaining balance of £351 million for LUL in 2003-04 was paid as part of the GLA Transport Grant from August 2003 and is not included in the LRT Grant total for that year.
[5] LRT Grant for 2003-04 included £182 million deferred payment from 2002-03 due to the delayed start of the PPP contracts.

Motorways

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated *(a)* book cost, *(b)* renewal cost and *(c)* market value is of the (i) motorway and (ii) trunk road network. [81066]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency values the motorway and trunk road network in England at depreciated replacement cost and the values at 31 March 2006 were (i) £42.471 billion for motorways and (ii) £33.726 billion for trunk roads.

Due to the specialised nature of this asset an open market value cannot be determined for the motorway and trunk road network.

Number Plate Cloning

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many car number plate cloning incidents were recorded in *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset and *(c)* the South West region in each of the last five years. [82185]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available.

Offshore Wind Farms

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many individuals in the Maritime Coastguard Agency are working on responses to offshore wind farm applications; and what estimate he has made of the length of time which will elapse between receipt of and response to outstanding applications. [81456]

Dr. Ladyman: The consideration of the maritime safety element of offshore wind farm applications is the responsibility of one individual in the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), consulting with colleagues on matters of technical detail, as necessary.

The MCA has recently adopted a target to process applications within 90 days of receipt.

Post Office Network Services

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies (i) make available and (ii) have made available in the last five years through the Post Office network; through how many outlets the service is or was made available; and how many relevant transactions were undertaken in each case in the most recent year for which figures are available. [79196]

Gillian Merron: (i) A Vehicle Re-licensing (car tax renewal) and a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) service is provided over the counter in approximately 4,600 Motor Vehicle Licensing (MVL) Post Office® branches. Postal applications are handled in 120 of these branches.

A Photocard Driving Licence Premium Service, checking application forms and supporting identity documents, is provided in approximately 740 Post Office® branches.

A range of vehicle and driving licence forms, leaflets and booklets are held in all 14,000 branches.

(ii) Over the last five years Post Office Ltd/DVLA has introduced a new electronic system for both vehicle re-licensing and making a Statutory Off-Road Notification (SORN) at MVL Post Office® branches through reading barcodes on application forms/ registration certificates.

Since August 2004, when re-licensing their vehicle or making a Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN), customers have been able to notify a change of tax class into the disabled tax class at MVL Post Office® branches.

In March 2004, DVLA and Post Office Ltd reached commercial agreement to extend the network of offices able to offer the vehicle re-licensing service by over 600 mainly rural Post Office® branches.

In March 2006 DVLA and Post Office Ltd reached commercial agreement to extend the network of offices able to offer the Photocard Driving Licence Premium Service by over 40 Post Office® branches.

In the last financial year approximately 38 million vehicle licences were issued by the Post Office and over 2.3 million SORNs were received. Of these, over 160,000 customers changed their vehicle into the disabled tax class.

In the last financial year over 650,000 customers used the Photocard Driving Licence Premium Service at Post Office® branches.

Railways

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average subsidy per passenger kilometre is for lines in the London region. [82088]

Derek Twigg: This information is available in the Office of Rail Regulation publication "National Rail Trends", copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of rail journeys he estimates were made by people living in the London area in 2005-06. [82089]

Derek Twigg: Based on data from the National Travel Survey, it is estimated that 36 per cent. of rail journeys in Great Britain in 2004 were made by residents of greater London.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of rail journeys are started or ended in London. [82091]

Derek Twigg: The information is published in the National Rail Trends Yearbook editions, which are available in the House Library.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress Arriva Trains Wales is making in refurbishing *(a)* 142, *(b)* 143, *(c)* 150 and *(d)* 158 class units; and if he will make a statement. [80633]

Derek Twigg: Arriva Trains Wales (ATW) last refurbished the class 142s and 143s between 2000 and 2002, which included external painting, installation of new seats, floors, body panels and handles being fitted. Currently eight of the fleet are being repainted to complete the refurbishment of this class.

ATW's class 150s were last refurbished between 2000 and 2002, which included installing new seats, floors and body panels. Since then, 13 of these trains have been added to ATW. ATW are currently refurbishing these. To date, nine have been completed, with the remaining four being completed by the end of August 2006.

In relation to ATW's class 158s, ATW have said that there are currently no plans to refurbish this rolling stock.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 21W, on railways, what class of rolling stock will be transferred to Arriva Trains Wales on the Swansea to Cardiff route in December 2006; who the manufacturer is; who the previous operating company was; and what the age of the stock is. [80725]

Derek Twigg: The vehicles to be operated by Arriva Train Wales on the Swansea to Cardiff route are three car class 175 units, built by Alstom. These vehicles were previously sub-leased by ATW to Trans-Pennine Express. The stock is around six years old.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of rail freight passing through London crosses Battersea railway bridge. [82087]

Derek Twigg: The Department does not hold information regarding the number of freight train services on specific lines of the rail network.

Inquiries of this nature should be directed to Network Rail.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to safeguard transport corridors through land controlled by the British Railways Board. [82340]

Derek Twigg: Details of the Department for Transport's guidance to BRB (Residuary) Ltd. on the disposal of property can be seen on the company's website at http://www.brb.gov.uk/land_disposal.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the residual value of the property held by the British Railways Board. [82341]

Derek Twigg: Details of the value of property held by BRB (Residuary) Ltd. is contained in the annual report of the company which can be seen on the BRB (R) website at http://www.brb.gov.uk/annual_report/annual-report-2005.

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations his Department has made to encourage the use of Sunday rail services in areas where it would be beneficial for the promotion of local tourism and leisure activities; and what special grants are available for additional Sunday rail services in such areas. [80805]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Government do not make any specific grants to encourage the use of Sunday rail services, but are investing heavily in rail and this is yielding results in terms of additional passengers on Sundays and other days of the week. The Government specify the minimum level of services through the franchising process.

Road Accidents (Somerset)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* road accident fatalities and *(b)* personal injury road accidents there were in (i) Yeovil constituency and (ii) Somerset in each year since 1997. [82187]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of *(a)* road accident fatalities and *(b)* personal injury road accidents there were in (i) Yeovil constituency and (ii) Somerset in each year from 1997 to 2005 is shown in the table. Constituency level data for 2005 are currently unavailable.

Number of (a) road accident fatalities and (b) personal injury road accidents in (i) Yeovil constituency and (ii) Somerset: 1997-2005

	Somerset		Yeovil constituency	
	Fatalities	Accidents	Fatalities	Accidents
1997	41	1,839	7	330
1998	53	1,880	8	356
1999	34	1,819	8	309
2000	44	1,866	7	361
2001	47	1,857	10	353
2002	47	1,884	11	389
2003	41	1,759	9	318
2004	43	1,757	6	323
2005	35	1,888	—	—

Road Maintenance

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost per mile of maintenance of motorways and trunk roads was in each of the maintenance areas of the Highways Agency in each of the last five years. [81089]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table shows expenditure on road maintenance (on the strategic road network) per network mile since 2000-01. Figures are based on published annual reports. Information on a regional basis is not available.

The table also includes information on spending per lane mile from 2001-02, since this provides a more meaningful comparison.

	Spending per mile (£)	Spending per lane mile (£)
2000-01	120,100	[1]—
2001-02	121,300	31,300
2002-03	148,160	35,700
2003-04	150,700	35,600
2004-05	159,000	36,100

[1] Information on lane miles managed by HA is readily available from 2001-02 only.

Road Pricing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the first road pricing pilot to be operational. [82206]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport expects to receive the first scheme proposals from local authorities for road pricing pathfinder schemes next year, with pricing pathfinders possibly becoming operational in four to five years.

The Government also recently announced that they would allocate £10 million for demonstration projects to help us understand more about how road pricing schemes would operate in practice. A Prior Information Notice, which alerts companies that may be interested in bidding for the work, will be released shortly. We expect that the demonstration projects will commence in spring 2007, and that they will run for around one to two years.

Road Safety

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of road fatalities in Hornsey and Wood Green constituency in 2005; what the average was for London boroughs; and if he will make a statement [81517]

Dr. Ladyman: The average number of fatalities in London boroughs in 2005 was 6. Constituency level data for 2005 is currently unavailable.

Road Tolls

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the rate of tolling in pence per *(a)* mile and *(b)* kilometre in current prices that would be required to reduce congestion on the motorway network. [81585]

Dr. Ladyman: The appropriate level of charges for any national road pricing or tolling scheme covering the motorway network would depend on a wide range of factors. It is not currently possible to estimate what price levels would be appropriate.

Safety Cameras

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras have been vandalised in the past 12 months. [82310]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 15 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2054W, to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans).

Seat Belts

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 37W, on seat belts, what representations his Department received between 1976 and 1983; and if he will make a statement. [82632]

Dr. Ladyman: There would have been many representations in the years mentioned when seat belt wearing in front seats was being made compulsory. Over 20 years later, I have no statement to make.

Thames Gateway

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether there is an overall plan for the development of transport links for London commuters as the Thames Gateway is redeveloped; and who has overall responsibility for developing transport in the Thames Gateway area; [79284]

(2) what public transport links are to be developed across the Thames Gateway region in order to support the Government's target for jobs to be created by the project. [79290]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department of Communities and Local Government are producing a Strategic Framework for the Thames Gateway, in collaboration with other Government Departments, regional and sub-regional partners.

This will assist Government in determining the strategic transport requirements to support housing and economic growth in the Gateway. It will also continue on from the programme of work already set out in 'Creating Sustainable Communities—Delivering the Thames Gateway (March 2005)'. This sets out the Government's aim to regenerate and develop the Gateway and identified the strategic locations and key housing sites with the necessary transport infrastructure that will be required.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the planned transport expenditure for the Thames Gateway redevelopment is to be used to improve *(a)* buses, *(b)* trains, *(c)* car sharing, *(d)* underground and *(e)* other public transport services. [79316]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport has delivered or is committed to deliver direct investment of £1.6 billion in transport in the Thames Gateway area. That figure includes £700 million on public transport measures and £900 million on both strategic and local roads.

Transport Finance (South-West)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been made available to *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset and *(c)* the South West region in local transport plan funding for each year since 1997. [82186]

Gillian Merron: The information setting out the amounts of funding that have been made available to Somerset county council and to other local authorities in the south west region for local transport plans for each year since 1997 has previously been placed in the Libraries of the House. The information is also available under the February Freedom of Information responses sections on the Department for Transport website (www.dft.gov.uk).

The Department does not allocate most local transport plan funding to individual constituency areas. It is up to Somerset county council where it allocates the fund support provided for the county according to its local priorities.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Vehicle and Operator Services Agency teams are based at UK ports; how many foreign vehicles were found to be committing infringements in 2005-06; what actions were taken against non-UK vehicles and their drivers; and how many prosecutions have followed stops in 2005-06. [82007]

Dr. Ladyman: There are no Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) teams based at British Ports. The majority of enforcement is carried out by intercepting traffic on arterial roads leading to/from a port. By agreement of an individual Port Authority VOSA do visit some ports but this activity is not similar to the statutory presence of Customs and Special Branch officers who are located directly at the port.

The number of foreign vehicles found to be committing infringements during 2005-06 and the action taken is given in the table:

Roadworthiness prohibitions issued

	Number issued
Heavy goods vehicles	5,396
Passenger service vehicles	46

Traffic enforcement prohibitions issued

	Drivers hours and Tachograph records	*Overloading*
Heavy goods vehicles	4,403	1,423
Passenger service vehicles	30	13

No foreign drivers or operators were prosecuted by VOSA in 2005-06.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

CPS Targets

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General who in the Crown Prosecution Service is responsible for progress on each of the targets set out on pages 16 to 22 of Cm 6821, the Law Officers' departmental report 2006; to whom each person reports; what discussions he has had with stakeholders about implementation of each target; and if he will make a statement. [78600]

The Solicitor-General: Peter Lewis, Director of Business Development has responsibility for the targets of increasing the number of offences brought to justice, and John Graham, Director of Finance has responsibility for the targets on improving public confidence, delivering efficiencies and value for money. Both report to the Chief Executive.

Regular consultation on the PSA and criminal justice system (CJS) targets is conducted with CJS colleagues and other stakeholders through the work of the National Criminal Justice Board and Local Criminal Justice Boards. The Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General, the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Chief Executive are all members of the National Criminal Justice Board, and play a full and positive part in its work.

Legislation

Mr. Ames: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) which Government Bills sponsored by the Law Officers remain to be introduced during the 2005-06 Session; [77850]

(2) which Government Bills he has bid for in the next Session of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [77851]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Commonwealth Institute

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Government contributed to the maintenance and running costs of the Commonwealth Institute building in each year between 1996 and 2000. [81167]

Dr. Howells: Figures for calendar years are not available. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) paid the Commonwealth Institute:

£1 million in the financial year 1996-97;

£1.1 million in 1997-98;

£600,000 in 1998-99;

£600,000 in 1999-2000.

The severance arrangements agreed between the FCO and the Commonwealth Institute in January 2000 provided for the payment of a further £8 million, about half of which was ring fenced for property maintenance.

East Timor

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Cynon Valley of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 315W, on East Timor, in what way the UK has expressed concern about impunity for those responsible for human rights abuses in Timor-Leste, with particular reference to abuses committed in 1999; at what level and in which forums concerns were raised in each year since 1999; what the outcomes were in each case; and if she will make a statement. [81719]

Mr. McCartney: The UK has often expressed concern about impunity for those responsible for the human rights abuses in East Timor and we note the decision of the Government of East Timor to pursue these issues with Indonesia through their bilateral Commission for Truth and Friendship.

We have expressed these concerns on a number of occasions at various levels and in different fora. However, we are unable to provide the information requested by the hon. Member as this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Gibraltar

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government will consider the forthcoming referendum in Gibraltar to approve the new constitution to be an act of self-determination by the people of Gibraltar. [82615]

Mr. Hoon: As my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr Jack Straw) set out in his written ministerial statement of 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 44-46W, the new constitution provides for a modern and mature relationship between the UK and Gibraltar. I do not think that this description would apply to any relationship based on colonialism. The new constitution confirms the right of self-determination of the Gibraltarian people. The realisation of that right must be promoted and respected in conformity with the provisions of the UN Charter and any other applicable international treaties. Gibraltar's right of self-determination is not constrained by the Treaty of Utrecht except insofar as Article X gives Spain the right of refusal should Britain ever renounce Sovereignty. Thus independence would only be an option with Spanish consent. Her Majesty's Government recognise that the act of deciding on their acceptance of the new constitution in the forthcoming referendum will be an exercise of the right of self-determination by the Gibraltarian people in that context.

The new constitution does not in any way diminish British sovereignty and gives Gibraltar much greater control over its internal affairs and that degree of self-government compatible with British sovereignty and the UK's continuing international responsibilities. If the new constitution is agreed the UK will retain its full international responsibility for Gibraltar, including for Gibraltar's external relations and defence, and as the member state responsible for Gibraltar in the EU. The UK's long standing commitment that the UK will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their wishes will be unchanged. This is also set out clearly in the Despatch which will be published at the same time as the Gibraltar Constitution Order and the draft of which I will place in the Library of the House. I will also send a copy to my hon. Friend.

It has also been the UK's long standing view that none of its remaining overseas territories, including Gibraltar, should remain on the UN list of non self-governing territories, despite the different circumstances affecting Gibraltar, namely the application of the Treaty of Utrecht as noted earlier. However, the criteria used by the UN are outdated and fail to take account of the way that relationships between the UK and its overseas territories have been modernised. The UK does not, therefore, engage formally to seek the removal of any of the overseas territories from the UN list.

Gurkha Regiment

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the requirements are for ex-servicemen of the Gurkha regiment to be issued with visas to visit the UK. [81511]

Dr. Howells: Gurkhas serving in the British Army are exempt from immigration control as are other Foreign and Commonwealth personnel serving in HM forces. Upon discharge, when they cease to be exempt, they may apply for settlement and subsequently naturalisation in the UK.

If ex-servicemen of the Gurkha regiment wish to visit the UK, they need to meet the visit visa requirements of the immigration rules. The requirements to be met by a person seeking entry clearance as a visitor are that he/she: is genuinely seeking entry as a visitor for a limited period as stated by him/her, not exceeding six months; and intends to leave the UK at the end of the period of the visit as stated by him/her; and does not intend to take employment in the UK; and does not intend to produce goods or provide services (including the selling of goods or services direct to members of the public) within the United Kingdom; and does not intend to study at a maintained school (exchange students may be treated exceptionally) and will maintain and accommodate him/herself and any dependants adequately, and can meet the cost of the return or onward journey. Further information on visit visa requirements can be found on the UKvisas website at:

http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk

Indonesia

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Indonesian Government on compensation for the families of victims killed in the bombings in Bali in 2002. [82104]

Mr. McCartney: Our embassy in Jakarta sent a diplomatic note to the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 2 June 2003, stating that

> "Some of the relatives of those British nationals killed or injured or British nationals directly involved in the Bali bombing on 12 October 2002 intend to submit a claim for compensation under the Indonesian Government Regulation as Substitution of Law 1 of 2002, regarding Elimination of Criminal Acts of Terrorism (GRI)".

Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what military equipment has been provided by the UK to Iran to assist in counter-narcotics operations in the last three years. [58244]

Margaret Beckett *[pursuant to the reply, 21 March 2006, Official Report, c.334-35W]:* I regret that an inaccurate answer was given to part of the right hon. Member's question. The answer given states that the then Foreign Secretary, Lord Hurd, and the then Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister, Tony Lloyd, gave statements on 1 March 1993 and 28 September 1998 respectively. The statements were in fact written answers to hon. Members and the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Central was made on 28 January 1998.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will assess the *(a)* likelihood and *(b)* likely effectiveness of placing sanctions on Iran in case of a breakdown of negotiations. [81579]

Dr. Howells: We remain deeply concerned that, despite repeated requests by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors and the United Nations Security Council, Iran is continuing uranium enrichment-related and reprocessing activity that will enable it to develop the capability to produce fissile material suitable for use in nuclear weapons, and is not co-operating fully with the IAEA.

On 1 June, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and her French, German, US, Russian and Chinese colleagues and Javier Solana, EU High Representative, agreed a way forward that would give Iran everything it needs to develop a modern civil nuclear power industry, as well as bringing Iran far reaching political and economic benefits, while meeting international concerns. We hope that Iran will respond to these proposals soon and take the positive path offered. Ministers also agreed on 1 June that if Iran decides not to engage in negotiation, further steps would have to be taken in the Security Council.

Our efforts remain focused on securing an early, positive response to the proposals. But we cannot rule out measures against Iran, including sanctions, at some point if they become necessary to ensure that Iran complies with its obligations and takes steps to establish the peaceful intentions of its nuclear programme.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said in the House on 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1314:

> "We all hope that it will not be necessary to move towards sanctions, but if it is necessary to do so, the sanctions will be those that people feel are capable of having an effect."

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether the UK supplies military equipment to Iran in support of its counter-narcotics operations; and if he will make a statement; [57201]

(2) what assessment he has made of the extent to which European countries provide military equipment to Iran for use in its counter-narcotics operations; and if he will make a statement. [57203]

Dr. Howells *[pursuant to the replies, 9 March 2006, Official Report, c. 1687-88W]:* I regret that inaccurate answers were given to part of the hon. Member's questions. The answers given state that the then Foreign Secretary, Lord Hurd, and the then Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister, Tony Lloyd, gave statements on 1 March 1993 and 28 September 1998 respectively. The statements were in fact written answers to hon. Members and the reply given by my hon. Friend the Member for Manchester, Central was made on 28 January 1998.

Israel

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have made to the Government of Israel in the last 12 months regarding its detention of Palestinian children taken by Israeli forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and on what occasion such representations were last made at ministerial level; [82168]

(2) what representations *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have made to the Government of Israel in the last 12 months regarding its detention without trial of Palestinians taken by Israeli forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and on what occasion such representations were last made at ministerial level. [82169]

Dr. Howells: We remain concerned by Israel's policy of administrative detention, particularly that of minors. We last raised Palestinian prisoners with the Israeli Ministry for Foreign Affairs on 15 June and our ambassador in Tel Aviv last raised this with Israeli Prime Minister Olmert's special advisor on 22 March.

We have not made any representations at ministerial level in the last 12 months.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received from the UN about the numbers of *(a)* Palestinians and *(b)* Israelis (i) killed and (ii) injured during May and June 2006; how many (A) Palestinians were (1) killed and (2) injured by (x) Israeli fire and (y) internal violence, (B) Israelis were (aa) killed and (bb) injured by Palestinian fire and (C) (xx) Palestinians and (yy) Israelis were (AA) killed and (BB) injured from a disputed source; and if she will describe the disputes involved. [82173]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* We rely on a range of organisations including the UN and media reports for our figures.

The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported on 27 June that, in May 2006, 30 Palestinians were killed and 100 injured by Israeli fire and Palestinian internal fighting. In June 2006, OCHA state that 57 Palestinians were killed and 196 injured. No Israelis were killed or injured by Israeli fire or Palestinian internal violence in May 2006. Two Israelis were killed and 14 injured in June 2006.

In May 2006, 20 Palestinians were killed and 28 injured from Israeli fire or a disputed source in Gaza. 43 Palestinians were killed and 114 injured in June 2006. Between 8-31 May, 10 Palestinians were killed and 72 injured from internal violence in Gaza. From 1-25 June, 14 Palestinians were killed and 82 injured.

In June 2006, OCHA reported that two Israeli defence force soldiers were killed at Kerem Shalom military post. The majority of Israelis injured by Palestinian home-made rockets occurred in Sderot and the neighbouring towns.

On 9 June, seven Palestinians were killed on Gaza beach from either incoming Israeli fire or unexploded ordinance. The circumstances of this incident have been disputed by the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Government.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* reports she has received from the UN and *(b)* estimate she has made of the numbers of Israeli air force strikes into the Gaza Strip during May and June. [82174]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* We rely on a range of organisations including the UN and media reports for our figures. On 27 June, the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, stated that there were 14 Israel air force air strikes in Gaza in May and 33 in June.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* reports she has received from the UN and *(b)* estimate she has made of the numbers of Israeli defence force artillery shells fired into the Gaza Strip during May and June 2006. [82175]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* We rely on a range of organisations including the UN and media reports for our figures. The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported on 27 June, that 2,435 Israeli defence force shells were fired into Gaza in May and a total of 642 shells were fired in June.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* reports she has received from the UN and *(b)* estimate she has made of the numbers of Palestinian home-made rockets fired from the Gaza Strip during May and June 2006. [82176]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* We rely on a range of organisations including the UN and media reports for our figures. On 27 June the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, reported that 132 Palestinian home-made rockets were fired from Gaza in May and 237 fired in June.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Israel regarding the round of military incursions into Gaza which commenced on 27 June. [82177]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* Our ambassador in Tel Aviv discussed the recent Israeli military actions in Gaza with Israeli Defence Minister Peretz on 28 June. The Israeli Defence Minister emphasised that Israel had no intention of re-occupying Gaza, and that the operation would be measured and targeted and that Israel would do all it could to avoid civilian casualties. Our embassy in Tel Aviv and officials in London have continued to engage with Israel on the issue.

North Korea

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what action the British Government *(a)* have taken and *(b)* plan to take in response to North Korea's development and proposed testing of an intercontinental ballistic missile; [82245]

(2) what discussions she has had with her counterparts from other countries to discuss North Korea's development and proposed testing of an intercontinental ballistic missile. [82246]

Mr. McCartney: We are very concerned about reports of a possible test-launch of a Taepodong-2 missile/Satellite Launch Vehicle and are monitoring the situation closely. We have made clear our view to the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, as have the EU, US, Japan and

others that this would be seen as a provocative act, which would add considerable tension to an already complex regional situation. We have urged them not to test, but to stick to their commitments under the 1999 moratorium and the 2002 Pyongyang Declaration and return to the Six Party Talks—a message reiterated in the Foreign Ministers' statement following the G8 meeting in Moscow. The full text of the statement can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/G8FMChairman Statement290606.pdf. We continue to work closely with allies, including US, NATO and EU partners to ensure a co-ordinated international response if the test goes ahead.

Western Sahara

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK Government's preferred policy is *(a)* talks between the Polisario Front and Morocco on autonomy for the Western Sahara under Moroccan sovereignty and *(b)* a referendum on self determination for the people of Western Sahara; and if she will make a statement. [82043]

Dr. Howells: The Government's policy on the issue of the status of Western Sahara remains unchanged. The UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan and his Personal Envoy to Western Sahara, Peter Van Walsum, to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. We continue to urge all parties involved in the dispute to engage constructively with the UN.

The UK supported UN Security Council Resolution 1675, adopted on 28 April, which extended the mandate of the UN Mission for a Referendum in Western Sahara until 31 October 2006. There are, however, no plans for a UN referendum to be held in the near future.

SCOTLAND

Sewel Convention

10. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he expects to respond to the report of the Scottish Affairs Committee: "The Sewel Convention: the Westminster perspective". [80916]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Bexleyheath and Crayford (Mr. Evennett) at column 636.

Foreign Students

11. **Mrs. Curtis-Thomas:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what factors were taken into account when deciding to offer foreign students with student visas in Scotland the option to work for a period of two years following graduation; and if he will make a statement. [80917]

David Cairns: This is a matter for Scottish Ministers. The fresh talent working in Scotland scheme was launched in June 2005 to help encourage more people to live and work in Scotland.

Fuel Price Increases

12. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the impact of recent fuel price increases on consumers in Scotland. [80918]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Government and the Scottish Executive continue to monitor the impact of recent energy price increases, and to discuss with suppliers what further action might be taken to assist the most vulnerable groups.

Devolution

13. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent devolution issues the Advocate General has considered. [80919]

David Cairns: Since 3 June, 60 devolution issues have been intimated to the Advocate General. Of these 60 devolution issues, 42 arose in civil proceedings and 18 in criminal proceedings.

Gaelic Speakers

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many Gaelic speakers there are in Scotland; and what proportion this represents of the Scottish population. [82242]

David Cairns: The 2001 Census showed that there are 58,652 Gaelic speakers in Scotland which represents 1.2 per cent. of the Scottish population.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on information technology (IT) sourced from outside his Department in each of the last five years; who is responsible for such projects in his Department; and what IT *(a)* expertise and *(b)* qualifications they possess. [71780]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office operates an information technology system through the Scottish Executive, which is responsible for the administration, support and maintenance of the system. Accordingly, the Executive is responsible for sourcing and awarding such contracts.

The expenditure attributable to outsourced information technology was as follows:

	Expenditure (£)
2001-02	
2002-03	36,42
2003-04	38,641
2004-05	24,718
2005-06	4,641

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was in each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71781]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has only one outsourced IT contract which is for the production and design of the Scotland Office website, on-going maintenance, and hosting of the site; consequently, it is not possible to provide estimated outturn figures. However, the following table below details the expenditure in each year;

	Expenditure (£)
2001-02	0
2002-03	36,427
2003-04	38,641
2004-05	24,718
2005-06	4,641

Olympics

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which officials in his Department *(a)* are responsible for Olympics-related activity and *(b)* sit on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group for the Olympics. [81567]

David Cairns: Olympics-related activity for Scotland is the responsibility of Scottish Ministers. However, Scotland Office officials examine Government proposals on the Olympics and how they relate to Scotland. The Scottish Executive provides representation on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Assets Recovery Agency

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total value of property and possessions confiscated by the Assets Recovery Agency was in the last financial year in Northern Ireland. [77369]

Paul Goggins: Confiscation is triggered by prosecutors post-conviction. The Assets Recovery Agency is not a prosecuting body, and therefore has not confiscated any assets. However, in 2005-06 using its civil recovery powers the Assets Recovery Agency recovered assets to the value of £0.77 million in Northern Ireland.

Car Parks

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff are employed at each pay and display car park in Northern Ireland to ensure vehicles display the correct payment sticker on the windscreen. [81672]

David Cairns: The Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, Mr. Geoff Allister, has written to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Mr. Geoff Allister, dated 3 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a parliamentary question regarding how many staff are employed at each pay and display car park in Northern Ireland to ensure vehicles display the correct payment sticker on the windscreen. I have been asked to reply as these issues fall within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service.

Roads Service is responsible for the management of 82 Pay and Display car parks across Northern Ireland. Forty of these are operated through private contractors and as such no Roads Service staff are involved in patrolling these car parks. Roads Service employs 15 car park attendants to patrol around the remaining 42 car parks and take appropriate action when a vehicle fails to display evidence that the required fee has been paid.

I hope this information is helpful.

Civil Servants

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff there are in the Northern Ireland civil service. [77352]

Mr. Hanson: The number of staff (permanent and temporary) working in the 11 Northern Ireland Departments and the NIO, including agencies, at 1 April 2006 was as follows:

	Permanent	*Temporary*	*Total*
11 NI Departments	26,724	483	27,207
NIO[1]	1,925	56	1,981
Total	28,649	539	29,188

[1] NIO figures exclude home civil service staff, PSNI, Youth Justice Agency non-admin staff, and uniformed Prison Service staff.

Consultants

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the consultancy contracts entered into by the Central Procurement Directorate on behalf of public bodies in Northern Ireland during *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost to public funds was of each contract; and if he will make a statement. [76788]

Mr. Hanson: Details of consultancy contracts entered into by the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD) on behalf of public bodies in Northern Ireland, including their purpose and cost, during *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06 will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what websites come under his Department's responsibility; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* number of visitors to those sites was in the last three years for which figures are available. [78775]

Mr. Hain: The core Northern Ireland Office (NIO) is responsible for three websites, the NIO website, Organised Crime Task Force (OCTF) website, and the Criminal Justice Services Northern Ireland (CJSNI) website. Associated costs, hits and visitors to each website for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows:

		Unique visitors[2]		
	Costs (£)	*January to December*	*Number*	*Hits*
NIO website				
2003-04	[1]730.31	2003	229,095	15,987,883
2004-05	51,205.91	2004	198,637	14,882,907
2005-06	9,118.00	2005	171,683	12,945,298
OCTF website				
2003-04	—	2003	15,999	784,483
2004-05	540.50	2004	9,736	328,672
2005-06	14,327.95	2005	21,811	677,331
CJSNI website				
2003-04	—	2003	7,158	260,712
2004-05	—	2004	9,311	365,205
2005-06	5,306.12	2005	12,620	752,326

[1] Includes design costs for new websites in the indicated year.
[2] For clarification, unique visitors are defined as those who are counted only once no matter how many times they visit the site in a calendar month.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of his Department. [80081]

Mr. Hain: The information is as follows:

(a) Paul Priestly is the Director of Resources (equivalent of finance director) for the Northern Ireland Office. The director of resources role covers finance, human resources, information technology, procurement, accommodation, transport and travel etc.

(b) BA hons. Paul Priestly does not hold a professional accountancy qualification, but the Assistant Director, Financial Services, is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (ICAI).

(c) He was appointed in January 2004. He was previously head of the NIO's Criminal Justice Reform Division and was Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the draft Bills produced by his Department since October 2005; how many were examined or are planned to be examined by *(a)* a departmental Select Committee or a combination of Select Committees and *(b)* a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [81636]

Mr. Hain: There have been no such draft Bills relating to Northern Ireland.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the unnumbered Command Papers produced by his Department in each session since 1976; how *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if he will make a statement. [81638]

Mr. Hain: My Department does not keep records of unnumbered Command Papers. The content of such papers are brought to the attention of Members and members of the public through the issue of written ministerial statements. Copies are placed in the Library and can be inspected and obtained from there.

Disabled SmartPasses

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take steps to enable Disabled SmartPasses to be used for identification purposes for voting in elections in Northern Ireland. [20535]

Mr. Hanson: I should like to apologize for the delay in replying to this question, which was due to an administrative error.

The Government have no plans to increase the number of specified documents used for electoral identity purposes. The Electoral Identity Card was introduced with the express purpose of allowing all eligible individuals access to appropriately secure photographic identification for voting purposes. The application process for the card is straightforward: the applicant is required to complete a form supplied by the Electoral Office and then return the completed form by post, together with a photograph. The details on the form are then cross-referenced with the relevant individual's registration details before the card is issued.

I have been assured by the chief electoral officer that there are no accessibility issues that would make it difficult for a disabled person to attain the card.

In addition to the Electoral Identity Card, three other types of document—a passport, the Senior Citizen SmartPass and a photographic driving licence—are valid forms of voter identification. However, the application process for the Disabled SmartPass is currently less secure than any of the other documents used for electoral identification purposes.

Ex-prisoners

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people who have been released from prison after serving a sentence for a violent or sexual crime in Northern Ireland who are still living there are regarded as at high risk of re-offending. [80749]

Mr. Hanson: PBNI are currently supervising 15 offenders in the community following release from custody for a violent crime who have been assessed as posing a high risk of re-offending. There are a further 15 offenders managed in the community under the

multi-agency sex offenders risk assessment and management (MASRAM) procedures following release from custody for a sexual crime who have been assessed as posing a high risk of re-offending.

Fuel Prices

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the recent price increase on solid fuel in Northern Ireland on fuel poverty among elderly people. [81356]

Mr. Hanson: While the number of elderly households who rely on solid fuel to heat their homes has reduced significantly in recent times, the 6.4 per cent. price increase will have an impact on those who rely on this type of fuel. The Department for Social Development and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive will continue to take action to mitigate the impact on elderly people through the provision of insulation measures and energy efficient central heating systems under the Warm Homes Plus Scheme and by providing financial assistance through the benefits system and the winter fuel payments scheme and by the Housing Executive's heating replacement programme.

Housing

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vulnerable people in Northern Ireland live in homes that fall below the decent homes standard. [80951]

Mr. Hanson: The decent homes standard applies to social houses. Government have set a target that all social housing should meet the standard by 2010. While data are not readily available on a household basis, the 2004 Interim House Condition Survey indicated that the overall number of social houses failing to meet the target was 32,000 having reduced from 59,000 in 2001.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what steps he *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to ensure that social housing in Northern Ireland is allocated to Catholics and Protestants equally according to need; [80969]

(2) whether he has plans to address religious differentials in the allocation of public housing. [80971]

Mr. Hanson: All allocations by the Housing Executive and registered housing associations are made on the basis of need as determined by the points awarded under the Common Selection Scheme—a scheme that was equality proofed and subject to detailed and widespread consultation.

The Housing Executive is recognised by all sections of the community as being extremely fair in its allocations policies. However, applicants for social housing have a choice of where they wish to live and as a result less than 10 per cent. of social housing is integrated, the majority of people preferring to live in areas where they felt comfortable. The choice of where to live therefore impacts significantly on the number of allocations that can be made in specific areas, as this depends on the availability of social housing, whether through new building or re-letting of existing stock. In some areas demand is greater than supply, while in others, the opposite is true and allocations cannot therefore be made at the same ratio for all areas. This does mean that some people will have to consider other areas in order to be re-housed or have to wait longer before they are re-housed. To make allocations on the basis of religious belief would be illegal under the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive formulates plans and programmes for additional new social housing taking account of demography, current and anticipated supply as well as current and projected demand. This effectively targets additional supply on areas with the greatest demand ensuring that assessed need is met.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average length of time spent waiting for public housing was by *(a)* all those on the waiting list, *(b)* those of a Catholic community background and *(c)* those of a Protestant community background in each of the last five years. [80985]

Mr. Hanson: The information is not available in the form requested as complete records prior to June 2002 are not held. However the following tables detail the information that can be provided but are subject to the following caveats:

These data do not include allocations made by housing associations within Northern Ireland nor transfers between Northern Ireland Housing Executive properties.

The religious composition of households is based on 'self reported' answers to the question held within the general housing application form. The religion of the applicant is assumed to be the same for all individuals within the household.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive's Equality Unit is currently unable to readily identify 'mixed' religion households although we are aware that a number of households currently described as 'Roman Catholic' or 'Protestant' would clearly fall into a 'Mixed' category.

Table 1: Breakdown of mean average months on the waiting list before allocation by religion of applicants, rehoused by NIHE in Northern Ireland (excluding transfers)

Rehoused by NIHE	*1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004*	*1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005*	*1 April 2005 to 31 December 2005*
Catholic	11.3	13.1	12.8
Other	8.7	10.6	9.6
Protestant	9.1	9.8	9.4
Undisclosed/unknown	11.9	11.2	12.6
Total average months	10.0	11.0	10.8

Table 2: Breakdown of mean average months on the waiting list by religion of applicants, on the waiting list for NIHE housing in Northern Ireland (excluding NIHE and housing association transfers)

NIHE applicants	31 March 2003	31 March 2004	31 March 2005	31 December 2005
Catholic	18.4	19.8	20.7	21.8
Other	18.5	19.5	19.4	19.6
Protestant	21.0	22.4	23.0	24.1
Undisclosed/unknown	58.5	48.0	47.7	53.3
Total average months	22.8	23.5	24.0	25.0

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the budget for discretionary housing payments was in each year since 2001. [81673]

Mr. Hanson: The information is shown in the following table:

Financial years	Discretionary housing payments
2001-02	860,000
2002-03	1,142,000
2003-04	1,142,000
2004-05	1,142,000
2005-06	1,142,000

This is in line with the position in Great Britain where the annual allocation for the scheme has remained unchanged for each financial year since 2002-03.

Illegal Fuel

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) whether the law applied in Northern Ireland with regard to testing for illegal fuel in vehicles is the same as that applied elsewhere in the United Kingdom; [82238]

(2) what the cost is of each operation testing for illegal fuel in cars, vans and lorries which is taking place in Northern Ireland; [82239]

(3) how many random checks for illegal fuel have taken place on roads in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months, broken down by district council area; [82240]

(4) how many *(a)* police and *(b)* customs personnel are required to be present in each road operation to test for illegal fuel in Northern Ireland; [82241]

(5) how many *(a)* Police Service of Northern Ireland and *(b)* Customs and Excise officers are required to be present when conducting a fuel testing and dipping exercise in Northern Ireland; [82592]

(6) how many vehicles were found to be using illegal fuel in each district command unit in Northern Ireland in each of the past three years; and how many prosecutions were brought in each case in each year; [82593]

(7) what the cost is of carrying out a fuel dipping exercise on a vehicle in Northern Ireland; [82594]

(8) under what legislation fuel testing and dipping in Northern Ireland takes place; and whether this legislation applies only in Northern Ireland; [82595]

(9) how many vehicles were randomly tested for illegal fuel use in each district command unit in Northern Ireland in each of the past three years. [82596]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The law relating to the testing of illegal fuel applies to the whole of the United Kingdom.

The number of officers present at a road checking exercise will be dependent upon the risk assessment undertaken for that exercise. There will usually be not less than two PSNI and four HMRC personnel present at a check, the precise numbers depending on the level of risk.

Each operation involving the testing of fuel in vehicles is unique in the time taken, the numbers tested and the number of personnel involved. It is not possible to estimate a cost for these operations.

Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs does not record the number of random checks undertaken for illegal fuel by each council area or district command unit in Northern Ireland. Nor does it have the facility to identify the numbers of vehicles that have been detected using illegal fuel in each district command unit.

Knife Amnesty

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland why the knife amnesty in Northern Ireland was not extended in line with the amnesty in England and Wales; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Northern Ireland knife amnesty. [80522]

Mr. Hanson: Our approach to tackling knife crime has been different to that in other parts of the UK. We have participated in the national knife amnesty, but this has been accompanied by a year-long public information campaign aimed at addressing the culture of knife carrying among young people, which is unique to Northern Ireland. In addition to this, an education package will begin in schools in September and other measures will be introduced, including the raising of the minimum age at which a knife can be legally purchased to 18-years-old. It is our intention to hold a further knife amnesty during 2006, which again is unique to Northern Ireland and this will help us to gauge how effective these initiatives have been.

During the amnesty almost 900 items were handed in. In addition, the incidence of knife crime during the period of the amnesty fell by 30 per cent. This is clearly a good start and evidence that the amnesty has had an impact. However we intend to continue to address the problem of knife crime and I hope to make further announcements in due course.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to launch the knife amnesty in Northern Ireland. [81224]

Mr. Hanson: The knife amnesty began in Northern Ireland over three weeks from 24 May to 13 June. Nearly 900 items were handed in over this period, removing potential weapons from the streets. As stated

in recent media we do plan to re-run the amnesty later this year. I have noted that the incidence of knife crime dropped by 30 per cent. during the period of the amnesty.

However the amnesty is just the beginning. The public information campaign aimed at tackling the culture of knife carrying among young people is still ongoing and an educational package will be introduced into schools from September. Legislation giving powers to increase the minimum age for buying a knife will be introduced also in the autumn. We will continue to look at different strategies, policies and initiatives to tackle knife crime in Northern Ireland and introduce any we consider will have an impact on reducing the incidence of this crime.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many crimes were committed in Northern Ireland during 2005 where a knife was used by the perpetrator. [81225]

Mr. Hanson: In 2005-06 there were 1,130 crimes recorded where a knife was involved in the incident. The following table provides a detailed breakdown. These figures are offence-based rather than offender-based (no offender-based figures are available). While it is known that a knife was used in all incidents recorded, it is not possible to indicate how the knife was used.

Crime type	*2005-06*
Class 1. Offences against the person	430
Murder [1]	8
Attempted murder	27
Threat or conspiracy to murder	72
Wounding with intent/GBH with intent	58
Wounding/GBH	22
AOABH[1]	136
Common assault[2]	76
Aggravated assault	20
Assault on police	8
Intimidation/harassment	2
Other offences against the person	1
Class 2. Sexual offences	13
Class 3. Burglary	19
Class 4. Robbery	359
Class 5. Theft	22
Class 6. Fraud and forgery	0
Class 7. Criminal damage	121
Class 8. Offences against the state	165
Possessing offensive weapon	165
Class 9. Other notifiable offences	1
Total crime	1,130

[1] From April 2003, assaults with minor injuries are recorded as AOABH.
[2] Prior to April 2003, offences where the victim received minor injuries were recorded as common assault.
Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI.

Lung Cancer

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many deaths from lung cancer there have been in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and how many of these deaths were smoking-related. [80956]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland for each year between 2001 and 2005, by gender, due to "malignant neoplasms of trachea, bronchus and lung"[1].

Smoking history is rarely recorded on death certificates. Estimates can however be made of the number of deaths attributable to smoking, by using information on the contribution that smoking makes to specific conditions recorded at death. The Health Development Agency[2] (2004) estimated that just over nine in ten male lung cancer deaths, and eight in ten female lung cancer deaths, were attributable to smoking.

[1] International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision codes C33-C34.

[2] Twigg, L., Moon, G., arid Walker, S. The smoking epidemic in England, Health Development Agency, 2004: http://www.publichealth.nice.org.uk/page.aspx?o=502811.

Number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland due to malignant neoplasms of trachea, bronchus and lung ("lung cancer"), by gender, 2001 to 2005

	Deaths due to "lung cancer"		
	Male	*Female*	*Total*
2001	507	275	782
2002	487	315	802
2003	482	328	810
2004	507	330	837
2005 (provisional data)	505	319	824

Measles

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many measles cases have been diagnosed in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [80940]

Paul Goggins: The number of suspected measles cases notified by clinicians is given in the following table, as is the number of these cases that were subsequently confirmed by laboratory tests in each of the last 10 years for which data are available.

	Number of notifications	*Number of laboratory-confirmed cases*
2006[1]	26	0
2005	56	[2]1
2004	90	1
2003	57	0
2002	89	0
2001	96	0
2000	92	2
1999	79	0

	Number of notifications	Number of laboratory-confirmed cases
1998	112	1
1997	120	1

[1] Data for 2006 are up until week 24 and are provisional.
[2] Test in this case unable to distinguish between antibody response to recent vaccination and a true case of measles

Source:
Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre Northern Ireland (CDSC (NI)).

Nurses and Midwives

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* midwives are employed by the Health Service in each health board area in Northern Ireland. [80943]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is presented in the following table.

Nursing and midwifery staff employed within the NIHPSS by health board area as at 31 March 2006

	Qualified nursing staff		Nursing support staff	
	Headcount	WTE	Headcount	WTE
Eastern board	7,526	6,462.67	2,397	2,002.58
Northern board	2,596	2,194.43	779	662.92
Southern board	2,233	1,868.78	729	624.34
Western board	2,350	2,129.41	726	665.30
Total	14,705	12,655.29	4,631	3,955.14

	Qualified midwives		Total	
	Headcount	WTE	Headcount	WTE
Eastern board	552	4,21.40	10,475	8,886.65
Northern board	266	218.85	3,641	3,076.20
Southern board	244	184.63	3,206	2,677.75
Western board	223	187.28	3,299	2,981.99
Total	1,285	1,012.16	20,621	17,622.59

Notes:
1.WTE = Whole-time equivalent.
2. The qualified nursing staff category includes 43 student midwives. Figures include all staff working within the NIHPSS including those working in health boards and agencies such as Central Services Agency, Regional Medical Physics Agency and Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority.
3. Figures exclude bank staff.
4. Nursing figures for Central Services Agency, Regional Medical Physics Agency and Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority are included within the eastern board.
Source:
Human Resource Management System

Paedophiles

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many registered paedophiles are at large in Northern Ireland; what measures are taken by the Police Service of Northern Ireland and other agencies to ensure the safety of the public; and if he will make a statement. [78495]

Mr. Hanson: There are currently 646 sex offenders in Northern Ireland subject to the notification requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. Police collate statistics in accordance with the Home Office counting rules which relate to crime type and not to age of victim. The police estimate that some 60 per cent. of sex offenders have committed sexual offences against children. All offenders are subject to individual risk assessment and management under the multi-agency sex offender and risk management (MASRAM) procedures. At an operational level the police and other agencies are fully aware of the nature of each individual offender's offending behaviour including whether this involved offences against children.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many cases of repeat offending by known paedophiles have occurred in Northern Ireland in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [80114]

Mr. Hanson: I attach high priority to the protection of the public and particularly children from any risks posed by sex offenders. Statistics from the 2001 adult reconviction dataset indicate that no sex offender was subsequently reconvicted for a sexual offence within two years after their date of discharge in 2001. Reconviction data are not yet available in respect of those convicted after 2001.

People Trafficking

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons have been *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* charged with and *(c)* convicted of people trafficking offences in Northern Ireland. [81819]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland advises that one person was arrested for "people trafficking" in October 2005. He was charged on the 17 October 2005 and on the 23 March 2006 this charge was withdrawn on direction of the Public Prosecution Service.

Legislation introduced in 2004 (The Sexual Offence Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004) include offences related to human trafficking; however, due to the current unavailability of conviction statistics beyond 2003, it is not yet possible to determine the number of persons convicted of such offences under these more recent Acts.

Renewable Energy

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what targets have been set to increase the amount of energy from renewable sources used by Northern Ireland Departments. [77105]

Mr. Hanson: Northern Ireland Departments are expected to purchase at least 10 per cent. of their electricity supplies from renewable (non-fossil fuel) sources by 31 March 2008, in accordance with Government targets set under the Climate Change Programme (Cm 4913) and the Government's Plan for Action (Cm 6169).

Under the recently launched Sustainable Development Strategy, the Government estate is to be carbon neutral by 2015, and increased use of renewable energy sources will contribute to achieving that target.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which Northern Ireland departments use renewable energy for some of their energy requirements. [80875]

Mr. Hanson: All Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office use renewable energy for some of their energy requirements.

Roads

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which sections of the Eastern Transport Corridor consist of single lane carriageway; and what plans there are to upgrade them. [81806]

David Cairns: The acting Chief Executive of Roads Service (Mr. Geoff Allister) has written to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Mr. Geoff Allister, dated 3 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding which sections of the Eastern Transport Corridor consist of single lane carriageway; and what plans there are to upgrade them.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

The Eastern Seaboard Corridor runs from Larne and crosses the border south of Newry. The route is essentially comprised of the A8 Larne to Belfast road, the M2 Motorway, the A12 Westlink, the M1 Motorway, and the A1 route to the Border.

On the A8 Larne to Belfast road there is 14 kilometres of single carriageway between Coleman's Corner, near Ballyclare and Kilwaughter.

As you may be aware, Roads Service has recently completed a package of measures on the A8 route costing £13.3m. Consultants identified these improvements as justifiable in terms of cost and effectiveness, resulting from a wide-ranging study that covered all realistic options for the route.

Included in the package were a number of schemes aimed at improving passing opportunities along the remaining stretch of single carriageway. Following the completion of these works, no further major improvements to the A8 are planned at the moment.

As regards the A1 route, there is currently 21 Km of the route between Loughbrickland and the Border which is still single carriageway.

Roads Service is progressing 3 projects for the improvement of these remaining sections to dual carriageway standard. They are:

the Loughbrickland to Beech Hill scheme which is currently under construction and completion is anticipated in the Autumn 2006;

the Beech Hill to Cloghogue scheme, the contract for which is expected to be awarded in Spring 2007. This scheme is progressing through the necessary statutory processes and was the subject of a public inquiry into the Vesting of the land during June 2006. It forms part of our PPP Package 2 with completion expected in late 2009 (subject to satisfactory completion of statutory processes); and

the Cloghogue to the Border section, which forms part of a larger joint cross-border scheme to link Newry to the Republic of Ireland's M1 north of Dundalk. It is currently under construction with completion anticipated before the end of 2007.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which junctions of the Eastern Transport Corridor between Larne and Newry do not have a right-hand turning lane; and what plans he has to upgrade these junctions. [81807]

David Cairns: The Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, Mr. Geoff Allister, has written to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Mr. Geoff Allister, dated 3 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding which junctions of the Eastern Transport Corridor between Larne and Newry do not have a right hand turning lane; and what plans he has to upgrade these junctions.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

The Eastern Seaboard Corridor is essentially comprised of the A8 Larne to Belfast road, the M2 Motorway, the A12 Westlink, the M1 Motorway and the A1 to the Border, south of Newry. I can advise that on the A8 Larne to Belfast road the junctions which do not have a right hand turning lane are those at Ballygowan Road/Deerpark Road and Ballygowan Road South. However, a right turn facility at the Ballygowan/Deerpark Road junction will be constructed later this financial year, and a similar facility will be constructed at the Ballygowan Road South junction during the 2007/2008 financial year. The only other section of the A8 with no dedicated facilities for right turning movements is the section of single carriageway between Coleman's Corner and Ballynure.

You will possibly be aware that the Belfast Metropolitan Transportation Plan supports dualling this section, including the completion of the Ballynure Bypass. Subsequently, the Department has sought, through the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan, to protect the land required for this scheme. It is currently expected that the implementation of this scheme will be outside the 2015 Plan period. On completion of the dual carriageway, the priority junctions will be reduced to left-in left-out, without the need to perform right turns, other than at the main roundabouts.

On the A1 Belfast to Newry road, there are currently two junctions which do not have a right turn facility. These are Ashgrove Road, which is just north of the Damolly Roundabout on the approach to Newry and to the west side of the A1, and Cloughanramer Road which is just north of the Damolly Roundabout and to the east of the A1. However, this section of the A1 will be superseded by the planned Beech Hill to Cloghogue dual carriageway upgrade, which is included in Package 2 of Roads Service's Public Private Partnership Project.

Right turn movements at all other junctions along the Eastern Seaboard Corridor are accommodated within the approach lanes to roundabouts, central reserve deceleration lanes, or grade separated junctions with slip roads.

I hope this information is helpful.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vehicles per day on average use the A8 Eastern Transport Corridor between Larne and Belfast. [81808]

David Cairns: The acting chief executive of Roads Service (Mr. Geoff Allister) has written to the hon. Lady in response to this question.

Letter from Mr. Geoff Allister, dated 3 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question regarding how many vehicles per day on average use the A8 Eastern Transport Corridor between Larne and Belfast.

As this issue falls within my responsibility as Acting Chief Executive of Roads Service, I have been asked to reply.

By way of background, I should explain that Roads Service collects traffic volume data by means of 270 automatic census points strategically located throughout the Northern Ireland road network. The information is recorded for one week in each quarter during the year and an annual average calculated. The results are published in Roads Service's annual Traffic and Travel Information Report, which presents the traffic volumes in a variety of formats for each site.

Roads Service has automatic traffic-counting equipment at five different locations along the A8 between Larne and Sandyknowes roundabout in Glengormley. The latest data (2005) on the annual average daily number of vehicles using the A8 are shown in the table below.

Location	Annual average daily flow (two-way)
A8 Sandyknowes to Corr's Corner	15,009
A8 on dual carriageway north of Corr's Corner	17,714
A8 north of Bruslee recycling amenity site	11,048
A8 north of Ballynure	13,325
A8 at Drumnahoe near Larne	17,566

I hope this information is helpful.

Special Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what role is played by special advisers in answering parliamentary questions asked of his Department. [80651]

Mr. Hain: Special advisers conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers.

Sports Teams (Passports)

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what arrangements are in place to ensure that UK citizens living in Northern Ireland who represent their sport at an all-Ireland level have the right to carry their British passports while travelling abroad with their teams. [80294]

Maria Eagle: Neither the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) nor the Sports Council for Northern Ireland (SCNI) are aware of any arrangements among sports organised on an all-Ireland basis that prevent UK citizens living in Northern Ireland from carrying their British passports while travelling abroad with their teams.

Summer Schemes

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many special needs children took part in summer schemes in each board area in each of the last four years; how long the summer schemes last in each board area; and if he will make a statement. [80115]

Maria Eagle: The number of children with special educational needs attending summer schemes in special schools and the duration of these schemes, in each of the last four years, is set out in the following tables.

The education and library boards do not have a statutory duty to provide summer schemes for children with special educational needs. They do so, however, subject to available resources and in partnership with local health and social services trusts and district councils.

Belfast education and library board

	Number of children	Duration of summer scheme
2002	128	14-21 days July/August
2003	172	14-21 days July/August
2004	161	14-21 days July /August
2005	270	14-21 days July/August

North eastern education and library board

	Number of children	Duration of summer scheme
2002	307	2 x 7 day schemes
2003	300	2 x 7 day schemes
2004	301	2 x 7 day schemes
2005	315	2 x 5 day schemes

South eastern education and library board

	Number of children	Duration of summer scheme
2002	310	14 days
2003	320	13 days
2004	340	13 days
2005	325	10 days

Southern education and library board

	Number of children	Duration of summer scheme
2002	241	14 days
2003	243	14 days
2004	252	14 days
2005	243	14 days

Western education and library board

	Number of children	Duration of summer scheme
2002	163	14 days
2003	168	14 days
2004	172	14 days
2005	164	14 days

Earmarked funding has been provided by the Department of Education, for education and library boards to use in the organisation of summer schemes in literacy and numeracy. In addition the Department is also aware that some schools finance summer schemes using other resources. Information on the number of children with special educational needs attending these schemes could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Vehicle Registration

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been prosecuted as a result of the introduction of legislation on Statutory Off Road Notices for vehicles. [81670]

David Cairns: Statutory Off the Road Notification (SORN) was introduced in Northern Ireland in December 2002. However, the offence of failing to make a SORN declaration was superseded in December 2003 by the introduction of continuous registration which created the new offence of being the keeper of a vehicle which is neither licensed nor the subject of a SORN declaration. Between December 2002 and December 2003, 1,750 people were prosecuted for failing to make a SORN declaration.

Young Carers

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* support services and *(b)* financial assistance is in place to support young carers in Northern Ireland. [80948]

Paul Goggins: Young carers have a legal entitlement to an assessment of their care needs which is aimed both at supporting them in their caring role, and at helping to ensure that their education and development do not suffer. Schools have been alerted to the difficulties faced by young carers and to recognise this in their pastoral care policies in the publication "Evaluating Pastoral Care" issued by the Education and Training Inspectorate in 1999. In pursuit of the recommendations of the strategy "Caring for Carers", published by the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety earlier this year, officials will, in conjunction with the Department of Education, be distributing a DVD later this year on the needs of young carers as a training aide to staff within the Health and Social Services and the Education sector.

Carers over 16 years of age may be entitled to social security benefits such as carer's allowance and/or income support if they satisfy the appropriate qualifying conditions.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Commons Staff's Salaries

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, which posts held by officials of the House of Commons receive an annual salary of more than the basic salary payable to hon. Members. [82243]

Nick Harvey: The basic salary payable to Members is £59,686 per annum. Currently 82 staff are paid an annual salary which exceeds this figure. A list of posts in the Senior Commons Structure and at pay band A1, which have pay maxima higher than Members' current salary, will be placed in the Library. Details of staff pay bands and staff pay arrangements are available on the parliamentary intranet. The salaries of Members of the Board of Management are disclosed in the House of Commons: Administration annual accounts.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

23. **Mr. Bisley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the local government White Paper is expected to be published. [81881]

Ruth Kelly: The local government White Paper will be published shortly after the summer recess.

24. **Mr. Neil Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her priorities are in relation to funding for local government. [81882]

Mr. Woolas: This Government's priorities for local government finance are to provide councils with stable and predictable funding, and to protect the public from excessive council tax increases.

25. **Dr. Naysmith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice her Department has given to local authorities on fees charged under the high hedges legislation; and if she will make a statement. [81883]

Meg Munn: Our advice on fees under the high hedges legislation is in paragraphs 5.13 to 5.16 of the guidance document 'High Hedges Complaints: Prevention and Cure'. It indicates that each local authority is responsible for deciding whether, and at what level, to charge for dealing with complaints about high hedges.

Housing

26. **Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the recommendation by the Select Committee on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Housing, Planning, Local Government and the Regions that 200,000 new homes should be built by 2010. [81884]

Yvette Cooper: We welcome the ODPM Select Committee's recognition, in its report on Housing Supply and Affordability, of the pressing need for more housing to meet the needs of current and future generations.

We have simply not been building enough homes to meet rising demand and changing social trends. Households are projected to grow by 209,000 per year up to 2026, driven by people living longer, more divorce and separation and more people living alone. By contrast, last year only around 168,000 additional homes were provided. We need to ensure that housing supply is increased, both for purchase and for rent, to provide homes for future generations.

In our response to the Barker Review, published in December, we set out our ambition to increase the supply of new housing to 200,000 per year by 2016. The package aims to make it easier to buy outright or buy a part share in a home, as well as improving access to high

quality, rented social housing. If housing supply is not increased, affordability will continue to worsen. For example, the proportion of 30-year-old couples who could afford to buy a home will fall from just over 50 per cent. now, to around a third by 2016. Government will respond formally to the recommendations contained in the report in due course.

29. **Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the recommendation by the Select Committee on the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Housing, Planning, Local Government and the Regions that 200,000 homes should be built by 2010. [81887]

Yvette Cooper: We welcome the ODPM Select Committee's recognition, in its report on Housing Supply and Affordability, of the pressing need for more housing to meet the needs of current and future generations.

We have simply not been building enough homes to meet rising demand and changing social trends. Households are projected to grow by 209,000 per year up to 2026, driven by people living longer, more divorce and separation and more people living alone. By contrast, last year only around 168,000 additional homes were provided. We need to ensure that housing supply is increased, both for purchase and for rent, to provide homes for future generations.

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Homelessness

27. **Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the performance of Birmingham city council in tackling homelessness. [81885]

Meg Munn: Birmingham city council's statistical returns show that there has been a 17 per cent. reduction in homeless acceptances and a 30 per cent. reduction in the use of temporary accommodation over the year to end March 2006. Birmingham has also maintained the two-thirds reduction in rough sleeping. The last count (2005) showed seven against a baseline figure of 56 in 1998.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the £88 million announced by her Department on 12 December 2005 included funding for the Homelessness Innovation Fund. [77673]

Yvette Cooper: On 12 December 2005 I announced the allocation of a further £88 million over two years (2006-07 and 2007-08) as part of our continued investment in homelessness prevention schemes. This funding is additional to the £2.2 million I announced on 2 November 2005 for the Homelessness Innovation Fund (HIF). 19 projects across England were awarded HIF funding to develop new ways of preventing homelessness and reducing the number of households living in temporary accommodation. The projects are expected to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation by 4,000, and prevent 2,400 new cases of homelessness.

Home Information Packs

28. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the value of a home information pack to a buyer attempting to get a mortgage. [81886]

Yvette Cooper: First-time buyers will receive home information packs for free, because they transfer costs from buyers to sellers.

In addition, we would expect most people to see cuts in the cost of valuations as a result of the Home Condition report, as well as swifter mortgage offers where people do not have to wait for a survey. These issues will be examined further as part of the dry run.

Council Tax

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the council tax collection rates were for 2005-06. [81794]

Mr. Woolas: A statistical release providing council tax collection rates for 2005-06 was issued on 21 June. This is available from the Department for Communities and Local Government website at http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ctax/cp056.htm.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many websites there are within her responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79061]

Angela E. Smith: The websites operated by the Department for Communities and Local Government are as listed:

www.communities.gov.uk
www.neighbourhood.gov.uk
www.firekills.gov.uk (fire safety campaigns)
www.bvpi.gov.uk (best value performance indicators)
www.frsonline.fire.gov.uk
www.spkweb.org.uk (supporting people programme)
http://www.gos.gov.uk/national/ (Government office for the regions)
www.localgov.gov.uk

www.homeinformationpacks.gov.uk

www.info4local.gov.uk

www.togetherwecan.info

www.xoq83.dial.pipex.com (local government pension scheme)

www.renewal.net

www.cleanersafergreener.gov.uk

www.iggi.gov.uk (intra governmental geographic information)

www.planningportal.gov.uk

www.futureleadership.gov.uk

www.spdirectory.org.uk (supporting people directory of services)

www.nlud.org.uk (national land use directory)

www.firesafetytoolbox.org.uk

www.firelink.org.uk

www.localvisionforum.net

www.bmespark.org.uk (black minority ethnic supporting people)

www.womenandequalityunit.gov.uk

The annual cost of maintaining the listed websites is £2,396,972. 90 per cent. of this cost comes from DCLG's six major websites, primarily the award-winning Planning Portal, which provides online planning applications services integrated into local authorities:

Website	*Annual cost (£)*
www.planningportal.gov.uk	1,200,000
www.spdirectory.org.uk/	328,000
www.communities.gov.uk	150,408
http://www.gos.gov.uk/national	194,834
www.info4local.gov.uk	145,866
www.renewal.net	136,800

Overhead Power Lines

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on the building of new properties in close proximity to electric pylons. [71583]

Meg Munn: The Government have not issued guidance concerning the building of new properties near pylons.

However, following the publication of the (then) National Radiological Protection Board's new Electromagnetic Field guidelines in March 2004, and the associated advice to Government, the Government are giving further consideration to taking the issue of building near power lines and pylons and is consulting with all the relevant stakeholder groups.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate the Government have made of the impact of revised health guidance on overhead power lines on *(a)* the planning process, *(b)* house prices, *(c)* compulsory purchase orders and *(d)* power line burial in new housing developments; and if she will make a statement. [70399]

Meg Munn: The Government are considering the implications of Health Protection Agency advice regarding power lines with all stakeholders. Implications for the areas outlined in the question will be fully considered in deciding how to implement the advice.

When appropriate policy options have been formulated the Government will undertake a consultation on the options in the normal manner.

Population Estimates

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authority areas have made representations to her about the accuracy of *(a)* the internal migration statistics and *(b)* the mid-year population estimates. [81983]

Mr. Woolas: The information is as follows.

(a) Since 5 December 2005, in the context of the local government finance settlement, we have received representations about the accuracy of the internal migration statistics used in the mid-year population estimates from Barking and Dagenham, Brent, Hounslow, Lambeth, Newham and Slough.

(b) Since 5 December 2005, in the context of the local government finance settlement, we have received representations about the accuracy of the mid-year population estimates from Barking and Dagenham, Brent, Enfield, Hounslow, Lambeth, Leeds, Lewisham, Newham, North Tyneside, Slough, Southwark, Telford and the Wrekin.

South East England Development Agency

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the expenditure of the South East England Development Agency has been in each year since its inception in *(a)* each county and *(b)* each district in the south east, (i) in total, (ii) per capita and (iii) as a percentage of its budget. [82603]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

PRIME MINISTER

Nuclear Deterrent

Mr. Laws: To ask the Prime Minister what *(a)* approval for and *(b)* instructions relating to additional expenditure on replacing the UK's existing nuclear deterrent he has given to (i) the Ministry of Defence and (ii) HM Treasury since April 2005; and if he will make a statement. [81682]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave the right hon. Member for Witney (Mr. Cameron) at Prime Minister's Questions on 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 253-4.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Prime Minister whether he gave prior approval for the reference to replacing the UK's nuclear deterrent in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Mansion House speech; and if he will make a statement. [81683]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* staff at 10 Downing Street have had with (i) President Bush and (ii) White House staff since April 2005 about sustaining the UK's nuclear deterrent; and if he will make a statement. [81684]

The Prime Minister: It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with carers' organisations about carers' needs. [76781]

Mrs. McGuire: I last met representatives of Carers UK on 15 February and discussed a range of issues in connection with the needs of carers.

During the recent Carers Week I visited the Charlie Ratchford Centre in Camden to celebrate the launch of initiatives to help local carers and to discuss with them issues related to their needs.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate how many more people would be eligible for carer's allowance if the gainfully employed rate was *(a)* raised to £168 per week and *(b)* abolished; and if he will make a statement. [80136]

Mrs. McGuire: The requested information is not available because there are no reliable data from which robust estimates might be obtained.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have lost their carer's allowance as a result of reaching pensionable age in each of the last five years. [80447]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* The information requested is not available. The information that is available is in the table. Carer's allowance is payable to carers of state pension age who meet the conditions of entitlement to the allowance and do not receive a state pension, or where the weekly rate of state pension paid is lower than the weekly rate of carer's allowance. In those cases a reduced rate of carer's allowance is paid to bring the total amount of state pension and carer's allowance paid up to the carer's allowance weekly rate.

Carer's allowance and state pension cannot be paid at the same time because both of them are non-income-related benefits designed to provide a degree of replacement for lost or forgone income.

In cases where these arrangements preclude the payment of carer's allowance, the carer's entitlement to the allowance gives them access to the carer premium, currently £26.35 a week, in the income-related benefits such as income support, housing benefit and council tax benefit and to the equivalent additional amount for carers in pension credit.

Carer's allowance: number of women aged 60 and men aged 65 awarded a state pension from December 2001 to November 2005 who in the quarterly statistical period in which the award was made were recorded as entitled to, but not receiving payments of, the allowance

Quarterly statistical periods spanning (December to November)	*Number*[1]
2001-02	[2]8,100
2002-03	10,740
2003-04	10,420
2004-05•	10,140

[1] Sum of figures for four quarterly statistical periods, rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Figure is for the period March 2002 to November 2002. Data are not available for the period December 2001 to February 2002.
Source:
Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of staff in his Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [73105]

Mrs. McGuire: Members of the principal civil service pension scheme (PCSPS) can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the civil service additional voluntary contributions scheme (CSAVCS), a money purchase arrangement, or by buying added years of service in the PCSPS. As an alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from 1 October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement, the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of staff in the Department who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at 31 May 2006 are shown in the table.

	Number	*Percentage*
CSAVCS	919	0.71
Added years	1,156	0.89
Partnership	281	0.22

Disability and Carers Service

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1477-79W, on sickness/unauthorised absence, what information his Department has on levels of sickness absence at the Disability and Carers Service; and if he will make a statement. [81759]

Mrs. McGuire: The Disability and Carers' Service became an Executive Agency of the Department for Work and Pensions on 1 November 2004. The information has been drawn from the Agency's own records, and the only full year's data are for 2005. The figures represent average working days lost per staff year.

Average working days lost

2005: 9.9

The rolling year to date data which are captured on a month by month basis within the Agency continue to show a modest but steady trend of improvement; the April 2006 year to date figure was 9.5 AWDL.

Disability Living Allowance Statistics

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Surrey include a person with a learning disability who receives the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest, *(b)* middle and *(c)* lowest rate. [82449]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many households in Surrey include a person with a learning disability who receives the care component of disability living allowance at the (a) highest (b) middle and (c) lowest rate.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The information available is in the following table:

Recipients of disability living allowance with learning difficulties by rate of care award as at November 2005 in Surrey parliamentary constituencies

		Care component		
	Total with care component	Higher rate	Middle rate	Lowest rate
East Surrey	510	190	80	240
South West Surrey	290	90	50	150
Surrey Heath	280	80	40	170

Notes:

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Figures are based on the care component condition only.
5. Information is only available for the Surrey parliamentary constituencies.

Source:

DWP, WPLS 100 percent data.

I hope this is helpful.

Health and Safety Executive

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Freedom of Information requests were received by the Health and Safety Executive in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; how many of these were rejected; and how many of those rejected were subsequently upheld by the Commissioner. [80460]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on Freedom of Information requests made to the Health and Safety Executive is as follows:

	2005	2006[1]
Number of requests received	6,975	2,928
Withheld in full	761	501
Partially withheld	401	191

[1] To date.

To date HSE has not received any decisions from the Information Commissioner's Office regarding referred cases.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants moved from the short-term lower rate on to the short-term higher rate without first undertaking the personal capability assessment in each year since the introduction of the assessment. [70791]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 May 2006]:* Information about the timing of the personal capability assessment (PCA) in relation to the point at which the higher rates of incapacity benefit become payable is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants there have been in Bristol East in each year since 2000. [80588]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants in the Bristol East parliamentary constituency, as at November each year

	Number
2005	5,570
2004	5,500
2003	5,330
2002	5,250
2001	5,050
2000	4,980

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. 'Claimants' figures include all incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance, including incapacity benefit credits only cases.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Ministerial Visits (Overnight Stays)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1154W, on overnight stays, how the cost of overnight stays by Ministers of State in his Department is monitored; and if he will begin to keep a separate record of such stays. [77190]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department does not keep a separate record of overnight accommodation costs for Ministers. Overnight stays are carried out in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers. There are no plans to start keeping a separate record of the cost of overnight stays.

Motability Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged 13 to 19 years were refused help from the Motability scheme in 2005. [69740]

Mrs. McGuire: The number of people aged 13 to 19 that were unable to receive assistance from Motability in 2005 are in the following table:

2005	*Number*
Applications for grants received by Motability from people aged 13 to 19[1]	854
Number unable to receive assistance	86

[1] Applications for help towards driving lessons, an advance payment or adaptations to a vehicle.

Source:
Motability Grants Department Statistics.

Public Consultations

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1292W, on departmental expenditure, what mechanisms are in place to ensure value for money in public consultations. [80752]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions follows the Code of Practice on consultation as a key element of its policy development. Criterion 3 of the code requires Departments to ensure that their consultations are

'...clear, concise, and widely accessible.'

The Department for Work and Pensions seeks to strike a balance between the accessibility and value for money of its public consultations. In accordance with the code, the Department's consultation co-ordinator advises colleagues on best practice and is integral to consultation planning and delivery. The Department works closely with its key stakeholders, intermediaries, and charitable organisations to broaden the coverage of its consultations. As well as obtaining the views of the wider public, stakeholders have hosted public consultative events on key policy issues which Ministers and officials have attended.

In accordance with Government best practice, consultation documents are made available on-line to ensure the widest possible best-value coverage.

By following the code, and making effective use of consultative channels, DWP has been able to take on board the views both of those likely to be affected and of relevant experts. Consequently Government are considerably more likely to meet their policy objectives, thus rendering consultation invaluable.

Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the review team looking at the future of Remploy Ltd. to present its final report; and if he will place a copy of the report in the Library once it has been presented to him. [81677]

Mrs. McGuire: I have not yet received PricewaterhouseCoopers' report on Remploy, but expect to do so shortly. A copy of the report will be placed in the Library in due course.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the recommendations on the future of Remploy Ltd. made in the final report of the current review of Remploy's future business options, if he will consult interested parties prior to decisions being made on the future of Remploy Ltd. and any of its factories. [81678]

Mrs. McGuire: In conducting the review, PricewaterhouseCoopers have consulted a range of stakeholders, including employees, trade unions, customers, Remploy managers and DWP's Disability Employment Advisory Committee. As the review team has not yet reported I have not formed any conclusions or developed proposals for the future strategic direction of Remploy. At this stage I cannot therefore determine whether further consultation is appropriate.

Staff Training

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements are in place for monitoring the *(a)* quality and *(b)* outcomes of staff training in his Department and its agencies. [80327]

Mrs. McGuire: We have arrangements in place that cover all areas of the Department and its agencies that capture all staff training activity, the effectiveness of the individual training events and the impact on business performance. These arrangements are consistent with the Investors in People standards and are externally validated to help us focus on developing our staff in the most effective way.

Work and Pensions Committee Recommendations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what actions have been taken by his Department to implement Work and Pensions Select Committee recommendations since the 2001-02 session; and if he will make a statement. [78859]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions does not hold a central record of actions taken to implement recommendations made by the Work and Pensions Select Committee and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, the Government are required to respond formally to reports published by the Committee and those responses set out whether or not the Government accept the recommendations presented by the Committee and the actions it proposes to take.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Compensation

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the extent to which a compensation culture exists. [75833]

Bridget Prentice: The Better Regulation Task Force (BRTF) report: "Better Routes to Redress" published in May 2004 found that the "compensation culture" is a myth, because the number of claims and litigation is not in fact rising. But that it is a damaging myth that needs to be tackled, because the widespread belief that claims are rising, leads to a disproportionate fear of litigation and risk averse behaviour.

The Government are therefore taking forward a wide-ranging programme of work, with the core objectives of preventing a compensation culture from developing; tackling perceptions that can lead to a disproportionate fear of litigation and risk averse behaviour; finding ways to discourage and resist bad claims; and improving the system for those with a valid claim for compensation.

Departmental Staff

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people were employed by *(a)* HM Land Registry, *(b)* National Archives, *(c)* HM Courts Service and *(d)* the Public Guardianship Office in each region in each of the last 12 months for which data are available; and how many and what percentage of posts were vacant in each region in each month. [51331]

Vera Baird: The figures requested are published in civil service statistics. Departments should refer to Table A which covers staff numbers (FTE and headcount basis) for each organisation. Civil service statistics are available in the Library and at the following address on the Cabinet Office statistics website: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/index.asp.

The number of posts which were vacant in Departments is not collected centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Deposited Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the deposited papers placed in the Library by her Department since 2000; and when each was published. [81266]

Vera Baird: Currently my Department does not record this information. However, a system will be set up to shortly to record all papers that will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Draft Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what draft Bills have been produced by her Department since October 2005; how many were *(a)* examined and *(b)* are planned to be examined by (i) a departmental Select Committee and (ii) a Joint Committee; what draft Bills are still to be produced by her Department; when each is expected to be published; how many clauses each has; and if she will make a statement. [81263]

Vera Baird: My Department has published two draft Bills since October 2005, the Legal Services Bill and the Coroners Bill.

The draft Legal Services Bill is undergoing pre-legislative scrutiny before the Joint Committee on the Draft Legal Services Bill, which aims to report by 25 July. The Coroners Bill is undergoing pre-legislative scrutiny before the Constitutional Affairs Select Committee.

A further draft bill may be published this session, the Courts and Tribunals Bill. As yet no Select Committee has expressed an interest in conducting pre-legislative scrutiny nor are there any plans to put together a Joint Committee.

Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny, which will be indicated in the Queen's Speech.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her practice is regarding meeting, discussing and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations, when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [81264]

Vera Baird: The Department always seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. In this regard, consultation is an essential part of the policy-making process, both informal and formal.

The Department's formal consultations, which abide by the code of conduct on consultation, are all available on the Department's website and they are also generally available in hard copy. The DCA website has a "what's new" section on its home page which lists new additions to the website, including new consultations, making them easier to find. Those who access the site can also make use of the Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feed to be alerted when new content, including consultations, has been added to the Department's website.

Following consultation exercises, response papers are normally produced in accordance with the code on consultation to give feedback on the responses received and on how the consultation process influenced the further development of the policy.

Enduring Powers of Attorney

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what information her Department makes available on the signing of Enduring Powers of Attorney; and why the scheme is ending in April. [81411]

Ms Harman: The Public Guardianship Office (PGO) has information on its website regarding Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPA) and publishes a guide on how to make an Enduring Power of Attorney.

This document can be found on the PGO website at: http://www.guardianship.gov.uk/downloads/EPA.web.pdf This can be downloaded in large font, and easy to read formats.

The Enduring Powers of Attorney Act will be repealed on enactment of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, planned for April 2007. Enduring Powers of Attorney will be replaced by Lasting Powers of Attorney. These new legal instruments will cover deputy decision-making arrangements for both financial and heath and welfare issues. Lasting Powers of Attorney will offer additional safeguards and will provide the donor with more choice and flexibility as to whom they can appoint and the decisions that can be delegated to them.

Although the Enduring Powers of Attorney Act 1985 will be repealed on implementation of the Mental Capacity Act, the legal effect of an EPA already made under the current law will be preserved. It will be possible to make an EPA until the point of enactment, and people will still be able to register and use Enduring Powers of Attorney after the Act is implemented.

Family Court (Imprisonments)

John Hemming: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many people were imprisoned following in-camera hearings of the family court in each of the past three years; how many of these were imprisoned for offences relating to contempt of court; how many were imprisoned for more than a month; and for what offences, other than contempt, they were imprisoned. [79825]

Ms Harman: Information on how many people have been sentenced to a term in prison by the family courts in each of the last three financial years is not recorded. However the following figures show the number of people remanded under custody. These cases include those sentenced to a prison sentence and those kept in police cells. The table also shows the number of people remanded on bail or for medical reports.

Financial year	*Bail*	*Custody*	*Medical reports*	*Total*
2003-04	217	616	8	841
2004-05	225	565	10	800
2005-06	253	576	2	831

Note:
The figures are from the County and High Courts only and relate to the breach of Family Law Act 1996 orders.

Green and White Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list in date order *(a)* Green and *(b)* White papers produced by her Department since October 2005. [81262]

Ms Harman: In the absence of a precise definition for White and Green papers I have included details of all command papers published by my Department.

From October 2005 to June 2006, 11 command papers have been published by DCA. I have listed them in date order as follows:

Criminal Defence Service Bill supplement to Framework Document, 10 October 2005

The Future of Legal Services—Putting Consumers First White Paper, 17 October 2005

Supporting Magistrates Courts to Provide Justice White Paper, 7 November 2005

Autumn Performance Report, 20 December 2005

Judicial Appointments 7th Annual Report 2004-05, 31 January 2006

Government Response to Constitutional Affairs Select Committee

Report on Courts: Small Claims, 27 February 2006

Government Response to Constitutional Affairs Select Committee

Report: Compensation Culture and NHS Redress Bill, 3 May 2006

Judicial Statistics England and Wales 2005, 18 May 2006

Departmental Report, 24 May 2006

Draft Legal Services Bill, 24 May 2006

Draft Coroners Bill, 12 June 2006.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what her assessment is of the reasons for the scale of the increase in successful appeals against incapacity benefit decisions since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [80303]

Bridget Prentice: Appeals against incapacity benefit decisions are made to an appeal tribunal under section 12 of the Social Security Act 1998. Each year, the president of appeal tribunals reports, based on the cases coming before appeal tribunals, on the standards achieved by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in the making of decisions against which an appeal lies to an appeal tribunal.

The following table provides details, since 2001, on the number of: incapacity benefit claims; appeals received; and, the number of those appeals cleared in favour of the appellant, including the proportion successful.

			IB appeals cleared in favour	
	IB claims	*IB appeals received*	*Number*	*Percentage of IB appeals received*
2001	—	46,890	14,190	30.3
2002	411,630	59,210	18,150	30.7
2003	802,300	63,220	22,060	34.9
2004	772,490	61,510	21,590	35.1
2005	698,230	65,140	22,970	35.3

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. IB claims 2002—figures are for the period July 2002 to December 2002 only.
3. IB claims—data are not available prior to July 2002.
4. Appeals received and cleared—figures are for each calendar year (January to December).
5. Appeals received and cleared—all figures are subject to change as more up to date data become available.
6. Appeals received and cleared—figures for the latest months will rise substantially as information feeds through the Tribunals Service.
7. 'Cleared in favour' indicates that the appeal was cleared in favour of the appellant.

Sources:
IB claims—MISP system
IB appeals received and IB appeals cleared in favour—100 per cent. download of the Generic Appeals Processing System

Law Commission Reports

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which Law Commission reports published since 1976 have been implemented in legislation; what the implementing legislation was in each case; which reports are awaiting implementation; which reports awaiting legislation the Government have accepted *(a)* in full and *(b)* in part; and which Law Commission reports the Government have rejected. [81455]

Vera Baird: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. For completeness we have included table 5 which sets out those reports that are awaiting a decision by Government.

Post Office Contracts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs for which services *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81545]

Bridget Prentice: Neither DCA, nor any of its associated public bodies, hold any contracts with the Post Office.

Repossessions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in *(a)* Southend West constituency and *(b)* each borough in Essex in each year since 1997. [81453]

Ms Harman: The following table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made at each of the Essex county courts (Basildon, Braintree, Chelmsford, Colchester, Grays Thurrock, Harlow and Southend-on-Sea) since 1997.

The civil procedure rules provide that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, these county courts cover areas that are not necessarily consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries, and therefore for instance repossessions at Southend-on-Sea county court may relate to properties in other constituencies besides Southend West.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made[2] at Essex county courts, 1997 to 2005

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Basildon	229	102	106	150	138	155	179	236	413
Braintree[3]	69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chelmsford	106	106	66	106	55	65	61	105	161
Colchester	195	220	153	131	135	123	142	178	254
Grays Thurrock[4]	122	266	265	—	—	—	—	—	—
Harlow	71	92	82	67	55	45	52	97	124
Southend-on-Sea	221	253	224	187	123	139	142	172	290
Essex	1,013	1,039	896	641	526	527	576	788	1,242

[1] Local authority and private.
[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.
[3] Braintree county court closed as of 1 December 1997.
[4] Grays Thurrock county court closed as of 31 January 2000.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in *(a)* Stroud constituency and *(b)* Gloucestershire in each year since 1997. [82037]

Ms Harman: Although figures for Stroud constituency are not available (this court closed in 1994), the following table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made at Cheltenham and Gloucester court since 1997.

The civil procedure rules provide that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, these county courts cover areas that are not necessarily consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries, and therefore for instance repossessions at Cheltenham county court may relate to properties in other constituencies besides Cheltenham.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made[2] in Gloucestershire county courts, 1997 to 2005

	Cheltenham	Gloucester	Gloucestershire
1997	52	113	165
1998	59	139	198
1999	60	100	160
2000	31	71	102
2001	34	81	115

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made[2] in Gloucestershire county courts, 1997 to 2005

	Cheltenham	Gloucester	Gloucestershire
2002	23	85	108
2003	17	83	100
2004	35	101	136
2005	51	137	188

[1] Local authority and private.
[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many properties were repossessed in each quarter since 2001, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [82131]

Ms Harman: The information is not available centrally in the exact format requested. The Department for Constitutional Affairs collects data on the number of mortgage possession orders made at each of the county courts in England and Wales. These figures, however, do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

Figures showing the number of these county court possession orders made in every quarter since 2001 are given in the relevant table that has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

The civil procedure rules provide that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, these county courts cover areas that are not necessarily consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries, and therefore for each county court, the figures in the given table may relate to properties in other constituencies besides their own.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many court orders have been issued for the repossession of homes in *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* the Somerset county council area and *(c)* the south-west since 1997. [82143]

Ms Harman: The table shows the number of mortgage possession orders made at Yeovil county court, Somerset county council area and the south-west area since 1997.

The civil procedure rules provide that all claims for the repossession of land must be commenced in the district in which the land is situated. However, these county courts cover areas that are not necessarily consistent with other administrative or constituency boundaries, and therefore for instance repossessions at Yeovil county court may relate to properties in other constituencies besides Yeovil.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders made[2] in Yeovil county court, Somerset county council and the south-west, 1997-2005

	Yeovil	Somerset	South-west
1997	65	122	1,928
1998	109	144	2,077
1999	76	134	2,026
2000	53	106	1,307
2001	40	78	1,063
2002	33	65	1,023
2003	40	73	1,025
2004	50	99	1,407
2005	90	170	2,283

[1] Local authority and private.
[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

Watkins Report

Mark Durkan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will publish the findings of the Watkins report into guidelines for procurement in the criminal justice system. [80973]

Bridget Prentice: The Northern Ireland Court Service has established an independent investigation into the acceptance of gifts and hospitality by its staff. This investigation is being undertaken by a retired senior Northern Ireland civil servant, Mr. David Watkins CB. In the course of his investigation Mr. Watkins has provided an interim report into the procurement arrangements of the Northern Ireland Court Service on the basis of which the Court Service has arranged for the procurement service of the Northern Ireland Office to undertake procurement activity on behalf of the Court Service. As this interim report forms part of the overall investigation being carried out by Mr. Watkins, the interim report will not be published until the investigation is concluded.

HEALTH

Abattoirs

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abattoirs have been closed in each year since 1997. [78208]

Caroline Flint: The number of red meat and poultry abattoirs in the United Kingdom which surrendered their licences/approvals to operate or had them revoked in each year from 1997 to May 2006 is shown in the tables.

Red meat abattoirs

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	Total
1997	16	—	3	1	20
1998	14	4	1	1	20
1999	20	1	1	—	22
2000	23	1	—	—	24
2001	14	1	—	—	15

Red meat abattoirs

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	Total
2002	9	—	6	—	15
2003	21	—	2	1	24
2004	24	2	2	1	29
2005	10	2	0	—	12
May 2006	6	2	2	—	10
					191

Poultry abattoirs

	England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland	Total
1997	9	—	—	1	10
1998	6	2	3	1	12
1999	8	1	3	—	12
2000	4	1	1	2	8
2001	5	1	—	2	8
2002	7	2	—	—	9
2003	6	—	2	—	8
2004	6	2	—	—	8
2005	11	1	3	1	16
May 2006	1	—	—	1	2
					93

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she last discussed the issue of abortion with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church; what reply she gave; whether a note of the meeting was kept; whether she has further plans for such a meeting; and if she will make a statement. [80163]

Caroline Flint: My hon. friend, the Secretary of State for Health, met with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church on 21 June. It was a private meeting so no note was kept. However, a statement was issued after the meeting saying:

> "The Cardinal raised several issues with the Secretary of State including the 24-week time limit on abortion. The Secretary of State reiterated the Government's position that it has long been the parliamentary convention that proposals for changes in the law on abortion have come from backbench members and that decisions are made on the basis of free votes. The Government believes this should still be the case and it has no plans to change the law on abortion."

The Secretary of State has no further plans for such a meeting.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1794W, on abortion, if she will ensure that the publication 'Abortion Statistics, England and Wales 2005' is made available on her Department's website on 4 July at 9.30 am; and if she will make a statement. [81164]

Caroline Flint: The 2005 abortion statistics were published on the Department's website at 9.30 am on 4 July 2006.

Agenda for Change

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of whether adjustments need to be made to the calculation that was made of the costs of bank holidays in the Agenda for Change process. [76385]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The estimates of the cost of implementing agenda for change were based on a wide range of assumptions covering all the pay and conditions of service of staff. After taking into account the scope for management action, it was decided to adjust reference prices over and above the planned increase in agenda for change investment in 2006-07 to take fuller account of assimilation costs.

Alzheimer's Disease

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* meetings were held and *(b)* correspondence was exchanged between (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in her Department and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) regarding the NICE appraisal of Donepezil, Rivastigmine, Galantamine and Memantine for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. [81667]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* Ministers received a brief oral update on this appraisal from National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) officials on 7 June 2006. The progress of this appraisal also has been discussed with Ministers within the context of NICE's wider work programme at meetings on 2 March 2005 with NICE's chief executive and on 9 June 2005 with NICE's chief executive and chair.

Departmental officials have had no meetings with NICE specifically to discuss this appraisal, but the progress of the appraisal has been discussed as part of the regular communications between NICE and the Department.

The Department responded in writing to NICE's two consultation documents as part of this appraisal. Copies of the Department's responses are available in the Library.

Audiology

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to reduce the waiting times for NHS hearing aid patients. [81154]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A national action plan is being developed to improve adult hearing services. The intention is to develop the way forward in partnership with stakeholders.

In addition, several initiatives have been introduced through the modernising hearing aid services programme to increase capacity to deliver audiology services in England. These are the national framework contract (public-private partnership) to bring in additional independent sector capacity, the development of a new degree to help to address the shortage of audiologists

and the introduction of Hearing Direct which provides follow-up care and advice for some hearing aid users.

From April 2005, the 164 national health service audiology departments have been able to routinely assess for and fit digital hearing aids. It is for primary care trusts to ensure their local population benefits from the modernised services.

Breast Milk Substitutes

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of proposals put forward by the European Commission on the marketing of breast milk substitutes; and if she will make a statement. [81529]

Caroline Flint: The content of the recast European Union (EU) directive on infant formula and follow-on formula is still to be finalised by member states.

The Government will continue to press for changes to the advertising of infant formula and follow-on formula through the recast EU directive and intends to review United Kingdom legislation in this area.

Choose and Book System

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 935W, on the choose and book system, what discussions she had with GP representative bodies prior to the decision to introduce the new system; and what representations she received from *(a)* representative bodies, *(b)* GP practices and *(c)* other organisations; [73289]

(2) pursuant to her answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 935W, what assessment she has made of the response of *(a)* general practitioner practices, *(b)* general practitioner representative bodies and *(c)* other relevant organisations in respect of the introduction of the new system. [74252]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The choice and booking direct enhanced service (DES) was agreed with the general practitioners' committee of the British Medical Association, as part of negotiations for the general medical service contract to take effect from 1 April 2006-07.

An exhaustive list of representations since received by the Department in response to the introduction of the DES could be provided only at disproportionate cost. A brief search has identified over 300 letters and e-mails received on the subject matter relating to choose and book during the period 1 January 2005 to 31 May 2006.

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for cognitive behavioural therapy in each primary care trust in the north-west in the latest period for which figures are available. [81867]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* The Department does not routinely collect information on waiting times for appointments for treatments such as cognitive behavioural therapy. Data are collected only for consultant-led services, but not when services have been provided by other mental health practitioners.

Information for estimated average waiting times from general practitioner written referral to first out-patient appointment with a psychiatric consultant in each mental health provider trust in each of the last five years is available in the Library. The data are broken down into categories of provider trust, strategic health authority and Government office region where possible.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many websites there are within her responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79069]

Caroline Flint: To determine the number and identify the costs associated with each of the websites which fall within the Secretary of State for Health's responsibilities would incur disproportionate costs.

The Department is currently undertaking an audit of all its websites, as part of a review in accordance with the transformational Government strategy and its own overall communications strategy. This work is due to complete before the end of the year.

Information about the Department's corporate website, externally facing websites managed and maintained by departmental staff, and the Department's executive agencies' websites is as follows:

For the Department, the combined cost of the websites listed below for the year 2005-06 was £1,079,222. These figures include website and search engine hosting and maintenance, development and dedicated staff costs (using agreed civil service staff costs including salaries, common services etc.).

www.dh.gov.uk
www.performance.doh.gov.uk
www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk
www.info.doh.gov.uk
www.bristol-inquiry.org.uk
www.carers.gov.uk
www.carestandardstribunal.gov.uk
www.londonshealth.gov.uk
www.minorityhealth.gov.uk
www.ricinquiry.org.uk
www.royal-commission-elderly.gov.uk.

For the NHS in England, the cost of the NHS in England website (www.nhs.uk) for the year 2005-06 was £1,550,716. This figure includes hosting and maintenance, development and dedicated staff costs.

For the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA), the cost of maintenance of the NHS PASA websites (www.pasa.doh.gov.uk and nww.pasa.doh.gov.uk) for the year 2005-06 was £86,000. This cost includes dedicated staff salaries.

For the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), the cost of the MHRA websites (www.mhra.gov.uk and www.gprd.com) for the year 2005-06 was £560,000. This includes editorial content, technical support, hosting and software maintenance. It also includes depreciation of software and build costs.

Diabetes

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with diabetes were offered retinal screening in Warrington Primary Care Trust in the last year for which figures are available; and what proportion of people with diabetes in the area this represented. [81868]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* 6,975 people were offered retinopathy screening in Warrington Primary Care Trust in the last 12 months to March 2006. This represents a proportion of 95 per cent. of people with diabetes.

District Community Nursing

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many district community nurses are employed by the Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority. [81460]

Caroline Flint: The number of community district nurses employed in the Surrey and Sussex Strategic Health Authority area is 627 as at 30 September 2005. The number of community district nurses employed by primary care trusts (PCTs) and acute trusts in the SHA area is shown in the table.

Surrey and Sussex SHA	*Headcount*
Adur, Arun and Worthing PCT	71
Bexhill and Rother PCT	15
Crawley PCT	20
East Elmbridge and Mid-Surrey PCT	51
East Surrey PCT	29
Eastbourne Downs PCT	26
Guildford and Waverley PCT	43
Hastings and St. Leonards PCT	23
Horsham and Chactonbury PCT	54
Mid-Sussex PCT	15
North Surrey PCT	62
South Downs Health National Health Service Trust	46
Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust	1
Surrey Heath and Working PCT	53
Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	27
Western Sussex PCT	91

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care, non-medical workforce census 2005.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the future of district community nursing. [81480]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* District nurses and their teams will play a key role in the future, especially to meet the needs of an ageing population, to support people with long-term conditions and care for people who choose to die at home. There will be a need for nurses with specialist skills and knowledge to lead and provide care for patients in the community. Their role will develop in response to the transfer of care to the community, new technologies, new roles such as community matrons, and patient choice. These changes will require nurses in the community to develop new skills, work in new ways and be part of integrated teams across hospital and community, general practice and social care.

Doctors

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants are available to treat patients in the Bournemouth primary care trust area. [80962]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not available centrally.

Drug Rehabilitation

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment has been made of the effect of NHS Trust deficits on the provision of drug rehabilitation programmes. [80259]

Caroline Flint: The 2005-06 provisional outturn position shows the national health service as a whole to be forecasting a net year-end deficit of around £512 million, which is less than 1 per cent. of total net NHS expenditure.

A minority of NHS organisations are in deficit. The majority of NHS organisations are in financial balance or surplus and are delivering improvements to access and the quality of patient care.

We have set NHS organisations the requirement to deliver better standards of care and quicker access than ever before. There can be no trade-off between meeting these requirements and delivering financial balance.

The Department, supported by £22 million of funding from the Home Office, will provide drug action teams (DATs) with £394.6 million for drug treatment in 2006-07 which is an increase of over 30 per cent. from last year. This funding is additional to NHS primary care trusts' own investment and will be used for personnel, day-to-day running of services, and building and refurbishment of premises. For every £1 spent on drug treatment, at least £9.50 is saved in crime and health costs.

Elderly Care (Staff Protocol)

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her policy is on the use of first names by nursing staff when addressing elderly patients; and whether any instructions have been issued on this matter. [81972]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have set up a dignity in care initiative to ensure all older people are treated with dignity when using health and social care services. In 2003, we published the Essence of Care benchmarking tool, which contains guidance on respecting a patient's personal boundaries, including agreeing the name by which the patient wishes to be addressed.

Food Safety Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the operation of the Food Safety Act 1990; what recent representations she has received about the operation of this Act; and whether she has plans to amend this Act. [80198]

Caroline Flint: The Food Safety Act 1990 is the main statute on food safety and standards in Great Britain. It was, however, substantially amended in 2004 to take account of Regulation (EC) 178/2002, which lays down some general principles and requirements of food law within the European Union.

A code of practice produced under section 40 of the Act lays down enforcement procedures and was revised this year along with the accompanying guidance.

The Food Standards Agency has received no recent representations about the operation of the Act and there are no plans to amend it further.

Food Supplements

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many dossiers have been received by the Food Standards Agency from manufacturers seeking to gain derogation until 2009 from the provisions of the food supplements directive; in how many cases such derogations were *(a)* given and *(b)* not given; for which substances derogation has not been given; and for what reasons derogation was denied in each case; [77047]

(2) when officials of which other European Union member states officials of the Food Standards Agency have recently met to discuss the interpretation and implementation of the food supplements directive; on what date such meetings were held; and what the outcome was of the discussions; [77051]

(3) when officials of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Food Standards Agency last met the Better Regulation Task Force to discuss the economic impact of the food supplements directive; what actions were agreed at that meeting; and if she will make a statement; [77052]

(4) whether officials of her Department have produced an analysis of the scientific papers upon which the German Government based their negotiating position when the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health recently considered the proposal to add boron to the list of nutrients permitted for use under the food supplements directive and the directive on foods for particular nutritional purposes; what steps she intends to take prior to the next discussions on this issue by the Standing Committee; and if she will make a statement; [77053]

(5) whether officials of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Food Standards Agency have obtained a copy of the report on the safety of vitamins and minerals on which the German Government are basing their negotiating position in relation to the food supplements directive; whether the Government will produce a response to that document; and if she will make a statement; [77054]

(6) what strategy she has adopted to achieve her objectives for the interpretation and implementation of the food supplements directive; what progress she has made to date in implementing that strategy; what progress she has made in persuading other member states to agree to the United Kingdom's objectives for the implementation of that legislation; and if she will make a statement; [77055]

(7) what further steps she intends to take to ensure that right hon. and hon. Members are fully informed about progress towards the achievement of her objectives for the interpretation and implementation of the food supplements directive; [77056]

(8) with Ministers of which other European Union member states Ministers of her Department have recently met to discuss the interpretation and implementation of the Food Supplements Directive; on what date such meetings were held; and what the outcome was of the discussions. [77057]

Caroline Flint: Dossiers for 421 substances were accepted by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) from manufacturers seeking to gain derogation for the substances to remain on the United Kingdom (UK) market. Of these, 46 dossiers were submitted after 12 July 2005 and the FSA had been given to understand that receipt of these dossiers was acceptable, and had advised that the substances covered by these could continue to be used in supplements. The European Commission (EC) has subsequently advised that the substances cannot benefit from the derogation. The FSA is carrying out inquiries of the relevant companies to obtain accurate details of the substances concerned. The 375 dossiers submitted before the deadline are awaiting an opinion from the European Food Safety Authority, and a decision by the standing committee on the food chain and animal health.

Meetings were held with the Netherlands (7 March), Germany (20 March), Finland (31 March), Ireland (6 April), Italy (20 April) and France (24 April). The meetings were used to present the outcome of preliminary discussions in the absence of EC proposals by the FSA board on setting maximum levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements, and the UK market for food supplements. Member states were receptive to the ideas presented by the FSA but had not developed their own definitive positions in the absence of proposals from the EC.

FSA officials discussed what work might be undertaken to provide information on the economic impact of the food supplements directive with respect to setting maximum levels of vitamins and minerals with the better regulation executive on 2 June 2006. It was agreed that this should be discussed further after the EC has published its discussion documents on this issue.

FSA officials have considered the papers provided by the German Government on the safety of boron. FSA officials have discussed with the EC the fact that the issue under consideration is the addition of substances to the annexes in the food supplements directive and, not at this stage, to agree maximum levels for individual vitamins and minerals. The FSA is considering this and the EC is awaiting its advice before there is a further discussion at the EC standing committee.

The FSA has received a copy of the report published by the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment in Germany, which outlines recommended levels for certain vitamins and minerals. A response to the report is not planned. No proposals on setting levels have been published by the EC to date, and member states have yet to indicate their negotiating positions.

The outcome of preliminary discussions by the FSA board on setting maximum levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements, in the absence of EC proposals, has formed the basis of discussions with member states on this issue. The UK strategy has been to encourage discussion with other key member states and to engage in discussions on this subject at this early stage, prior to papers being published by the EC. This strategy has been developed to implement the objectives of Health Ministers. A number of meetings have been held with member states.

Right hon. and hon. Members will be updated on the food supplements directive via ministerial correspondence and replies to parliamentary questions.

No meetings have been held with Ministers from other European Union member states on the food supplements directive. A letter has been sent to all Ministers advising them of the preliminary discussions by the FSA board in September 2005 on setting maximum levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

Health Services (Stoke-on-Trent)

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the most recent *(a)* obesity rate and *(b)* smoking rate was in (i) Stoke-on-Trent, (ii) the West Midlands and (iii) England. [80601]

Caroline Flint: The main source of data available on the obesity and smoking rates among adults is the Health Survey for England (HSE) and the General Household Survey (GHS). Data are not available in the format requested. However, tables 1 to 4 show the most recent data available on the estimates of obesity and smoking prevalence at Standard Housing Association, Government Office Region (GOR) and national level.

Table 1 presents the data on obesity among adults in Shropshire and Staffordshire (the former SHA which contains Stoke-on-Trent). The sample size of the HSE does not allow figures to be produced below SHA level.

Table 1: Prevalence of obesity among adults aged 16 and over in the former Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA, by gender (three-year average), 2000-02

	Percentage
Men	20.7
Women	25.6
All adults	23.4
Base	
Men	396
Women	464
All adults	860

Source:
Health Survey for England: health and lifestyle indicators for strategic health authorities 1994 to 2002, Department of Health.

Table 2 presents data on smoking prevalence among adults in Shropshire and Staffordshire.

Table 2: Prevalence of smoking among adults aged 16 and over in the former Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA (three-year average), by gender

2000-02	Percentage
Men	22.9
Women	23.8
All adults	23.4
Base	
Men	444
Women	528
All adults	972

Source:
Health Survey for England: health and lifestyle indicators for strategic health authorities1994-2002, Department of Health.

Table 3 shows the proportion of adults who were obese in West Midlands Government Office Region (GOR) in 2003.

Table 3: Prevalence of obesity among adults aged 16 and over in West Midlands GOR, 2003

	Percentage
Men	23.0
Women	28.7
Base (weighted)	
Men	676
Women	696
Base (unweighted)	
Men	629
Women	778

Source:
Health Survey for England 2003, Department of Health.

Table 4 shows the prevalence of smoking among adults in West Midlands GOR in 2004.

Table 4: Prevalence of smoking among adults aged 16 and over in West Midlands GOR, by gender, 2004

	Percentage
Men	26
Women	21
All Adults	23
Base (weighted)	
Men	1,647
Women	1,973
All adults	3,621
Base (unweighted)	
Men	589
Women	714
All adults	1,303

Source:
General Household Survey 2004, ONS.

Tables 5 and 6 shows the prevalence of obesity among adults in England in 2004 and the prevalence of smoking among adults in 2004.

Table 5: Prevalence of obesity among adults aged 16 and over in England, 2004

	Percentage
Men	22.7
Women	23.2
Base (weighted)	
Men	39,244
Women	39,803
Base (unweighted)	
Men	2,444
Women	3,135

Source:
Health Survey for England 2004—updating of trend tables to include 2004 data. The Information Centre for health and social care.

Table 6: Prevalence of smoking among adults aged 16 and over in England, 2004

	Percentage
Men	26
Women	23
All adults	25
Base (weighted)	
Men	16,855
Women	19,148
All adults	36,004
Base (unweighted)	
Men	5,884
Women	6,832
All adults	12,716

Source:
General Household Survey 2004, ONS.

Health Workers (International Recruitment)

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the government of the Philippines regarding *(a)* the effects of health worker migration from the Philippines to the United Kingdom and *(b)* the full inclusion of the Philippines in the Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Workers. [81831]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* Departmental officials met the ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines in December 2005. Information was exchanged on both countries' healthcare work force. The Philippines is not included in the list of countries from which recruitment is discouraged.

Hepatitis C

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the average waiting time for hepatitis C patients was from referral to first appointment with a consultant in the latest period for which figures are available; [80929]

(2) what the average waiting time was in the Bournemouth primary care trust for liver biopsy for hepatitis C patients in the latest period for which figures are available; [80930]

(3) how many patients in the Bournemouth primary care trust area received interferon treatment for hepatitis C with or without ribavirin in 2005-06; and how many of these waited for more than three months from their first hospital consultation. [80963]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not available centrally.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what new groups have been deemed at risk of influenza for the 2006-07 winter. [80808]

Caroline Flint: No new groups have been added to this year's recommendation for influenza vaccine.

Management Consultancy

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions she had with primary care trusts about the level of expenditure on management consultancy; [75862]

(2) what guidelines she lays down on expenditure on management consultancy by primary care trusts. [75864]

Ms Rosie Winterton: My hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has not had any specific discussions with primary care trusts (PCTs) about the level of expenditure on management consultancy, neither has the Department issued any specific guidance to PCTs relating to expenditure on management consultants.

NHS Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of calls to NHS Direct have been referred to *(a)* 999 and *(b)* an accident and emergency department in each quarter since December 2002. [79041]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table:

Financial year	Number of calls referred to 999 services by NHS Direct[1]	Percentage of calls to NHS Direct which have been referred to 999	Number of calls referred to accident and emergency (A&E)[2]	Percentage of calls to NHS Direct which have been referred to A&E
2002-03				
Q4	52,765	5.63	105,230	11.22

Financial year	Number of calls referred to 999 services by NHS Direct[1]	Percentage of calls to NHS Direct which have been referred to 999	Number of calls referred to accident and emergency (A&E)[2]	Percentage of calls to NHS Direct which have been referred to A&E
2003-04				
Q1	49,065	5.41	106,974	11.79
Q2	50,860	5.89	109,361	12.67
Q3	57,681	6.19	98,794	10.60
Q4	58,948	6.05	106,576	10.93
2004-05				
Q1	58,583	5.91	104,427	10.53
Q2	56,105	5.89	94,873	9.96
Q3	62,673	5.83	94,189	8.76
Q4	62,000	5.46	91,395	8.05
2005-06				
Q1	59,261	5.49	99,764	9.24
Q2	55,685	3.42	97,610	6.00
Q3	62,046	3.60	98,766	5.73
Q4	61,005	3.47	97,115	5.53

[1] Calls referred to ambulance or paramedic services.
[2] Calls where patients are asked to attend an A&E department.
Source:
NHS Direct Special Health Authority

NHS IT Programme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 16 May 2006, on the NHS IT programme, what estimate she has made of total expenditure by NHS trusts on the programme to date. [75251]

Caroline Flint: Total information management and technology (IM&T) expenditure reported by the national health service in the last year for which figures are available (2004-05) amounted to about £1.2 billion. As well as supporting local implementation of the national programme for information technology (IT), NHS spending covers IT requirements such as staff management and finance systems. However, figures for expenditure on implementing the national programme, separate from the totality of NHS spending on IM&T, are not collected centrally.

NHS Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS staff have been made redundant in 2006-07 to date, broken down by category of staff. [78356]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Patient Transport

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancer patients received *(a)* full and *(b)* partial help with travel and parking costs through the hospital travel costs scheme during the last year for which figures are available. [80502]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect figures on the numbers of any type of patient who receive help through the hospital travel costs scheme. It is for primary care trusts, as local commissioners of services, to make provisions so that patients with either a financial or medical need for transport can travel to and from their treatment or care.

Referrals

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many referrals were made by general practitioners through *(a)* the directly bookable service, *(b)* the indirectly bookable service and *(c)* all means in each month since December 2005. [74068]

Caroline Flint: The data requested are shown in the table.

	Directly bookable	Indirectly bookable	Total bookings
December 2005	4,732	15,212	19,944
January 2006	8,094	24,200	32,294
February 2006	12,354	35,395	47,749
March 2006	20,251	48,966	69,217
April 2006	22,005	47,680	69,685
May 2006	37,330	78,222	115,552

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral statement of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 264, on NHS performance, what assessment she has made of where responsibility lies for the deficit of the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust. [82533]

Caroline Flint: It is for the NHS South West to make any such assessment, and take the necessary action in co-operation with the local national health service. The Secretary of State for Health was advised by KPMG as part of the initial assessment for turnaround in February 2006 that Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust was a category one organisation and would thus require immediate support to deliver a turnaround.

School Meals

Mr. Mande: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment she has made of the amount of transfatty acids in school meals; and what steps she is taking to reduce it; [81157]

(2) what the recommended maximum level is of trans fatty acids in the national school meal guidelines. [81158]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

The School Meals Review Panel considered the need for a specific standard for trans fatty acids to be included within their proposals, and concluded against imposing a specific standard for the following reasons:

Evidence shows that adult intakes of trans fatty acids are well below the maximum threshold level for health;

Adopting a standard to limit the fat content of school meals would contribute towards controlling levels of trans fatty acids; and

Food-based standards would include restrictions on foods which tend to be higher in trans fatty acids (for example savoury snacks and confectionery).

The School Food Trust supported the panel's view that their proposals would sufficiently control trans fatty acids, and that there was no need to develop a specific standard for trans fatty acids which had the potential to complicate the new standards unnecessarily, making it more difficult for schools and local authorities to implement.

Seat Belts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the *(a)* annual savings and *(b)* total saving to date to the national health service by (i) front and (ii) rear seat belt wearing being made compulsory; and if she will make a statement. [81281]

Caroline Flint: The Government do not have estimates on the savings to the national health service due to wearing of front and rear seat belts. Over 2,000 road fatalities are, however, estimated to be prevented every year by the use of seat belts.

Short Break Provision (Surrey)

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent on short break provision in Surrey in the last year for which figures are available; and how many hours break this provided; [82446]

(2) how many hours' short break service, on average, were provided in respect of people with a learning disability in Surrey who received the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest, *(b)* middle and *(c)* lowest rate in the last period for which figures are available; [82447]

(3) how many *(a)* carers of people with a learning disability, *(b)* children with a learning disability and *(c)* adults with a learning disability in Surrey receive a short break service. [82448]

Caroline Flint: This information is not held centrally. It is the responsibility of local commissioners to ensure appropriate provision of services to meet their community's needs.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of teenage pregnancy was in Lancashire in each year since 1997. [81766]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 4 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the rate of teenage pregnancy was in Lancashire in each year since 1997. (81766)

Available figures are estimates of the number of pregnancies that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or termination.

Teenage conception numbers and rates in Lancashire County from 1991 to 2004 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are given in the table below. Figures for 2004 are provisional.

Teenage conceptions: numbers and rates for Lancashire county, 1997-2004

	Number	Rate[1]
1997	987	46
1998	1,031	48
1999	928	43
2000	1,008	46
2001	922	41
2002	960	42
2003	931	41
2004[2]	968	42

[1] Rate per 1,000 women aged 15 to 17.
[2] Provisional.

Tetanus

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the supply of human tetanus immunoglobulin for prophylactic use. [80302]

Caroline Flint: Reserve supplies of human tetanus immunoglobulin are available for the treatment of those people with tetanus.

Manufacturers have confirmed that sufficient supplies to treat tetanus-prone wounds, where clinically indicated, will be available by mid-July 2006. We have provided clinical advice on the management of tetanus-prone wounds if hospitals do not have adequate supplies of human tetanus immunoglobulin.

Water

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been conducted into the health effects of *(a)* tap water and *(b)* bottled mineral water. [75549]

Caroline Flint: The Government are responsible for implementing and enforcing safety limits for tap water and all types of bottled water.

The safety of drinking water is of such importance to public health that the underpinning science is kept under continuous review. The World Health Organisation (WHO) manages a global process of rolling revision of drinking water guidelines on behalf of the water and health regulators in all countries. All countries contribute knowledge based on published peer reviewed studies and on data from their national research programmes.

On behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the drinking water inspectorate manages the national drinking water quality and health research programme. Executive summaries of all research reports since 1997 are published on the Foundation for Water Research's website at: www.fwr.org, where details can be found of how to obtain copies of the full reports. This website also provides access to other relevant research reports being undertaken in Europe.

The safety standards for natural mineral water and other bottled waters are laid down in European directives. These standards are set taking account of studies reviewed by WHO and the opinion of the European Food Safety Authority.

Wound Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent by the NHS on branded wound care products in 2005; and what research her Department has undertaken into the purchase of non-branded products; [71586]

(2) if she will introduce a centralised procurement policy for wound care products. [72761]

Andy Burnham: The national health service spend on branded wound care products through NHS Logistics and prescriptions sent to the Prescription Pricing Authority was £171,132,847 for 2005.

Branded has been interpreted to mean as where product descriptions clearly identify a specific manufacturer and brand of product.

No research has taken place within the Department into the procurement of non-branded products. As part of the procurement process for procurement of products through NHS Logistics, use of clinical staff and product testing is incorporated to ensure that, where appropriate, rationalised product ranges on agreements provide the NHS with value for money.

The Department's policy on the procurement of goods and services in or on behalf of the NHS is based on value for money with due regard to propriety and regularity and ensuring full compliance with the European Union procurement directive and other regularity requirements.

All wound care products spend through NHS Logistics are purchased via national framework agreements where detailed product specification has been placed following discussions with clinical staff.

TREASURY

Causes of Death

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 14 to 16, (ii) 17 to 21, (iii) 22 to 24, (iv) 25 to 30, (v) 31 to 35 and (vi) 36 to 40 years died as a result of (A) road traffic accidents, (B) suicide, (C) sexually transmitted diseases, (D) drug misuse, (E) alcohol misuse and (F) murder/manslaughter in (1) Southend-on-Sea, (2) Essex, (3) Hertfordshire, (4) the Metropolitan police area of London, (5) the City of London police area and (6) England and Wales in each year since 1986. [81241]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 4 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) males and (b) females aged (i) 14 to 16, (ii) 17 to 21, (iii) 22 to 24, (iv) 25 to 30, (v) 31 to 35 and (vi) 36 to 40 years died as a result of (A) road traffic accidents, (B) suicide, (C) sexually transmitted diseases, (D) drug misuse, (E) alcohol misuse and (F) murder/manslaughter in (1) Southend-on-Sea, (2) Essex, (3) Hertfordshire, (4) the Metropolitan Police area of London, (5) the City of London Police area and (6) England and Wales in each year since 1986.

ONS routinely publishes numbers of deaths for causes which may be sexually transmitted, such as HIV or Hepatitis B infection. Information is not however normally available from the death certificate on the actual method of transmission for deaths from these causes and so figures for sexually transmitted diseases cannot be provided. Mortality data are not available for Police Areas, therefore we have provided figures for the London borough of City of London and for London Government Office Region.

The most recently available information is for deaths registered in 2005. Figures for deaths in males and females aged 14 to 40 years for land transport accidents, suicide or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent, alcohol-related causes, and assault are shown in the attached tables for each year from 1988 to 2005. I am placing copies of these tables in the House of Commons Library. Data for 1986 and 1987 are not available for area boundaries that are consistent with subsequent years and have not therefore been provided. Figures for drug misuse are only available from a special database containing deaths occurring from 1993-2004.

Construction Industry

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer further to his answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 91W, on construction industry registration cards, how many temporary construction industry services registration cards were issued in each year since 1999-2000; and if he will make a statement. [81609]

John Healey: The total number of temporary construction industry services registration cards issued since 1999 is 350,000 (this figure is rounded to the nearest 50,000).

Estimated numbers issued each year since 1999-2000 are provided in the following table.

	Number of temporary cards issued
1999-2000	41,000
2000-01	23,000
2001-02	24,000
2002-03	40,000
2003-04	54,000
2004-05	74,000
2005-06	77,000

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Paymaster General will answer the letter to of 18 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. Christine Hayes. [81895]

Dawn Primarolo: I have done so.

Customs (Cornwall)

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officers were on long-term sick leave on 1 June of each year since 1997. [81099]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of former HM Customs and Excise (HMC and E) employees on the HMC and E payroll on long-term sickness absence on 1 June of each year since 1997 are:

1 June:	*Number of absences*
1997	308
1998	319
1999	311
2000	319
2001	349
2002	334
2003	334
2004	319
2005	289
2006	268

A long-term absence is defined here as one which has lasted more than four consecutive weeks.

Drug Seizures

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many recorded drug seizures there have been around the coast of Devon and Cornwall since 2003. [81634]

Dawn Primarolo: The national information on drugs seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs since 2003 is contained in the Annual Report. The figures for the year ending March 2006 will be published in the next Annual Report.

Information on drug seizures by location cannot be disclosed. Doing so would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Financial Services Division

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people worked in his Department's Financial Services Division sub-departments on *(a)* financial crime, *(b)* financial services strategy, *(c)* financial stability and risk, *(d)* payments and inclusion and *(e)* savings and investment in each of the last five years, broken down by grade. [81706]

John Healey *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* The organisational structure of the teams responsible for financial services has changed on several occasions during 2000-06. The current breakdown of staff between the five teams is shown in the table. The figures quoted are on the basis of full-time equivalent staff in post on 1 April, rounded to the nearest whole number.

The total number of staff working in the teams responsible for financial services in the finance and industry directorate of Her Majesty's Treasury on 1 April in each of the past five years, on a broadly comparable basis, has been: 62 in 2002, 58 in 2003, 72 in 2004, 74 in 2005 and 72 in 2006. A proportion of the directorate's senior management resources also contributes to the work on financial services.

Range	*Financial Services Strategy*	*Financial Crime*	*Financial Stability and Risk*	*Payments and Inclusion*	*Savings and Investment*
SCS	1	1	1	1	1
E	6	6	6	5	5
D	3	8	6	3	7
A-C	3	3	2	2	21
Total	13	18	15	11	15

Illegal Firearms

Mr. Leech: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the number of illegal firearms entering the port of Falmouth since 2003. [81633]

Dawn Primarolo: No estimate is available for the number of firearms illegally entering the United Kingdom through Falmouth.

Figures on the firearms HM Revenue and Customs have seized nationally are available in the Annual Reports of HM Revenue and Customs, the most recent being published 19 December 2005. Figures for the financial period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 will be published in the next Annual Report.

Illegal Products (Seizures)

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many seizures of *(a)* illegal firearms, *(b)* drugs and *(c)* cigarettes have been made in Suffolk in each of the last 5 years. [82113]

Dawn Primarolo: The national information on seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs since 2003 is contained in the annual report. The figures for the year ending March 2006 will be published in the next annual report.

Information on seizures by location cannot be disclosed, as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Income Data

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the average income per person in Yeovil constituency. [82138]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest estimates for the mean and median of total income (for taxpayers only) by constituency can be found in table 3.15 "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency" on HM Revenue and Customs website. http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315.

The information is based on the latest Survey of Personal Incomes (2003-04).

Because sample sizes at constituency level are small and estimates can demonstrate a large variability from year to year, inference from the information in the table should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.15a "Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency, Confidence Intervals".

Similar information including non-taxpayers is not available.

Individual Savings Account

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have taken out the maximum £7,000 individual savings account for the year 2005-06. [81861]

Ed Balls: This figure is not yet available for 2005-06. The latest published figure for the number of individuals subscribing £7,000 to ISAs is 949,000 in 2001-02. This information can be found on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/isa/table9_7_01-02.pdf

More recent data will be available later this year.

Internal Leaks

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many internal leak inquiries have been conducted in his Department in each year since 1997; [80153]

(2) whether his Department's *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers have requested a leak inquiry at the tax credit office since January; and if he will make a statement. [81757]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 543W.

National Youth Volunteering Service

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on the establishment of the national youth volunteering service; and if he will make a statement. [80524]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 822W to my hon. Friend the hon. Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Lynne Jones) by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office.

Personal Allowance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the revenue implications of introducing a personal allowance of £7,185, absorbing the starting rate band on earnings and savings in the basic rate band, cutting the basic rate of income tax to 20 per cent. with tax rates on dividends unchanged, increasing the basic rate limit to £42,815, keeping the personal allowances for people aged 65 to 74 and 75 years at their current levels and abolishing all other age-related allowances; and if he will make a statement; [79293]

(2) if he will estimate the revenue implications of introducing a personal allowance of £7,500, absorbing the starting rate band on earnings and savings in the basic rate band, cutting the basic rate of income tax to 20 per cent., with tax rates on dividends unchanged, increasing the basic rate limit to £42,500, and raising all the age-related allowances to £7,500; and if he will make a statement. [79294]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is in the following table.

Cost of tax options 2006-07

Options[1]	*Personal allowance (£)*	*Starting rate (percentage)*	*Basic rate*[2] *(percentage)*	*Basic rate limit (£)*	*Personal allowance (aged 65 to 74) (£)*	*Personal allowance (aged above 74) (£)*	*Additional cost (£ billion)*
Current regime	5,035	10	22	33,300	7,280	7,420	—
Option 1[3]	7,185	20	20	42,815	7,280	7,420	-16.6
Option 2[4]	7,500	20	20	42,500	7,500	7,500	-18.9

[1] The changes are assumed to take place in 2006-07 and the additional costs are estimated liabilities for the same year.
[2] The marginal rate on earnings.
[3] The option assumes abolishing the married couples' allowance.
[4] The option would cost £18.3 billion with the married couples' allowance abolished.

The estimates are based on the 2003-04 survey of personal incomes projected forward to 2006-07 in line with Budget 2006 assumptions.

The figures exclude any estimate of behavioural response to the tax changes, which could be significant given the scale of the changes.

Phoenix Engineering

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will investigate the administrative errors in Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs which have identified overpayments and underpayments of tax by Phoenix Engineering Company Ltd. of Chard, Somerset; and if he will make a statement. [81756]

Dawn Primarolo: I am unable to comment on this particular company's tax affairs because of the requirement for customer confidentiality.

Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department has taken to reduce poverty in Yeovil constituency since 1997. [82147]

Dawn Primarolo: The Treasury has, in partnership with other Government Departments, tackled poverty and promoted economic opportunity through:

Promoting macroeconomic stability

Supporting work for those who can and ensuring that work pays, through the new deals, a national minimum wage and the working tax credit

Providing financial support for groups at particular risk of poverty, such as child benefit and the child tax for families, and the pension credit for pensioners.

Across the UK, these measures have helped lift more than a million people out of poverty since 1997. Tax credits are benefiting more than 380,000 families in the South West region, and in Yeovil claimant unemployment has fallen by over 50 per cent., youth unemployment has fallen by 67 per cent. and long-term unemployment has fallen by over 90 per cent.

Remittances

Helen Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the total amount of remittances sent abroad by UK-based foreign nationals over the last five years, broken down by country. [82565]

Ed Balls: The UK authorities do not produce official statistics of workers' remittances disaggregated on the basis of destination country. The breakdown of the size of immigrant communities in the UK provides one indicator on the destination of the bulk of remittance flows out of the UK. Estimates of the size of UK remittance market can be found in the report of the UK Remittances Working Group[1], established in 2004 by the Department for International Development (DFID). This shows that DFID believes the most reliable estimate for total remittances from the UK to developing countries to be £2.3 billion in 2005 and that—based on the size of diaspora communities—the primary developing country recipients of UK remittances are India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Caribbean, Kenya, Nigeria and China.

[1] Available at www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/uk-remittances-report.pdf

Sun Care Products

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will reduce the VAT on children's sun care products to an essential rating of 5 per cent. [82276]

Dawn Primarolo: All taxes are kept under review and any changes are announced by the Chancellor as part of the Budget process. To date the Government have been sparing in our use of reduced rates of VAT and have only introduced them where they offer the best targeted and most cost effective support for Government objectives, when considered against alternative policy instruments.

Outside the VAT system the Government have provided funding to Cancer Research UK's national skin cancer prevention campaign, 'SunSmart'. This campaign includes raising awareness of skin cancer and highlights the need for early detection and presentation.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much tax credit overpayment has been written off due to hardship in each quarter since April 2003; and if he will make a statement. [76489]

Dawn Primarolo: Audited details of new tax credit overpayments written off are compiled annually to the end of October. Available figures for overpayments written off due to hardship are shown in the following table.

Year to end of October	£ *Amount written off*
2004	0
2005	155,000

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedures are in place to tackle fraud in the claiming of *(a)* research and development tax credits and *(b)* vaccines research relief; and if he will make a statement. [82153]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs manages non-compliance through a process of risk assessment and deploys resources according to the risks identified.

As with other elements of companies' tax or computations, claims for R&D tax credits and vaccine relief research are subject to risk assessment procedures. When significant risks are identified they are pursued through a variety of interventions, one of which involves the opening of an enquiry into the company tax return or claim. If as a result of the inquiry a return or claim is found to be incorrect, steps will be taken to recover the tax due. In such circumstances interest will be charged and penalties will be considered where appropriate.

The document published at PBR "Supporting growth in innovation: next steps for the R&D tax credit" announced that HMRC would set up specialist units to handle all claims dealt with outside the Large Business Service.

The new units are intended to ensure greater consistency in the handling of claims. This should include a more consistent and effective approach to tackling non-compliance.

Where serious fraud is identified the Department will adopt its normal civil or criminal investigation procedures.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the administration costs of *(a)* research and development tax credits and *(b)* vaccines research relief; and if he will make a statement. [82154]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to his previous question on 1 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 991W.

Treasury Select Committee

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department will provide the information requested by the Treasury Select Committee in paragraph 109 of volume one of its fourth report of session 2005-06 (HC994-1), The 2006 Budget; and if he will make a statement. [82093]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government's response to the Treasury Committee's report on the 2006 Budget was issued yesterday.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 4 July 2006

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills to which institutions his Department has given funds for adult education in *(a)* Lambeth and *(b)* Vauxhall in the last three years; and what the amount was in each case. [78591]

Bill Rammell: In 2003/04 the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) allocated £25.5 million to providers in the Lambeth area for adult provision, £26.8 million in 2004/05 and £26.75 million in 2005/06. Separate figures for the Vauxhall area are not available. The individual provider allocations are set out in the following table.

£ million

	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Lambeth college (FE)	19.10	19.60	19.50
Morley college (FE)	4.00	4.50	4.60
Lambeth LEA (ACL/PCDL)	2.30	2.50	2.50
TBG (WBL)	0.10	0.20	0.15
Total	25.50	26.80	26.75

Apprenticeships

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in Year 10 and above in Yeovil constituency are on the apprenticeships scheme. [82178]

Phil Hope: There are no Key Stage 4 pupils in Yeovil currently on the Young Apprenticeship Programme. 30 Year 10 pupils are scheduled to start the programme in September 2006, with that number divided between Young Apprenticeships in engineering and in hospitality.

Baccalaureate

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in maintained schools in England took the International Baccalaureate in each of the last 10 years. [82001]

Jim Knight: Figures for the number of pupils in maintained schools in England entered in the International Baccalaureate each year since 1995/96 are given in the following table.

Number of pupils in maintained schools in England entered in the International Baccalaureate

	Number
1995/96	101
1996/97	104
1997/98	134
1998/99	137
1999/2000	150
2000/01	154
2001/02	217
2002/03	320
2003/04	333
2004/05	498

Bullying

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance he has issued to schools on tackling bullying via mobile phone; and if he will make a statement. [81695]

Jim Knight: This Government have made clear that all forms of bullying, including bullying via mobile phone, are unacceptable and should be punished.

Misuse of mobile phones was one of the specific issues considered by the Practitioners' Group on School Behaviour and Discipline, in its report "Learning Behaviour" (October 2005). The report points to the fact that, while mobile phones are now a part of daily life, head teachers need a clear policy on their possession and use on school site. The current Education and Inspections Bill re-enacts and strengthens the duty on schools to establish a behaviour policy. The accompanying Explanatory Notes require

"the head teacher to determine measures (which may include rules and provision for enforcing them) that promote self-discipline and a proper regard for authority, encourage good behaviour and respect for others, prevent bullying, secure that tasks are completed, and generally secure an acceptable standard of behaviour by pupils" (Clause 76).

We will be producing guidance on that duty which will specifically address the issue of mobile phone misuse.

The seriousness with which bullying by mobile phone should be treated is referred to in our anti-bullying guidance pack for schools "Don't Suffer in Silence". This resource is currently being revised to ensure that schools are provided with the most up-to-date information available.

Child Care

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Government are taking to increase the number of child care places in Swindon. [82409]

Beverley Hughes: Statistics collected from local authorities (LAs) from 1999 to 2003 and from Ofsted from 2003 to March 2006 show that almost 2,000 new child care places were created in Swindon during that period.

From 1999 to March 2005 LAs were set child care place creation targets. Since then, the emphasis has been on LAs obtaining a close match between supply and demand and working with providers to develop a sustainable child care market.

General Sure Start Grant funding of more than £9.3 million has been awarded to the LA for 2006 to 2008, much of which may be used to help create places to meet the current and future demands of families in Swindon.

City Academies

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills with which *(a)* businesses, *(b)* charities, *(c)* individuals and *(d)* voluntary groups Ministers have corresponded about sponsoring city academies since 16 March 2006. [81715]

Jim Knight: My noble Friend Lord Adonis has sent letters to the following organisations:

(a) Businesses

Sunderland Housing Group
Northumbrian Water
Leighton Group
Bee Bee Developments Ltd.
Catalyst Corby

(b) Charities

(Bishop of Warrington) The right Rev. David Wilfred Michael Jennings
The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool
The Girls' Day School Trust
Edge Foundation
The London Diocesan Board of Schools
United Learning Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation

(c) Individuals

David Dangoor
(The Bishop of Leicester) The Very Reverend Tim Stevens
Lord Harris of Peckham

Community Education

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received on the level of community education in 2006-07. [81836]

Phil Hope: There have been no formal representations on the level of community education in 2006-07. However, my colleagues and I have regular meetings about adult learning, including community education, with providers and stakeholders, including the Association of Colleges, the Local Government Association, the Workers' Educational Association, the National Institute of Adult Continuing Education and the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

Connexions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people below the age of 19 years have received support from Connexions in *(a)* Yeovil constituency and *(b)* Somerset in the past 12 months. [82179]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department collects data on the number of interventions provided but not on the number of young people receiving support. In the past 12 months 33,433 young people were counted in the Connexions cohort of young people in Somerset. They received a total of 37,935 interventions. The Department does not hold this information at constituency level.

Departmental guidance is that, to count as an intervention there needs to be some element of assistance involving a substantial or meaningful exchange with the young person. This should be of enough significance to be noted in their client record. It would normally exclude straightforward referrals to specific opportunities, e.g. job submissions, the provision of factual information and simple follow up to find out if the young person still wanted assistance.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average cost to his Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80477]

Bill Rammell: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members/peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS. The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Criminal Offences

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the criminal offences created in legislation sponsored by his Department since April 2005, broken down by Act. [76907]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the replies given on 11 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 450W, and 14 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2072W.

Since 1 April 2005 eight new offences were created in legislation sponsored by the Department for Education and Skills.

The Education Act 2005 created five new offences relating to the obstruction of an inspection. These provisions are found in sections 4(3), 10(2), 23(3), 24(4) (which relate to the inspection of schools) and in section 57(5) (which relates to the inspection of careers services in Wales).

Two further offences were also created by sections 109 and 111 of the Education Act 2005. These concern the unauthorised disclosure of certain information arising from provisions introduced by the 2005 Act

which permitted tax and social security information to be shared for the purpose of deciding on or checking eligibility for Education Maintenance Allowances and free school meals. Unauthorised disclosure of such information was therefore made an offence.

The Children and Adoption Act 2006 received Royal Assent on 21 June 2006. By section 12(3) of the Act, which is not yet in force, one new offence concerning adoptions from abroad was created. An offence is committed when a British resident brings or causes another to bring a child into the United Kingdom and conditions specified by the Secretary of State have not been met.

Departmental Vehicles

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Department-owned vehicles have been issued to his staff in the last 12 months; to whom they were issued; for what reason; and at what cost. [81908]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has not issued any vehicles owned by the Department to staff during the last 12 months.

Edexcel

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of *(a)* GCSE, *(b)* AS and *(c)* A-level examinations sat in 2006 will be written by Edexcel. [82002]

Jim Knight: These data are collected by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) in the autumn following each examination series and are normally published in March the following year. Consequently, data on the summer 2006 examination series are not yet available.

The data for 2005 are shown as follows:

Qualification for which examination papers were sat	*Total of examination papers set*	*Total of examination papers set by Edexcel*	
		Number	*Percentage*
GCSE	1,563	430	27.5
GCE	1,756	478	27.2

Education Funding

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much Government funding for education services was administered centrally by Lancashire local education authority (LEA) in each of the last three years; and how much was administered on average by all LEAs in each year. [81412]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the Libraries.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the membership is of the School Funding Implementation Group. [81435]

Jim Knight: The School Funding Implementation Group advises the Department on matters relating to school funding, in the context of the wider policy objectives for schools and the Every Child Matters agenda. The members of the group are organisations representing school leaders, school governors, local authorities and the managers of the local education service, and these organisations are responsible for nominating their individual representatives.

The current membership is: the Association of School and College Leaders, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, the National Association of Head Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (representing school leaders); the National Governors' Association (representing school governors); the Local Government Association (representing local authorities); and the Confederation of Education and Children's Services Managers (representing the management of the local education service). Representatives of the Audit Commission, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Learning and Skills Council also attend meetings as appropriate.

Education Premises

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many educational premises have been declared unfit for use since 1997. [81905]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of educational premises that have been declared unfit for use since 1997 is not held by the Department.

Emergency Protection Orders

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many emergency protection orders have been applied for by each social services local authority in each of the last three years; and how many of those were applied for ex parte; [80567]

(2) how many emergency protection orders were applied for by each local authority in each of the last three years; how many were applied for ex-parte; of the ex-parte orders granted how many of each were granted; and how many were for children (a) under and (b) over the age of one year. [81580]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of emergency protection order (EPO) applications made by local authorities is not collected by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). Information on the number of children starting to be looked after for each social services local authority, as a result of an EPO made by the family courts, during the years ending 31 March 2003, 31 March 2004 and 31 March 2005 are presented in the following table. The DfES does not collect information about the numbers of ex-parte EPO applications.

Children who started to be looked after as a result of an emergency protection order being issued by family courts for the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2005 by legal status on starting[1,2,3]

Number

	2003	2004	2005
England	1,300	1,300	1,400
North East	70	50	60
Shire counties			
Durham	20	10	10
Northumberland	0	0	10
Unitary authorities	0	0	0
Darlington	10	0	—
Hartlepool	5	0	—
Middlesbrough	0	10	—
Redcar and Cleveland	10	—	5
Stockton on Tees	10	15	—
Metropolitan districts	0	0	0
Gateshead	5	—	10
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	—	—
North Tyneside	—	—	—
South Tyneside	5	—	—
Sunderland	0	—	0
North West	160	170	190
Shire counties			
Cheshire	10	—	—
Cumbria	0	15	10
Lancashire	20	10	15
Unitary authorities	0	0	0
Blackburn and Darwen	10	—	10
Blackpool	5	—	5
Halton	0	—	—
Warrington	10	5	—
Metropolitan districts	0	0	0
Bolton	10	10	5
Bury	0	0	5
Knowsley	0	—	0
Liverpool	0	10	10
Manchester	35	15	45
Oldham	5	15	10
Rochdale	—	15	10
Salford	10	10	—
Sefton	15	—	—
St. Helens	0	—	—
Stockport	0	10	—
Tameside	10	10	10
Trafford	10	—	10
Wigan	—	10	5
Wirral	15	—	10
Yorkshire and the Humber	200	180	180
Shire counties			
North Yorkshire	5	15	5
Unitary authorities	0	0	0
East Riding Yorkshire	10	—	5
Kingston upon Hull	—	10	10
North East Lincolnshire	15	15	10
North Lincolnshire	5	—	10
York	0	—	—
Metropolitan districts			
Barnsley	10	10	10
Bradford	25	25	25
Calderdale	—	10	—
Doncaster	—	10	15
Kirklees	—	10	10
Leeds	65	45	55
Rotherham	15	5	—
Sheffield	25	10	5
Wakefield	10	15	—
East Midlands	130	110	90
Shire counties			
Derbyshire	25	15	15
Leicestershire	20	15	0
Lincolnshire	10	5	5
Northamptonshire	20	30	35
Nottinghamshire	20	10	10
Unitary authorities	0	0	0
Derby	10	10	10
Leicester	5	10	5
Nottingham	20	10	—
Rutland	0	0	0
West Midlands	220	160	220
Shire counties			
Shropshire	5	—	10
Staffordshire	10	15	25
Warwickshire	—	5	10
Worcestershire	25	10	15
Unitary authorities	0	0	0
Herefordshire	5	10	—
Stoke-On-Trent	30	15	15
Telford and Wrekin	15	10	—
Metropolitan districts	0	0	0
Birmingham	45	20	55
Coventry	15	—	15
Dudley	20	15	25
Sandwell	15	20	15
Solihull	0	—	—
Walsall	25	20	20
Wolverhampton	—	5	—
East of England	80	100	120
Shire counties			
Bedfordshire	20	20	5
Cambridgeshire	—	10	15
Essex	5	15	30
Hertfordshire	10	10	5
Norfolk	—	—	10
Suffolk	15	10	10
Unitary authorities	0	0	0
Luton	25	20	15
Peterborough	0	—	10
Southend	0	—	20
Thurrock	—	5	—
London	250	280	250
Inner London			
Camden	5	—	5
City of London	0	0	0

Children who started to be looked after as a result of an emergency protection order being issued by family courts for the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2005 by legal status on starting[1,2,3]

Number

	2003	2004	2005
Greenwich	—	10	—
Hackney	10	5	10
Hammersmith and Fulham	5	5	—
Islington	—	15	—
Kensington and Chelsea	0	10	—
Lambeth	0	15	15
Lewisham	—	15	10
Southwark	10	25	10
Tower Hamlets	5	5	15
Wandsworth	20	5	10
Westminster	20	15	—
Outer London	0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	30	15	10
Barnet	20	5	—
Bexley	—	—	—
Brent	10	10	—
Bromley	5	—	—
Croydon	—	10	10
Ealing	0	—	—
Enfield	15	10	20
Haringey	20	20	20
Harrow	—	10	5
Havering	—	—	0
Hillingdon	0	10	0
Hounslow	5	15	15
Kingston upon Thames	0	—	—
Merton	5	—	15
Newham	15	10	20
Redbridge	10	—	0
Richmond upon Thames	10	—	—
Sutton	—	—	10
Waltham Forest	10	—	—
South East	150	140	190
Shire counties			
Buckinghamshire	0	5	5
East Sussex	10	—	10
Hampshire	20	10	25
Kent	15	20	40
Oxfordshire	10	—	—
Surrey	15	25	35
West Sussex	10	10	15
Unitary authorities	0	0	0
Bracknell Forest	—	—	—
Brighton and Hove	20	10	—
Isle of Wight	0	—	0
Medway Towns	5	25	5
Milton Keynes	15	—	15
Portsmouth	15	10	5
Reading	0	—	—
Slough	0	0	—
Southampton	10	10	10
West Berkshire	0	—	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	—	—
Wokingham	0	—	0

Children who started to be looked after as a result of an emergency protection order being issued by family courts for the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2005 by legal status on starting[1,2,3]

Number

	2003	2004	2005
South West	90	110	100
Shire counties			
Cornwall	15	15	15
Devon	15	15	—
Dorset	0	—	—
Gloucestershire	10	5	5
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0
Somerset	—	—	—
Wiltshire	—	10	—
Unitary authorities	0	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	0	0	—
Bournemouth	15	10	—
Bristol	—	15	25
North Somerset	0	10	—
Plymouth	—	5	15
Poole	5	—	0
South Gloucestershire	10	10	—
Swindon	—	—	—
Torbay	0	0	5

1 Only the first occasion on which a child started to be looked after in the year has been counted.
2 Historical data may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments and corrections sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
3 To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000, to the nearest 10 otherwise. At regional level, the data are rounded to the nearest 10 and at local authority level data are rounded to the nearest 5. Numbers from 1 to 5 inclusive are suppressed and replaced by a hyphen (—). Zero (0) is shown only when the number submitted was zero. As a consequence of our rounding and suppression figures may not sum to the total.
Note:
Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which since 2003-04 covered all looked after children.

EU (Teaching in Schools)

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his policy is on the inclusion of teaching about *(a)* the European Communities and *(b)* EU policies in educational establishments; and if he will make a statement. [82294]

Jim Knight: The Government recognise the importance of pupils gaining an understanding of the workings of the European Union and its history, and this is reflected in the national curriculum. In history, pupils are taught about the history of Britain in its European context. In citizenship, pupils learn about the world as a global community, the role of the European Union and the UK's relations in Europe, including the European Union. Teaching also reflects the underpinning values and principles of democratic life which are already covered in the European and United Nations human rights conventions.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the European Commission's recommendation for teaching about the EU in schools. [81037]

Jim Knight: The Government recognise the importance of pupils gaining an understanding of the workings of the EU and its history, and that is reflected in the national curriculum. Pupils are taught about the history of Britain in its European context in history and about the world as a global community, the role of the European Union and the UK's relations in Europe, including the European Union in Citizenship. Teaching also reflects the underpinning values and principles of democratic life which are already covered in the European and United Nation's human rights conventions. Although the EU can encourage co-operation between member states, the content and organisation of education systems is the responsibility of member states.

Exam Boards

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many examination boards have been approved by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority to set *(a)* GCSE, *(b)* AS and *(c)* A-level examinations for the academic year 2005-06. [82090]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) works jointly with the regulatory authorities in Wales and Northern Ireland to recognise organisations which have demonstrated that they have fulfilled the relevant regulations for offering GCSE and GCE A-level (AS and A2) qualifications.

There are currently five organisations which are recognised by the regulatory authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as providers of GCSE, AS and A2 examinations. These are the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA), Edexcel, Oxford Cambridge and RSA (OCR), the Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC) and the Council for Curriculum Education and Assessment (CCEA) in Northern Ireland.

Exam Entry Spending

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent by schools on *(a)* GCSE, *(b)* AS and *(c)* A-level examination entries in each year since 1997. [81999]

Jim Knight: It was only in 2002-03 that the Department began collecting information in sufficient detail to answer this question. Therefore no comparable data are available for previous years. The information in the following table covers the cost of test and examination entry fees and any accreditation costs related to pupils, and includes GCSEs, A/AS levels and GNVQs.

Academic year	*Amount spent on examination entries (£ million)*
2002-03	156
2003-04	174
2004-05	198

We announced in the FE White Paper "Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances" (paragraph 7.16) that the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will lead a review of examination fees. The review will consider both the level of fees, and how a common format might be created for implementation by the start of the 2007/08 academic year.

Fire Risk Assessments

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many local authorities have carried out fire risk assesments in all their schools. [82044]

Jim Knight: The Department does not have this information. However, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 requires that fire risk assessments are carried out. With a school maintained by a local authority, the responsibility for ensuring that this happens is likely to be shared between the local authority, the governing body and the head teacher.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding has been made available to local authorities for the training of school staff in fire safety issues. [82046]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this information. It is a matter for the discretion of local authorities and schools.

Foreign Language Study

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to promote the study of foreign languages in schools. [79401]

Jim Knight: To promote the study of foreign languages for learners of all ages, the Government published its national languages strategy: 'Languages for All: Languages for Life—a strategy for England' in December 2002. To oversee the implementation of the strategy, the Secretary of State for Education and Skills appointed Dr. Lid King as national director for languages in September 2003.

In March 2005, the Secretary of State announced a £115 million "Boost for Modern Foreign Languages", providing support for language teaching and learning until March 2008. For primary schools the funding will provide continuing support for initial and existing teacher training as well as training for support staff. To date we have trained over 2,000 new primary teachers with a specialism in languages. Last October we published, in hard copy and online, our 'Key Stage 2 Framework for Languages', which sets out learning objectives for the four years of key stage 2. It is supported by a national training programme, guidance and a planning tool.

The funding will also support new approaches for teaching and learning for 11 to 18-year-olds, including alternative qualifications and vocational options at key stage 4 which will provide more flexibility for pupils in

their studies. We are also funding a range of projects and materials to promote languages and to develop innovative curricular models which will be show-cased to provide schools with delivery ideas and support. For example, we funded CILT, the National Centre for Languages to produce 'Languages Work', a suite of materials designed to promote the value of language learning, support take-up of languages beyond key stage 3, and how language skills can enhance future employability.

Our key stage 3 strategy continues to impact positively on pupils' attainment in languages, especially boys. We plan to provide additional key stage 3 strategy training for teachers in the next academic year.

We have expanded the list of qualifications that count towards performance table scores to include more language qualifications. Most significantly, in September 2005 the new national, voluntary languages recognition scheme, the languages ladder, became available nationally. The scheme can be used by learners of all ages and is currently available in eight languages, including Mandarin Chinese. In September 2006, 13 other languages will be made available through the scheme. The scheme differs from existing approaches to assessment in that there are separate qualifications in each language for reading, writing, listening and speaking. To date over 800 centres—including local authorities and specialist language colleges—have registered to take part in the scheme, with over 10,000 learners entered for qualifications across all sectors taking over 26,000 qualifications.

To address the decline in take-up at key stage 4, my predecessor wrote to all secondary schools setting out her expectations that, from September 2006, 50-90 per cent. of a school's key stage 4 cohort should study a foreign language leading to a recognised qualification.

Further Education

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of 18-year-olds in each constituency went on to further education in the last year for which figures are available. [81038]

Bill Rammell: 38.4 per cent. of 18-year-olds were estimated to be participating in full-time education in England at the end of 2005; 59.3 per cent. were participating in education and training. These are the latest available figures, published in the Statistical First Release "Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16 to 18 Year Olds in England" (SFR21/2006) on 8 June 2006. The SFR is available on the DfES website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000658/index.shtml

Percentage figures on participation in education by 18-year-olds are not available for parliamentary constituencies—figures at local authority level in England are available, but for 16 and 17-year-olds only. The latest figures are for 2004, published in the Statistical First Release "Participation in Education and Training by 16 and 17 Year Olds in Each Local Area in England" (SFR13/2006) on 30 March 2006. The SFR is available on the DfES website at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000645/index.shtml

Grandparents (Contact Orders)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to review guidance and secondary legislation in relation to the operation of section 8 of the Children Act 1989 in respect of the requirement for grandparents to seek leave to apply for a contact order from the family court for access to their grandchildren; and if he will make a statement. [76248]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* During the House of Commons Third Reading of the Children and Adoption Bill on 20 June 2006, the Government undertook to review the current requirement, as it applies to grandparents without parental responsibility, that the leave of the court must be sought before they may apply for a contact order under section 8 of the Children Act 1989. The review will consider if there is evidence that, where grandparents are denied contact with their grandchildren, they are unable to seek redress through the courts. I expect to publish the findings of the review by the end of 2006.

Head Teachers

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* women and *(b)* people from ethnic minorities became (i) head teachers and (ii) deputy head teachers in each of the last 10 years. [80537]

Jim Knight: The table provides the number of female teachers promoted to head and deputy/assistant head teacher in each year from 1995-96 to 2002-03, the latest year for which information is available.

Information on the number of teachers promoted to head and deputy head teacher by ethnic origin is not collected centrally.

Full-time regular female teachers promoted to head and deputy/assistant head teacher, 1995-96 to 2002-03

	Promotions to:	
	Head	Deputy[2,3]
1995-96	1,400	2,110
1996-97	1,590	2,320
1997-98	1,840	2,640
1998-99	1,350	2,170
1999-2000	1,510	2,100
2000-01[4]	1,750	3,310
2001-02[4]	1,490	3,500
2002-03[4]	1,350	3,430

[1] Includes promotions from qualified classroom teacher grades, deputy head and, from 2001 onwards, assistant head.
[2] Includes promotions from qualified classroom teacher grades.
[3] Includes promotions to assistant head from 2000-01 onwards. The assistant head grade was introduced in 2000-01 and this affects comparison with earlier years.
[4] Provisional estimates subject to future revision.

Source:
Database of Teacher Records.

Juvenile Sleep

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library *(a)* copies of advice his Department gives to parents of (i) primary and (ii) secondary school pupils on the recommended daily amounts of sleep required and

(b) research his Department has (A) undertaken and (B) plans to undertake into sleep and young people; and if he will make a statement. [81319]

Jim Knight: The Department has not issued guidance to parents of primary or secondary school pupils on the recommended daily amounts of sleep required. The Department has not commissioned any research into sleep and young people. There are no current plans to undertake research in this area.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what information he has collated on the number of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils who (i) fell asleep in class and (ii) arrived late in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [81236]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

National Curriculum

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on his policy on *(a)* the teaching of religious studies and *(b)* teaching about (i) Islam and (ii) atheism within the national curriculum. [81898]

Jim Knight: All maintained schools must provide religious education (RE) which must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian while taking account of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. This could include Islam. Religious education syllabuses for maintained schools without a religious designation are drawn up by an agreed syllabus conference which advises the local education authority. These bodies represent faith groups, teachers and local schools. For schools with a religious designation the syllabus is drawn up by the governing body according to the trust deed of the school. It is for local authorities, advised by agreed syllabus conferences, and individual faith schools to decide if study of atheism is included as part of the RE syllabus.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), in partnership with the Department, launched a new non-statutory national framework for religious education in 2004. The framework provides for opportunities for pupils to study all of the principal religions in Great Britain, including Islam, and other religious traditions and secular philosophies in line with the Government's goals of inclusion, tolerance and diversity. All of the major UK faith and belief communities and professional groups were involved in its development.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his policy is on the teaching of *(a)* modern (i) East European, (ii) West European, (iii) Asian and (iv) African and *(b)* ancient languages within the national curriculum. [81899]

Alan Johnson: To promote the study of foreign languages for learners of all ages, the Government published their National Languages Strategy: "Languages for All: Languages for Life—a Strategy for England" in December 2002. The cornerstone of the strategy is that by 2010 all Key Stage 2 pupils will have the opportunity to study a foreign language in class time. It is for individual schools to decide which languages they offer depending on their expertise and access to resources and support.

At Key Stages 3 and 4, secondary schools must give access to at least one course in an official working language of the European Union that leads to an approved qualification. The official working languages of the European Union, for which there are approved qualifications, are: Danish, Dutch, French, German, Modern Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish. Once this offer has been made schools may then decide to offer additional languages. Approved qualifications are available in a wide range of languages in the categories raised in the question.

Ancient languages do not form part of the national curriculum. It is for individual schools and their governing bodies to decide whether to include the classics—including classical languages—in their respective curriculum. Their decision may depend on demand for the subject, having a specialist classics teacher available to teach it, and in meeting the needs of their pupils.

As part of our Specialist Schools Programme, secondary schools can apply to become humanities colleges. As part of this specialism, schools have the option to focus on the teaching and learning of classical studies (that is, Latin, Classical Greek and classical civilisation) alongside a core humanities option of History, Geography or English.

In 2005 the Department launched the Languages Ladder—the national, voluntary recognition scheme for languages—as an alternative qualification route to complement existing qualifications. The Languages Ladder endorses achievement in language skills at all levels of competence for all ages. It is available currently in eight languages: French, German, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, Panjabi, Spanish and Urdu. A further 13 languages, in the first three stages of the scheme, will be added in September this year and will include: Arabic, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Modern Greek, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Swedish, Tamil, Turkish and Yoruba.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on his policy on the teaching of sciences in the national curriculum. [82292]

Jim Knight: Science is a compulsory subject at all key stages in the national curriculum and the aspects that must be taught are defined by a programme of study.

We have recently made changes to the Key Stage 4 programme of study to make it more engaging and exciting for pupils while maintaining the depth, breadth and challenge of the existing curriculum.

From September 2008, we will be introducing a new statutory entitlement for all Key Stage 4 students to study science programmes leading to at least two GCSEs.

Positive Parenting

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department spent on the promotion of positive parenting in the last period for which figures are available; and what this figure represents per child in England. [82016]

Mr. Dhanda: The Parenting Fund provided £10.7 million to support 132 projects during the last period—2005-06.

The Parenting Fund supports voluntary and community sector organisations that provide a range of information, advice and guidance—including the promotion of positive parenting, to parents when and if they need it. The fund is not allocated on a per child basis. It would therefore be misleading to provide a general population, per child figure for parenting spend.

Pupil Numbers

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which local authorities had an increase in the number of schoolchildren in *(a)* key stage 1 and *(b)* key stage 2 between 2001 and 2005. [81989]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the House Library.

This shows that nine local authorities have reported an increase in the number of pupils in the key stage 1 age group between 2001 and 2005; and over the same period, 13 local authorities have reported an increase in the number of pupils in the key stage 2 age group.

Since 2001 the overall population of five to 10-year-olds has fallen.

School Attendance (Lancashire)

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the truancy rates were for Lancashire in each year since 1997. [81762]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold data on pupils recorded as truant. However, the figures for the proportion of half days missed due to unauthorised absence (of which truancy forms a part) in maintained mainstream schools in Lancashire local authority are given in the following table:

Percentage of half days missed in maintained mainstream schools[1] in Lancashire local authority due to unauthorised absence[2,3]

	Primary schools	*Secondary schools*
1997/98	0.3	0.8
1998/99	0.4	0.9
1999/2000	0.4	0.8
2000/01	0.3	0.8
2001/02	0.34	0.82
2002/03	0.31	0.82
2003/04	0.32	0.88
2004/05	0.3	0.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Due to local government reorganisation, regional figures are not available prior to 1998.
[3] Local authority figures are only available to 1 decimal place prior to 2000.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

School Exclusions

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many excluded pupils there have been in Lancashire county council region in each year since 1997, broken down by age. [81763]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the following table.

There are known quality issues with exclusions data for 2000/01 and later and these are explained in footnote 5 of the table.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1,2]: number of permanently excluded pupils by age—1997/98 to 2003/04 Lancashire local authority area

	Primary, secondary and special schools							
Pupils aged	*1997/98[3]*	*1998/99[4]*	*1999/00[4]*	*2000/01[4,5]*	*2001/02[4,5]*	*2002/03[4,5]*	*2003/04[4,5]*	*2004/05[4,5]*
4	—	[6]—	—	—	—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
5	[6]—	[6]—	—	—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
6	—	—	[6]—	5	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—	[6]—
7	4	3	[6]—	3	5	[6]—	3	[6]—
8	8	[6]—	[6]—	4	8	5	5	—
9	9	12	6	7	11	9	7	7
10	20	13	9	15	13	10	13	10
11	12	13	9	15	17	33	26	13
12	38	24	20	45	33	59	40	55
13	59	47	35	56	69	66	74	51
14	82	82	56	74	84	97	91	77
15	65	45	26	28	33	26	47	33
16	[6]—	[6]—	—	—	[6]—	—	[6]—	[6]—

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1,2]: number of permanently excluded pupils by age—1997/98 to 2003/04 Lancashire local authority area

	Primary, secondary and special schools							
Pupils aged	*1997/98[3]*	*1998/99[4]*	*1999/00[4]*	*2000/01[4,5]*	*2001/02[4,5]*	*2002/03[4,5]*	*2003/04[4,5]*	*2004/05[4,5]*
17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	[6]—
18	—	—	[6]—	—	—	—	—	—
19 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (as reported in the ASC)[5]	301	244	167	252	278	311	312	254
Total as confirmed by local authorities[5]	n/a	n/a	n/a	250	299	344	332	273

n/a = Not applicable
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools.
[3] Before local government reorganisation
[4] After local government reorganisation
[5] For these years schools are known to have under-reported the number of permanent exclusions. The Department carried out a checking exercise but this confirmed only the overall number of permanent exclusions in each authority. The numbers of excluded pupils by age are based on incomplete data as reported by schools and should be used with caution.
[6] 1 or 2 pupils.
Source:
Schools' Census

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what education provision has been made for excluded pupils in Lancashire. [81764]

Jim Knight: Education for pupils who have been excluded from schools in Lancashire local authority is provided mainly via pupil referral units (PRUs). The local authority has five PRUs for primary age pupils and eight for secondary age pupils, catering for over 500 pupils. Other forms of alternative educational provision for excluded pupils are commissioned through these PRUs and include placements in further education colleges, extended work placements and provision available in the private and voluntary sector.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in *(a)* England and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire have been reinstated into schools by the Independent Appeals Panel after being permanently excluded in each of the last nine years; and if he will make a statement. [81444]

Jim Knight: The number of successful appeals against permanent exclusion where reinstatement was directed is only available from 2002/03 onwards. The available information is given in the table.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools: exclusion appeals 2002/03 to 2004/05

	East Riding of Yorkshire local authority area			England[1]		
	2002/03	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*
Number of appeals heard	4	9	10	990	1,050	1,030
Number of appeals determined in favour of the parent/pupil	[2]—	[2]—	4	210	220	220
Percentage of appeals determined in favour of the parent/pupil[3]	[2]—	[2]—	40.0	21.1	21.2	21.5
Number of successful appeals where reinstatement was directed	[2]—	0	[2]—	150	130	110
Percentage of successful appeals where reinstatement was directed[4]	[2]—	0.0	[2]—	71.3	57.0	49.1

[1] Figures for England have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] 1 or 2 appeals, or a rate based on 1 or 2 appeals.
[3] Shown as a percentage of appeals heard.
[4] Shown as a percentage of appeals determined in favour of the parent/pupil.
Source:
School Exclusion Appeal Survey

These figures show that head teachers' judgments on exclusions are not being routinely overturned by appeal panels. There has been a reduction for the third year in a row in the number of pupils reinstated to their former school on appeal.

School Meals

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of primary school pupils *(a)* were eligible for free school meals and *(b)* took them up in each local education authority in the last year for which figures are available, listed in ascending order of percentage; and what the equivalent figures were in 1997. [82127]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the following table.

Maintained primary schools: number and percentage of pupils by school meal arrangements. Position in January each year: 1997 and 2006 (provisional). By local authority area. (In ascending order of the percentage of pupils who were known to be eligible for free school meals as at January 2006)

		1997				
		Number of day pupils[1]	*Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day*	*Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day*[2]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*[3]
	England[5]	4,428,620	771,780	17.4	938,540	21.2
420	Isles of Scilly	160	17	10.6	19	11.9
857	Rutland[6]	—	—	—	—	—
872	Wokingham[6]	—	—	—	—	—
836	Poole[6]	—	—	—	—	—
825	Buckinghamshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
835	Dorset[6]	—	—	—	—	—
938	West Sussex	58,168	5,941	10.2	7,496	12.9
925	Lincolnshire	53,619	3,830	7.1	4,597	8.6
867	Bracknell Forest[6]	—	—	—	—	—
865	Wiltshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
314	Kingston upon Thames	11,530	717	6.2	856	7.4
855	Leicestershire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
868	Windsor and Maidenhead[6]	—	—	—	—	—
869	West Berkshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
936	Surrey	78,690	6,637	8.4	7,871	10.0
803	South Gloucestershire	22,571	2,259	10.0	2,745	12.2
815	North Yorkshire	47,927	4,435	9.3	5,110	10.7
933	Somerset	38,509	3,855	10.0	4,624	12.0
919	Hertfordshire	92,397	9,452	10.2	11,259	12.2
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	27,126	2,546	9.4	3,158	11.6
884	Herefordshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
873	Cambridgeshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
885	Worcestershire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
850	Hampshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
866	Swindon[6]	—	—	—	—	—
893	Shropshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
931	Oxfordshire	44,733	4,012	9.0	5,008	11.2
318	Richmond upon Thames	12,074	1,188	9.8	1,611	13.3
877	Warrington[6]	—	—	—	—	—
928	Northamptonshire	54,701	4,940	9.0	6,384	11.7
916	Gloucestershire	46,248	4,929	10.7	6,151	13.3
937	Warwickshire	43,662	4,736	10.8	5,553	12.7
800	Bath and North East Somerset	13,111	1,677	12.8	2,027	15.5
816	York	14,905	1,859	12.5	2,250	15.1
878	Devon[6]	—	—	—	—	—
860	Staffordshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
881	Essex[6]	—	—	—	—	—
303	Bexley	22,223	3,007	13.5	3,637	16.4
802	North Somerset	14,775	1,777	12.0	2,090	14.1
935	Suffolk	47,239	5,982	12.7	7,554	16.0
820	Bedfordshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
875	Cheshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
358	Trafford	21,462	3,399	15.8	4,009	18.7
908	Cornwall	41,842	6,547	15.6	7,784	18.6
356	Stockport	26,941	3,846	14.3	4,661	17.3
886	Kent[6]	—	—	—	—	—
887	Medway[6]	—	—	—	—	—
311	Havering	21,001	2,459	11.7	3,088	14.7
334	Solihull	21,581	2,770	12.8	3,238	15.0
891	Nottinghamshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
845	East Sussex[6]	—	—	—	—	—
305	Bromley	24,292	3,282	13.5	4,352	17.9
830	Derbyshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
315	Merton	16,159	2,471	15.3	3,099	19.2
929	Northumberland	21,839	3,345	15.3	3,783	17.3

Maintained primary schools: number and percentage of pupils by school meal arrangements. Position in January each year: 1997 and 2006 (provisional). By local authority area. (In ascending order of the percentage of pupils who were known to be eligible for free school meals as at January 2006)

		1997				
		Number of day pupils[1]	*Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day*	*Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day*[2]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*[3]
826	Milton Keynes[4]	—	—	—	—	—
837	Bournemouth[4]	—	—	—	—	—
909	Cumbria	44,762	6,917	15.5	7,904	17.7
319	Sutton	14,620	1,778	12.2	2,070	14.1
813	North Lincolnshire	14,972	2,485	16.6	2,879	19.2
883	Thurrock[4]	—	—	—	—	—
926	Norfolk	66,666	8,913	13.4	10,824	16.2
351	Bury	18,095	2,769	15.3	3,319	18.3
888	Lancashire[4]	—	—	—	—	—
381	Calderdale	20,605	3,478	16.9	4,109	19.9
332	Dudley	30,884	4,394	14.2	5,544	18.0
359	Wigan	30,276	4,838	16.0	5,623	18.6
343	Sefton	28,115	5,465	19.4	7,171	25.5
384	Wakefield	32,956	5,546	16.8	6,572	19.9
382	Kirklees	38,649	7,285	18.8	8,908	23.0
350	Bolton	28,512	5,495	19.3	6,151	21.6
851	Portsmouth[4]	—	—	—	—	—
310	Harrow	19,971	1,643	8.2	2,265	11.3
392	North Tyneside	17,027	3,485	20.5	4,184	24.6
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	28,446	6,116	21.6	8,017	28.2
870	Reading[4]	—	—	—	—	—
846	Brighton and Hove[4]	—	—	—	—	—
880	Torbay[4]	—	—	—	—	—
871	Slough[4]	—	—	—	—	—
372	Rotherham	25,822	5,283	20.5	6,298	24.4
879	Plymouth[4]	—	—	—	—	—
357	Tameside	23,830	5,001	21.0	5,703	23.9
808	Stockton-on-Tees	20,531	4,413	21.5	5,206	25.4
882	Southend-on-Sea[4]	—	—	—	—	—
370	Barnsley	22,216	4,765	21.4	5,910	26.6
373	Sheffield	46,380	9,686	20.9	12,895	27.8
312	Hillingdon	22,440	2,017	9.0	2,745	12.2
874	Peterborough[4]	—	—	—	—	—
317	Redbridge	21,103	3,204	15.2	4,036	19.1
371	Doncaster	31,343	7,198	23.0	8,280	26.4
921	Isle of Wight	7,387	1,424	19.3	1,767	23.9
383	Leeds	71,508	12,795	17.9	15,974	22.3
841	Darlington[4]	—	—	—	—	—
840	Durham[4]	—	—	—	—	—
894	Telford and Wrekin[4]	—	—	—	—	—
831	Derby[4]	—	—	—	—	—
342	St. Helens	18,027	3,733	20.7	4,275	23.7
302	Barnet	25,979	3,711	14.3	4,625	17.8
336	Wolverhampton	26,293	5,282	20.1	6,644	25.3
812	North East Lincolnshire	17,265	3,756	21.8	4,211	24.4
335	Walsall	28,743	5,896	20.5	7,081	24.6
331	Coventry	30,478	5,482	18.0	6,726	22.1
380	Bradford	42,327	8,656	20.5	10,661	25.2
394	Sunderland	30,149	7,235	24.0	8,984	29.8
333	Sandwell	32,962	7,061	21.4	8,870	26.9
807	Redcar and Cleveland	16,680	4,152	24.9	4,817	28.9
390	Gateshead	18,566	4,231	22.8	4,995	26.9
353	Oldham	25,111	5,618	22.4	6,747	26.9
805	Hartlepool	10,538	2,732	25.9	3,205	30.4
306	Croydon	30,432	6,379	21.0	7,800	25.6
852	Southampton[4]	—	—	—	—	—

Maintained primary schools: number and percentage of pupils by school meal arrangements. Position in January each year: 1997 and 2006 (provisional). By local authority area. (In ascending order of the percentage of pupils who were known to be eligible for free school meals as at January 2006)

		1997				
		Number of day pupils[1]	*Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day*	*Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day*[2]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*[3]
801	Bristol, City of	33,642	7,602	22.6	9,103	27.1
313	Hounslow	19,828	4,049	20.4	5,137	25.9
890	Blackpool[4]	—	—	—	—	—
876	Halton[4]	—	—	—	—	—
821	Luton[4]	—	—	—	—	—
856	Leicester[4]	—	—	—	—	—
354	Rochdale	22,354	5,373	24.0	6,470	28.9
201	City of London	208	83	39.9	107	51.4
301	Barking and Dagenham	17,883	3,873	21.7	4,712	26.3
889	Blackburn with Darwen[4]	—	—	—	—	—
307	Ealing	27,213	5,591	20.5	6,927	25.5
320	Waltham Forest	21,411	5,387	25.2	6,715	31.4
308	Enfield	26,028	4,695	18.0	5,620	21.6
861	Stoke-on-Trent[4]	—	—	—	—	—
344	Wirral	31,875	8,217	25.8	9,632	30.2
393	South Tyneside	16,175	4,818	29.8	5,693	35.2
304	Brent	22,478	5,696	25.3	6,420	28.6
892	Nottingham[4]	—	—	—	—	—
212	Wandsworth	17,874	5,175	29.0	6,305	35.3
209	Lewisham	21,984	6,370	29.0	8,052	36.6
806	Middlesbrough	17,267	4,876	28.2	5,718	33.1
355	Salford	23,828	7,019	29.5	8,128	34.1
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	22,220	7,259	32.7	8,552	38.5
340	Knowsley	19,788	6,915	34.9	8,701	44.0
341	Liverpool	49,345	16,852	34.2	20,283	41.1
309	Haringey	21,610	7,096	32.8	8,279	38.3
203	Greenwich	21,608	6,804	31.5	8,408	38.9
316	Newham	28,543	8,487	29.7	11,094	38.9
330	Birmingham	109,673	32,572	29.7	39,245	35.8
210	Southwark	23,132	8,606	37.2	10,744	46.4
213	Westminster	9,604	3,413	35.5	4,247	44.2
208	Lambeth	19,193	7,309	38.1	8,695	45.3
207	Kensington and Chelsea	6,568	2,324	35.4	3,000	45.7
204	Hackney	18,141	8,046	44.4	9,824	54.2
352	Manchester	46,356	17,956	38.7	21,431	46.2
206	Islington	16,232	6,663	41.0	8,049	49.6
202	Camden	11,294	4,130	36.6	5,046	44.7
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	9,465	3,763	39.8	4,440	46.9
211	Tower Hamlets	22,472	10,211	45.4	13,292	59.1
902	Bedfordshire	44,748	7,484	16.7	9,187	20.5
903	Berkshire	64,851	6,828	10.5	8,047	12.4
904	Buckinghamshire	66,291	4,227	6.4	5,641	8.5
905	Cambridgeshire	60,924	7,840	12.9	9,945	16.3
906	Cheshire	92,727	14,177	15.3	16,155	17.4
910	Derbyshire	89,462	13,507	15.1	15,468	17.3
911	Devon	84,938	13,450	15.8	16,027	18.9
912	Dorset	48,479	4,117	8.5	4,684	9.7
913	Durham	57,442	11,478	20.0	13,105	22.8
914	East Sussex	55,821	8,804	15.8	11,372	20.4
915	Essex	136,385	18,654	13.7	23,090	16.9
917	Hampshire	139,425	17,054	12.2	20,493	14.7
918	Hereford and Worcester	52,887	4,304	8.1	5,077	9.6
922	Kent	137,962	19,946	14.5	24,746	17.9
923	Lancashire	135,058	24,719	18.3	31,679	23.5
924	Leicestershire	83,027	11,251	13.6	13,623	16.4
930	Nottinghamshire	96,403	17,975	18.6	22,789	23.6

Maintained primary schools: number and percentage of pupils by school meal arrangements. Position in January each year: 1997 and 2006 (provisional). By local authority area. (In ascending order of the percentage of pupils who were known to be eligible for free school meals as at January 2006)

		1997				
		Number of day pupils[1]	Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day	Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day[2]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]
932	Shropshire	38,067	5,442	14.3	6,169	16.2
934	Staffordshire	96,437	15,286	15.9	18,213	18.9
939	Wiltshire	51,809	5,723	11.0	6,954	13.4

		2006[7]				
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	Number of pupils taking a free school meal on Census Day	Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day[2]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]
	England[5]	4,151,970	553,560	13.3	667,180	16.1
420	Isles of Scilly	252	0	0.0	0	0.0
857	Rutland[6]	2,521	94	3.7	108	4.3
872	Wokingham[6]	12,164	419	3.4	555	4.6
836	Poole[6]	10,338	459	4.4	485	4.7
825	Buckinghamshire[6]	39,646	1,370	3.5	1,938	4.9
835	Dorset[6]	24,747	1,006	4.1	1,203	4.9
938	West Sussex	57,554	2,433	4.2	3,081	5.4
925	Lincolnshire	52,805	2,379	4.5	2,924	5.5
867	Bracknell Forest[6]	8,811	426	4.8	601	6.8
865	Wiltshire[6]	35,512	2,074	5.8	2,460	6.9
314	Kingston upon Thames	11,638	712	6.1	816	7.0
855	Leicestershire[6]	48,257	2,756	5.7	3,374	7.0
868	Windsor and Maidenhead[6]	8,470	451	5.3	617	7.3
869	West Berkshire[6]	12,045	713	5.9	896	7.4
936	Surrey	78,463	4,868	6.2	5,921	7.5
803	South Gloucestershire	22,228	1,300	5.8	1,680	7.6
815	North Yorkshire	44,563	2,858	6.4	3,460	7.8
933	Somerset	36,781	2,425	6.6	2,946	8.0
919	Hertfordshire	92,173	6,126	6.6	7,455	8.1
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	25,694	1,649	6.4	2,142	8.3
884	Herefordshire[6]	12,985	890	6.9	1,082	8.3
873	Cambridgeshire[6]	43,878	3,037	6.9	3,673	8.4
885	Worcestershire[6]	38,329	2,807	7.3	3,248	8.5
850	Hampshire[6]	97,202	6,495	6.7	8,347	8.6
866	Swindon[6]	16,906	1,180	7.0	1,494	8.8
893	Shropshire[6]	21,896	1,673	7.6	1,943	8.9
931	Oxfordshire	46,437	3,117	6.7	4,183	9.0
318	Richmond upon Thames	12,948	955	7.4	1,178	9.1
877	Warrington[6]	17,389	1,344	7.7	1,600	9.2
928	Northamptonshire	56,463	4,038	7.2	5,260	9.3
916	Gloucestershire	43,458	3,561	8.2	4,131	9.5
937	Warwickshire	40,986	3,296	8.0	3,989	9.7
800	Bath and North East Somerset	12,172	985	8.1	1,201	9.9
816	York	13,443	1,097	8.2	1,338	10.0
878	Devon[6]	53,189	4,109	7.7	5,295	10.0
860	Staffordshire[6]	63,925	5,396	8.4	6,465	10.1
881	Essex[6]	107,125	9,430	8.8	10,801	10.1
303	Bexley	20,689	1,640	7.9	2,100	10.2
802	North Somerset	14,897	1,205	8.1	1,514	10.2
935	Suffolk	45,739	3,693	8.1	4,695	10.3
820	Bedfordshire[6]	24,938	2,188	8.8	2,604	10.4
875	Cheshire[6]	54,527	4,974	9.1	5,707	10.5
358	Trafford	19,224	1,830	9.5	2,038	10.6
908	Cornwall	39,150	3,695	9.4	4,303	11.0
356	Stockport	23,415	2,219	9.5	2,653	11.3
886	Kent[6]	110,266	10,448	9.5	12,458	11.3

		2006[1]				
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	*Number of pupils taking a free school meal on Census Day*	*Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day*[2]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*[3]
887	Medway[6]	22,472	2,175	9.7	2,535	11.3
311	Havering	19,402	1,618	8.3	2,217	11.4
334	Solihull	19,897	1,681	8.4	2,274	11.4
891	Nottinghamshire[6]	63,381	5,676	9.0	7,291	11.5
845	East Sussex[6]	36,289	3,491	9.6	4,232	11.7
305	Bromley	23,928	2,364	9.9	2,861	12.0
830	Derbyshire[6]	62,369	6,312	10.1	7,501	12.0
315	Merton	14,980	1,437	9.6	1,811	12.1
929	Northumberland	19,358	2,140	11.1	2,343	12.1
826	Milton Keynes[6]	20,989	1,948	9.3	2,606	12.4
837	Bournemouth[6]	10,525	1,054	10.0	1,321	12.6
909	Cumbria	39,741	4,457	11.2	5,066	12.7
319	Sutton	14,800	1,547	10.5	1,916	12.9
813	North Lincolnshire	13,986	1,602	11.5	1,828	13.1
883	Thurrock[6]	13,812	1,432	10.4	1,854	13.4
926	Norfolk	65,134	7,060	10.8	8,763	13.5
351	Bury	15,995	1,899	11.9	2,186	13.7
888	Lancashire[6]	93,269	11,351	12.2	12,951	13.9
381	Calderdale	18,661	2,363	12.7	2,699	14.5
332	Dudley	28,281	3,386	12.0	4,271	15.1
359	Wigan	26,162	3,303	12.6	4,076	15.6
343	Sefton	23,307	2,865	12.3	3,717	15.9
384	Wakefield	28,722	3,569	12.4	4,571	15.9
382	Kirklees	35,811	4,843	13.5	5,738	16.0
350	Bolton	25,438	3,743	14.7	4,099	16.1
851	Portsmouth[6]	14,071	1,775	12.6	2,299	16.3
310	Harrow	19,593	2,917	14.9	3,211	16.4
392	North Tyneside	16,171	2,301	14.2	2,653	16.4
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	22,033	3,081	14.0	3,620	16.4
870	Reading[6]	10,223	1,424	13.9	1,678	16.4
846	Brighton and Hove[6]	17,080	2,186	12.8	2,818	16.5
880	Torbay[6]	9,836	1,312	13.3	1,625	16.5
871	Slough[6]	11,554	1,558	13.5	1,917	16.6
372	Rotherham	23,690	3,251	13.7	4,010	16.9
879	Plymouth[6]	19,274	2,696	14.0	3,253	16.9
357	Tameside	20,088	3,027	15.1	3,417	17.0
808	Stockton-on-Tees	17,269	2,682	15.5	2,947	17.1
882	Southend-on-Sea[6]	14,152	1,896	13.4	2,450	17.3
370	Barnsley	20,433	2,936	14.4	3,556	17.4
373	Sheffield	42,561	6,157	14.5	7,435	17.5
312	Hillingdon	24,099	3,249	13.5	4,235	17.6
874	Peterborough[6]	15,274	2,386	15.6	2,684	17.6
317	Redbridge	24,124	3,268	13.5	4,263	17.7
371	Doncaster	27,165	4,180	15.4	4,809	17.7
921	Isle of Wight	6,995	994	14.2	1,244	17.8
383	Leeds	61,446	9,009	14.7	11,247	18.3
841	Darlington[6]	8,848	1,393	15.7	1,639	18.5
840	Durham[6]	41,360	6,451	15.6	7,751	18.7
894	Telford and Wrekin[6]	15,160	2,350	15.5	2,828	18.7
831	Derby[6]	21,605	3,396	15.7	4,089	18.9
342	St. Helens	15,575	2,432	15.6	3,021	19.4
302	Barnet	26,041	4,225	16.2	5,087	19.5
336	Wolverhampton	22,709	3,631	16.0	4,418	19.5
812	North East Lincolnshire	14,029	2,074	14.8	2,788	19.9
335	Walsall	26,077	3,964	15.2	5,216	20.0
331	Coventry	27,015	4,455	16.5	5,430	20.1
380	Bradford	51,314	8,485	16.5	10,331	20.1
394	Sunderland	24,273	4,377	18.0	4,919	20.3
333	Sandwell	29,887	4,950	16.6	6,128	20.5

		2006[7]				
		Number of pupils on roll[8]	*Number of pupils taking a free school meal on Census Day*	*Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day*[2]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*[3]
807	Redcar and Cleveland	13,242	2,456	18.5	2,709	20.5
390	Gateshead	16,205	2,901	17.9	3,399	21.0
353	Oldham	23,302	4,274	18.3	4,910	21.1
805	Hartlepool	9,195	1,802	19.6	1,948	21.2
306	Croydon	29,389	4,919	16.7	6,301	21.4
852	Southampton[6]	16,039	2,737	17.1	3,437	21.4
801	Bristol, City of	29,374	5,282	18.0	6,373	21.7
313	Hounslow	18,924	3,505	18.5	4,116	21.8
890	Blackpool[6]	11,812	2,111	17.9	2,635	22.3
876	Halton[6]	10,170	1,978	19.4	2,277	22.4
821	Luton[6]	18,468	3,645	19.7	4,228	22.9
856	Leicester[6]	28,260	5,732	20.3	6,620	23.4
354	Rochdale	19,595	3,797	19.4	4,642	23.7
201	City of London	231	49	21.2	55	23.8
301	Barking and Dagenham	18,485	3,762	20.4	4,432	24.0
889	Blackburn with Darwen[6]	14,770	2,986	20.2	3,548	24.0
307	Ealing	26,059	5,101	19.6	6,276	24.1
320	Waltham Forest	21,753	4,408	20.3	5,350	24.6
308	Enfield	27,198	5,712	21.0	6,727	24.7
861	Stoke-on-Trent[6]	20,841	4,535	21.8	5,173	24.8
344	Wirral	26,456	5,384	20.4	6,682	25.3
393	South Tyneside	12,751	2,799	22.0	3,222	25.3
304	Brent	23,128	5,454	23.6	6,238	27.0
892	Nottingham[6]	23,537	5,327	22.6	6,356	27.0
212	Wandsworth	17,412	4,244	24.4	4,741	27.2
209	Lewisham	21,971	4,579	20.8	6,121	27.9
806	Middlesbrough	13,926	3,397	24.4	3,889	27.9
355	Salford	19,464	4,944	25.4	5,532	28.4
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	19,694	4,995	25.4	5,630	28.6
340	Knowsley	15,518	3,586	23.1	4,538	29.2
341	Liverpool	38,211	10,018	26.2	12,320	32.2
309	Haringey	21,964	6,127	27.9	7,189	32.7
203	Greenwich	21,206	5,484	25.9	7,070	33.3
316	Newham	30,544	8,617	28.2	10,164	33.3
330	Birmingham	101,191	28,241	27.9	33,745	33.3
210	Southwark	22,848	6,482	28.4	7,896	34.6
213	Westminster	11,021	3,662	33.2	4,028	36.5
208	Lambeth	20,096	6,402	31.9	7,492	37.3
207	Kensington and Chelsea	7,052	2,309	32.7	2,713	38.5
204	Hackney	18,051	6,002	33.3	7,038	39.0
352	Manchester	40,814	14,037	34.4	16,848	41.3
206	Islington	14,292	5,031	35.2	6,016	42.1
202	Camden	11,436	3,807	33.3	4,888	42.7
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	9,707	3,687	38.0	4,163	42.9
211	Tower Hamlets	22,397	9,651	43.1	11,798	52.7
902	Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—
903	Berkshire	—	—	—	—	—
904	Buckinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—
905	Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—
906	Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—
910	Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—
911	Devon	—	—	—	—	—
912	Dorset	—	—	—	—	—
913	Durham	—	—	—	—	—
914	East Sussex	—	—	—	—	—
915	Essex	—	—	—	—	—
917	Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—
918	Hereford and Worcester	—	—	—	—	—
922	Kent	—	—	—	—	—

		2006[7]				
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	Number of pupils taking a free school meal on Census Day	Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day[2]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]
923	Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—
924	Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—
930	Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—
932	Shropshire	—	—	—	—	—
934	Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—
939	Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—

[1] Includes dually registered pupils. Excludes boarding pupils.
[2] The number of pupils taking a free school meal on the Census Day expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils on roll.
[3] The number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils on roll.
[4] Includes dually registered pupils. Includes boarding pupils.
[5] National totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[6] Before Local Government Reorganisation.
[7] Provisional.
Source:
Schools' Census

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 9 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 698W, on school meals, when he expects to decide how best to capture information about school meals provision; and what information about school meals provision is collected by his Department. [81798]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has commissioned research to assess compliance with statutory National Nutritional Standards and to measure food consumption in maintained schools in England. A study of 'School Meals in Secondary Schools in England' reported in 2004 (DfES Research Report 557). A similar 'Study of School Meals in Primary Schools in England' has been conducted, and reported on 29 June 2006 (DfES Research Report 753).

The Annual Schools Census collects data on free school meal eligibility and take up. An internal DfES survey of local authorities (LA) was conducted in November 2005 to assess the nature of school meal provision and providers, the patter of commercial provision and contractual arrangements.

The Department has asked the School Food Trust (SFT) as part of its remit to monitor progress on school meals and report regularly to the Department. The SFT plans to collect information about school meals provision using several approaches. First, they are working with Ofsted and the national Healthy Schools Programme to develop a way of assessing whether or not the new DfES standards for school meals are being met. The intention is for this to be completed by early 2007. Second, they plan to undertake national sample surveys of primary and secondary schools' food provision and consumption, similar to the two studies commissioned by the Department. These provide baseline information against which the change in the national profile of provision and consumption of foods in school meals can be evaluated. The timing and scale of the national sample surveys will be confirmed by the end of August 2006. Finally, the SFT has just completed a survey addressed to all local authority catering providers in England to assess school meal take-up, the costs of providing a school meal, factors believed to be associated with increases or decreases in take-up, and perceived barriers to change. The survey will be published in July 2006 and repeated annually at the end of each financial year.

School Principals

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of how many hours a week on average *(a)* head and *(b)* deputy head teachers worked in the last year for which figures are available. [81696]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the average number of hours worked by head, deputy and assistant head teachers in primary and secondary schools in a week in March 2005. This is the latest information available.

	Average hours
Primary	
Head teachers	52.9
Deputy/assistant heads	55.7
Secondary	
Head teachers	62.6
Deputy/assistant	58.1

Source:
Teachers' Workload Diary Survey, March 2005, School Teachers' Review Body.

School Sports Facilities

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what procedures his Department has put in place to improve the link between community leisure needs and the opportunities for community use of sports facilities provided under the Building Schools for the Future programme. [81589]

Jim Knight: The Building Schools for the Future programme adopts an area approach to transforming secondary provision. For each phase of the programme, local authorities are required to develop

an educational vision in line with our guidance, which takes into account a range of policy areas, including PE and sport facilities, and community use. Our Building Schools for the Future guidance to local authorities covers the preparation of educational visions, joining-up all potential sources of funding and the design of school buildings and facilities. This Department is also represented in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's "Sports Facilities Infrastructure Programme".

Schools Commissioner

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many candidates applied for the post of Schools Commissioner; how many were invited to the final selection panel interview; and who the members of the selection panel are; [80719]

(2) when he will appoint the Schools Commissioner; [80720]

(3) what performance objectives will be used to determine the bonus paid to the Schools Commissioner. [80989]

Jim Knight: 21 candidates applied for the post of Schools Commissioner and three were invited to the final selection panel.

The panel members are:

Mary-Jo Jacobi, Civil Service Commissioner (Chair)

David Bell, Permanent Secretary, Department for Education and Skills

Ralph Jabberer, Director General for Schools, Department for Education and Skills

Dr. Philip Hunter, Chief School Adjudicator.

The outcome of the competition will be announced as soon as possible after the selection process has been completed and is likely to be during July 2006. A performance agreement, including business objectives, will be put in place with the Schools Commissioner when they take up post. This will be the basis on which any bonus award is assessed.

Special Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what role is played by special advisers in answering parliamentary questions asked of his Department. [80654]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* Special advisers conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements of the 'Code of Conduct for Special Advisers'.

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many working days were lost to his Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated total cost to his Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [77253]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The information is set out in the following table.

Department/calendar year	*Days lost per staff year*	*Estimated cost of absence (£ million)*
Education and Skills		
2004	9.0	3.3
2003	10.3	4.4
2002	9.8	3.8
2001	8.4	3.3
Education and Employment		
2000	7.7	2.9
Employment Service Agency		
2000	11.8	29.3
Education and Employment		
1999	7.6	2.6
Employment Service Agency		
1999	11.5	27.4
Education and Employment		
1998	8.2	2.7
Employment Service Agency		
1998	11.0	24.8

The data are taken from the report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service", which Cabinet Office publishes annually. The information in the "Days lost per staff year" column is quoted directly from the reports; the "Estimated cost of absence" is based on the average basic salary used in each report.

For the years 1998 to 2003, data for the Department for Education and Skills and the former Department for Education and Employment included staff in the Government Office network. In the 2004 report "Government Offices" is shown as a separate Department.

Student Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many individual student loan accounts were passed to debt collection agencies from the Student Loans Company in each financial year from 1997-98 to 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [75320]

Bill Rammell: The table shows the number of pre-1998 mortgage-style student loan accounts with debt collection agencies, as at 31 March of each year. Data for 1997/08 are not available.

Referrals with debt collection agents at 31 March—England and Wales

	Number
1999	13,586
2000	17,423
2001	19,244
2002	13,005
2003	11,100
2004	15,955
2005	27,504
2006	21,758

On average, referrals to debt collection agents represent 1.8 per cent. of the total number of borrowers. These data should not be equated with the number of loan accounts in arrears; cases may be referred more than once in a year and debt collection agents are asked to locate borrowers as well as to collect loans.

There was a particular drive in 2004/05 to tackle longstanding cases via external collection agents but the volume of referrals to collection agents, and the numbers of accounts in arrears are now decreasing.

There have been no referrals to collection agents of cases under the post 1998 income contingent loan scheme.

Student Safety

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills who is responsible for checking that schools have sufficient smoke alarms and fire extinguishers and that they are in working order. [81666]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government recently published guidance for schools on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, "Fire Safety Risk Assessment—Educational Premises". This states that the responsibility for complying with the Fire Safety Order rests with the "responsible person". With a school maintained by a local authority, the duties of the responsible person are likely to be shared between the local authority, the governing body and the head teacher. One of the prime duties of the responsible person is to appoint one or more competent persons—someone with sufficient training, knowledge and experience to carry out the preventive and protective measures required by the Fire Safety Order. The guidance covers what these are. In Part 1, section 3.41 deals with fire detection and warning systems, and 3.42 with firefighting equipment and facilities. They give advice on what to look for in school premises and provide checklists for both detection and firefighting.

Sure Start

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many available places there are on Sure Start schemes in *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset and *(c)* the south-west; and what percentage of children are on the Sure Start scheme in each area. [82148]

Beverley Hughes: There are two Sure Start children's centres up and running in the constituency of Yeovil offering services to 1,815 children under five and their families including 58 child care places. In Somerset there are 14 children's centres offering services to 10,401[1] children under five and their families including 237 child care places. In the south-west as a whole there are 78 children's centres offering services to 57,155[2] children under five and their families including 2,234 child care places. Data on how many children have accessed services are based on information collected for Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) because data on numbers using children's centres are not yet available.

There are no Sure Start local programmes in the Yeovil constituency. 2,139 children under four live in areas covered by three SSLPs in Somerset. In all 24,613 children under four live in areas covered by 31 SSLPs in the south-west. The latest information available (at March 2005) shows on average 30 per cent.[3] of children in the Somerset and on average 25 per cent.[4] of children overall in SSLPs in the south-west had significant contact (that is, a home visit or attendance at a centre-based activity) with Sure Start.

Sure Start Local Programmes (SSLPs) were set up between 1999 and 2003 offering a range of services to children under four years of age and their families living in defined areas. In 2002, Mini Sure Start programmes were set up in rural areas and pockets of deprivation that would not normally be covered by larger SSLPs. All SSLPs and mini programmes are becoming Sure Start children's centres and will offer services to children under five years of age and their families. Information about the percentage of children reached by SSLP services is now collected once a year. The Department does not keep data on how many children have participated in Mini Sure Start programmes. However, each programme typically covers between 150 and 170 children under four in their catchment areas.

[1] 10,401 children include 2,139 children previously served by the three SSLPs across Somerset that have become children's centres.

[2] 57,155 children include 24,613 children previously served by the 31 SSLPs across the south-west that have become children's centres.

Source:

Sure Start Local Programme data returns March 2005.

Teach First

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many graduates who have entered teaching via Teach First have continued to work as teachers after the two year commitment had ended. [81752]

Jim Knight: Teach First was launched in 2003 and, of the first cohort to complete the two year programme, approximately 45 per cent. have stayed in teaching.

Teachers

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many trained teachers were employed by the East Riding of Yorkshire Education Authority in each of the last 5 years, broken down by subject taught; and if he will make a statement. [81701]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of regular qualified teachers in service in the East Riding of Yorkshire local authority for each January from 2000 to 2005, the latest year available. This information is not available broken down by subject taught.

Full-time equivalent number of regular qualified teachers in service in the East Riding of Yorkshire local authority, January 2000 to 2005

	Total FTE
2000	2,420
2001	2,510
2002	2,530
2003	2,590
2004	2,590
2005	2,630

Source:
Annual survey of teachers in service and teacher vacancies, (618g).

Tuition Fees

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students from *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset and *(c)* the south-west are exempt from tuition fees. [82149]

Bill Rammell: The number of students from Somerset local authority, and the South West Government Office Region making no contribution to their tuition fees in 2004/05 was £2,830, and £29,700 respectively[1]. Data are not available at the constituency level.

Students on full-time undergraduate courses and their families are expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their tuition based on household income. Students from lower income backgrounds are wholly or partially exempt from paying tuition fees.

From 2006/07 upfront fees are abolished and full-time students will be eligible for tuition fee loans of up to £3,000. In addition, we expect around 30 per cent. of students to receive a maximum maintenance grant of £2,700 and an HE institution bursary of at least £300. Overall, we expect around half of all eligible students to receive at least some maintenance grant.

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10 students.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students from *(a)* Houghton and Washington East constituency and *(b)* Sunderland city council area are exempt from tuition fees. [82284]

Bill Rammell: The number of students from Sunderland local authority making no contribution to their tuition fees in 2004/05 was 1,740[1]. Data are not available at the constituency level.

Students on full-time undergraduate courses and their families are expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their tuition based on household income. Students from lower income backgrounds are wholly or partially exempt from paying tuition fees.

From 2006/07 up-front fees are abolished and full-time students will be eligible for tuition fee loans of up to £3,000. In addition, we expect around 30 per cent. of students to receive a maximum maintenance grant of £2,700 and an HE institution bursary of at least £300. Overall, we expect around half of all eligible students to receive at least some maintenance grant.

[1] Rounded to the nearest 10 students.

University Ranking

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will consider creating a system by which to rank universities; [80577]

(2) what recent representations his Department has received on establishing its own criteria for ranking universities. [80578]

Bill Rammell: We have received no formal recent representations on criteria to rank universities nor do we have any immediate plans to create a ranking system. However, we have started to make more comparative information available to prospective students. However, there is currently no consensus on how English higher education institutions could be ranked taking due account of their increasingly diverse size and missions and distinguishing between inputs and outputs. We will listen to any suggestions on possible ways forward.

Weapons (Schools)

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are being taken by his Department to provide security measures to ensure that *(a)* knives and *(b)* guns are not taken into schools. [82264]

Jim Knight: School security is a local matter. Under health and safety law, it is for individual school employers to determine what measures a school should take to keep pupils and staff safe. In the main, schools are very safe places and the majority of pupils have never carried a knife. It is a criminal offence to carry an offensive weapon on school premises. Where schools have suspicions they can call the police, and should do so if they believe pupils or staff are at risk of serious harm. Schools and local police can agree a Safer School Partnership to prevent crime in and around a school. We also propose a power in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill to enable schools to search, without consent, pupils they suspect are carrying a knife or other weapon.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many project licences for animal experiments were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* successful in 2004; and for what reasons applications were rejected. [81433]

Joan Ryan: In 2004, 595 project licences were applied for and of those 413 were granted in 2004, 122 in 2005 and two in 2006. None were formally refused. Nineteen

are still being processed. Thirty nine applications are recorded as not proceeded with.

A feature of the regulatory regime under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is the discussion that often takes place at an early stage between applicants (or prospective applicants) and the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate. This means that proposals unlikely to meet the Act's stringent requirements are revised or withdrawn before formal refusal becomes necessary.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* age and *(b)* sex was of each of those made subject to an antisocial behaviour order in the Bristol local authority area in each year since their introduction. [80591]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the following table:

Number of ASBOs issued, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, where restrictions are imposed within the local government authority area of Bristol city council, by period, sex and age group, from 1 June 2000[1] to 30 September 2005 (latest available)

	Males (age)				Females (age)			
Period	10-17	18+	Unknown	Total	10-17	18+	Unknown	Total
1 June to 31 December 2000	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
2001	[2]5	2	1	8	—	1	—	1
2002	2	2	—	4	—	1	—	1
2003	4	5	—	9	—	—	—	—
2004	15	17	—	32	—	5	1	6
1 January to 30 September 2005	3	14	1	18	—	2	1	3
Total	30	41	2	73	—	9	2	11

	Persons (age)			
Period	10-17	18+	Unknown	Total
1 June to 31 December 2000	1	1	—	2
2001	5	3	1	9
2002	2	3	—	5
2003	4	5	—	9
2004	15	22	1	38
1 January to 30 September 2005	3	16	2	21
Total	30	50	4	84

[1] From 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area.
[2] Includes one order made at Bristol magistrates court—petty sessional area only known.

Asylum/Immigration

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps he has taken to ensure that the supporting documents produced by asylum applicants are recorded. [73700]

John Reid: Any document presented by an applicant at their screening interview in relation to their identity, nationality or route taken to the UK is retained by the screening officer, the applicant is given a copy, and a copy placed on file.

The screening form includes a question 7.38 "What other documents do you have (Record full details and attach copies of all documents to this screening form)". The applicant and screening officer both sign the screening form at the end of the interview.

The Casework Integrated Database has a field for recording documents that have been submitted, the screening officer will update that field, any additional entries will be recorded under the name of the officer who added the information. CID would also record the date and time of any amendments.

It is also practice in the ASU to record on the file minute sheet documents that have been retained.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action is taken in respect of immigration and asylum applicants who are assessed by Immigration and Nationality Directorate officials as posing a security risk. [73691]

John Reid: Where an individual in question is assessed as posing a security risk, and is overseas and is seeking to enter the United Kingdom, they will be excluded. Those applicants assessed as posing a security risk who are already present in the UK, we will seek to deport, consistent with our international human rights obligations.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what language qualifications are required of employees of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate; and if he will make a statement. [73693]

John Reid: All Home Office employees are expected to demonstrate competency in the English language. For those in more operational roles such as immigration officers there is a provision to demonstrate proficiency in languages other than English.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the director general of the immigration and nationality directorate last considered his policy on the quality of decisions made by staff. [73705]

John Reid: The policy on the quality of casework decisions made by staff is kept under constant review.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate hold dual citizenship. [77120]

John Reid: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action is being taken to improve the speed of access to the immigration and nationality directorate website; how many complaints the IND has received about this problem; what the estimated cost is of the necessary remedial measures; and when he expects the site to be fully operational. [79019]

John Reid: The immigration and nationality directorate website was re-launched on Wednesday 7 June 2006. Visitors to the site should now find it much faster to access. During the time the site was running slowly, the IND web team received approximately 600 complaints.

CCTV

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact of the installation of CCTV cameras on levels of crime in Beverley in each of the last five years. [79531]

Mr. Coaker: The scheme in Beverley was installed at a cost of £203,000. The local police in Beverley have indicated that the presence of CCTV plays an important part in their operational work to prevent and detect crime. The quality of cameras, colour images on screens, recording, storage and photographic reproduction provides the possibility of admissible evidence for court proceedings against offenders.

Compensation Claims

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what financial support is available for people found to be not guilty during their trial to investigate the circumstances and make claims for compensation against the Crown Prosecution Service and the police. [81035]

Vera Baird: I have been asked to reply.

Any party who qualifies for legal aid under the standard means and merits criteria can obtain legal advice and information, or legal representation, for any civil proceedings which are within the scope of the legal aid scheme, including proceedings against the Crown Prosecution Service and the police.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter dated 26 January from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton, with regard to Mr. Rashid Mahmood. [58113]

John Reid: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 16 March 2006.

Crime Statistics (Suffolk)

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many burglaries have been recorded in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [82107]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given below.

Table 1: Recorded burglary offences in Suffolk—2000-01 and 2001-02

	Number of offences
2000-01	5,738
2001-02	6,346

Note:
The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Recorded burglary offences in Suffolk—2002-03 to 2004-05

	Number of offences
2002-03	6,248
2003-04	6,396
2004-05	5,090

Note:
The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what total amount was paid to Capita as *(a)* service payments and *(b)* performance-related payments during each year of the Criminal Records Bureau's operation. [75298]

Joan Ryan: Capita do not operate the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB). The disclosure service operates as a contract between the Criminal Records Bureau and Capita Business Services based upon a public private partnership agreement. Under this agreement, Capita are required to perform contractually specified services and to develop, deliver and maintain the technical infrastructure of the disclosure service. This is to enable the Home Office to discharge its responsibilities under part V of the Police Act 1997 and other supporting legislation, including the Protection of Children Act 1999, to make available to approved organisations information regarding the criminal or related background of individuals.

Other services carried out by the Criminal Records Bureau that are not undertaken by Capita are carried out by civil servants and include the sensitive matching of an applicants personal details to records held on the Police National Computer (PNC) and other lists held by the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills.

A contract schedule sets out the service levels for Capita to meet. A further schedule sets out the service credits that apply should Capita fail to meet the agreed service levels. There is provision within this contract for liquidated damages to be charged in the event of late delivery to agreed changes in the service.

In each year since financial year 2001-02, the following payments have been received from Capita for service credits and liquidated damages:

	Amount (£)
2001-02	555,000
2002-03	1,718,000
2003-04	1,528,000
2004-05	53,000
2005-06	92,000

The hon. Member will appreciate that with a contract of this size and complexity, the CRB would not be able to list and explain the context of each occasion when service credits and liquidated damages have occurred without employing disproportionate resources.

However, as an illustration, between August 2001 and November 2001, liquidated damages were applied due to the delays in launching the disclosure service and some of the associated services. Subsequent service credits were also applied in 2003 for operational delays within the disclosure process. These payments relate to the early years of the service.

The contract was originally estimated at £400 million to run over 10 years. In each year since financial year 2001-02, CRB have paid Capita the following as service payments:

	£ million Amount
2001-02	12.1
2002-03	33.5
2003-04	58.5
2004-05	44.1
2005-06	47

There have been no performance related-payments made in any of the above financial years.

Departmental Grants

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department to which faith-based organisations his Department has made grants in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* the amount and *(b)* purpose. [74596]

John Reid: The information could be gathered only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Legislation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what legislation has been introduced by his Department in each year since 1996, broken down by type; and whether Royal Assent was given in the case of each Bill. [74597]

John Reid: The following is a list of all Government Bills and Private Member's/Peer's Bills on Home Office subjects that have received Royal Assent since the beginning of the 1995-96 session.

Royal Assent received during the 1995-96 session
- Wild Mammals (Protection) Act
- Prevention of Terrorism (Additional Powers) Act
- Law Reform (Year and a Day Rule) Act
- Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act
- Sexual Offences (Conspiracy and Incitement) Act
- Offensive Weapons Act
- Security Service Act
- Civil Aviation (Amendment) Act
- Hong Kong (War Wives and Widows) Act
- Prisoners' Earnings Act
- Asylum and Immigration Act

Royal Assent received during the 1996-97 session
- Theft (Amendment) Act
- Horserace Totalisator Board Act
- Firearms (Amendment) Act
- Knives Act
- British Nationality (Hong Kong) Act
- Crime (Sentences) Act
- Police Act
- Police and Firemen's Pensions Act
- Protection from Harassment Act
- Sex Offenders Act
- Public Entertainments Licences (Drug Misuse) Act
- Confiscation of Alcohol (Young Persons) Act
- Prisons (Alcohol Testing) Act
- Criminal Evidence (Amendment) Act
- Police (Health and Safety) Act
- Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act
- Police (Property) Act
- Police (Insurance of Voluntary Assistants) Act
- Dangerous Dogs Amendment Act

Royal Assent received during the 1997-98 session
- Firearms (Amendment) (No.2) Act
- Special Immigration Appeals Commission Act
- Criminal Justice (International Co-Operation) Act
- Data Protection Act
- Crime and Disorder Act
- Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Act
- Human Rights Act
- Registration of Political Parties Act

Royal Assent received during the 1998-99 session
- European Parliamentary Elections Act
- Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act
- Football (Offences and Disorder) Act
- Criminal Cases Review (Insanity) Act
- Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act
- Immigration and Asylum Act

Royal Assent received during the 1999-2000 session
- Representation of the People Act
- Terrorism Act
- Football (Disorder) Act
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act
- Licensing (Young Persons) Act
- Disqualifications Act
- Freedom of Information Act
- Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act
- Race Relations (Amendment) Act

Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act
Criminal Justice and Court Services Act

Royal Assent received during the 2000-01 session

Vehicles (Crime) Act
Election Publications Act
Elections Act
Criminal Justice and Police Act
House of Commons (Removal of Clergy Disqualification) Act
Private Security Industry Act

Royal Assent received during the 2001-02 session

Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act
Football Disorder (Amendment) Act
Proceeds of Crime Act
Police Reform Act
Mobile Telephones (Reprogramming) Act
Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act

Royal Assent received during the 2002-03 session

Criminal Justice Act
Sexual Offences Act
Crime (International Co-operation) Act
Extradition Act
Antisocial behaviour Act
Female Genital Mutilation Act.

Royal Assent received during the 2003-04 session.

Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act
Domestic Violence, Crime & Victims Act

Royal Assent received during the 2004-05 session

Prevention of Terrorism Act
Serious Organised Crime and Police Act
Drugs Act

Royal Assent received during the 2005-06 session

Racial & Religious Hatred Act
Identity Cards Act
Immigration, Asylum & Nationality Act
Terrorism Act

The following Bills on Home Office subjects are currently before Parliament:

The Charities Bill
The Fraud Bill
The Police and Justice Bill
The Violent Crime Reduction Bill

The following table lists the number of statutory instruments, Orders in Council and local orders made by the Home Office in each year since 1996:

SIs, Orders in Council, and Local Orders 1996 to 2006 (up to 25 May 2006)

	Statutory Instruments	*Orders in Council*	*Local Orders*	*Total*
1996	77	24	10	111
1997	135	48	8	191
1998	97	28	15	140
1999	90	14	9	113
2000	126	21	5	152
2001	118	18	2	138
2002	136	11	0	147
2003	146	10	1	157
2004	145	1	1	147
2005	127	3	1	131

SIs, Orders in Council, and Local Orders 1996 to 2006 (up to 25 May 2006)

	Statutory Instruments	*Orders in Council*	*Local Orders*	*Total*
2006	37	1	1	39
Total	—	—	—	1,466

Deportations

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of its potential liability for compensation to the victims and their families following an offence committed by an individual who has been released from prison and has failed to have been deported or removed by the Home Office and its responsible agencies. [67857]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 May 2006]:* We would not expect there to be any significant exposure to liability in civil law applying the normal principles. Victims of violent crime are of course entitled to apply for compensation under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme in the normal way.

DNA Database

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests have been received from other nations for details from the national DNA database concerning people who were added to the database when they were under 18 years and not charged or cautioned with any offence. [79025]

Joan Ryan: Requests for the exchange of DNA information between the United Kingdom and other countries are usually made through the United Kingdom National Central Bureau for Interpol (UK NCB) based at the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). Other requests may be made as a result of bi-lateral direct liaison between law enforcement authorities; and formal mutual legal assistance channels.

We understand from SOCA that it has not received any requests from other countries for details from the National DNA Database concerning people who had a DNA sample taken and added to the database when they were under 18 years of age and who were not charged or cautioned with any offence. No data are available on the number, if any, of exchanges of DNA information in such cases which occur through direct liaison between law enforcement authorities or formal mutual legal assistance channels.

Drug Intervention Programme

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases in the Drug Intervention Programme *(a)* handling stolen goods, *(b)* attenuated acquisitive crime and *(c)* begging was the trigger for a drugs test in 2004-05. [69542]

Mr. Coaker: I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member on 1 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 811W.

Ethnic Minority Community Liaison

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with representatives from the *(a)* African, *(b)* North African, *(c)* Arab and *(d)* Iranian communities since 7 July 2005. [77986]

Mr. McNulty: All Home Secretaries and their Ministers meet with representative groups from an array of countries and organisations during the course of their duties.

Foreign Criminals

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals who are in UK prisons have previously been imprisoned in the UK; for what offences they were imprisoned; and what the dates are of their previous *(a)* convictions and *(b)* imprisonment. [68724]

John Reid: The information requested is not available centrally and establishing it from case files would incur disproportionate cost.

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether a policy has been introduced that all foreign national prisoners are placed in category C prisons. [79501]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* No. The policy on categorisation remains unchanged. The overriding purpose of categorisation remains to ensure that prisoners are retained in custody with a level of security consistent with the need to protect the public.

Knives

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives have been handed in during the current amnesty in *(a)* Beverley and Holderness and *(b)* Humberside Police Authority area; and if he will make a statement. [81702]

Mr. Coaker: Figures for the number of items handed in during the first week of the knife amnesty have been collected at police force level. Humberside police report that 259 items were surrendered to them. 17,715 items were handed in England and Wales during the first week of the amnesty. We worked closely with ACPO to develop the arrangements for the amnesty, which was part of our wider strategy to tackle knife crime. We are also focusing on legislation, enforcement, education and prevention. We have brought forward provisions in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill that will raise the age at which someone can be sold a knife to 18; are introducing a new offence of using someone to mind a weapon; and giving head teachers powers to search pupils for knives. The Home Secretary announced on 19 June that he was giving very serious consideration to the suggestion that the maximum sentence for having a knife or blade in a public place should be increased from the current sentence of two years.

Many police forces are undertaking tough enforcement operations, for example, the Metropolitan police's Operation Blunt and the British Transport police's Operation Shield, which uses search equipment to detect those carrying knives and other weapons on our transport network. We are also supporting educational initiatives that demonstrate to young people the dangers of carrying knives, and reinforce the message that carrying a knife can result in it being turned on you. Though our small grants programme, the Connected Fund, we are also supporting a wide range of local community projects which work with young people to provide mentoring, training, education and other support.

Leave to Remain

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants from each of the countries which joined the EU in May 2005 have outstanding applications for leave to remain under the one-off exercise announced on 24 October 2003. [79018]

John Reid: I am advised that as of 16 June 2006, 20 principal applicants from these countries have outstanding applications.

This figure is from internal management information.

London Terrorist Attacks

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those seriously injured in the terrorist attacks on 7 July 2005 have received *(a)* partial and *(b)* full compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board; and if he will make a statement. [68701]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 8 May 2006]:* As at 21 June 2006 the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) had received 522 applications for compensation arising from the incidents on 7 and 21 July 2005. They had offered 255 final awards and 165 interim awards, and had paid out over £2¼ million in respect of these claims.

CICA advise that they have made large interim awards in 17 cases where the injuries might be described as extremely serious. These injuries include loss of one or more limbs, loss of an eye, and serious burns to extensive areas of the body.

CICA have not yet been able to finalise any of these seriously injured cases, as they all involve claims for compensation additional to the basic tariff awards for loss of earnings and special expenses, and in all cases the final prognosis for recovery is not yet clear.

CICA will continue to make substantial interim awards in cases where final settlement is not in prospect, provided they have a police report confirming

the claimant's involvement in one of the incidents and a medical report confirming the nature and extent of the injuries.

We announced on 8 June 2006 that we were making an extra donation of £2.5 million to the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund to give assistance to bereaved and the injured victims of the 7 July London bombings. The further support was being made on a special, one-off basis in recognition of the exceptional circumstances of the London bombings, rather than under the rules of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme, which would require a change to legislation 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 38WS.

North Yorkshire Constabulary

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* regular constables and *(b)* community support officers have been recruited to the North Yorkshire constabulary in the last 12 months. [79482]

Mr. McNulty: In the period 1 June 2005-31 May 2006 the North Yorkshire constabulary have recruited *(a)* 114 police officers and *(b)* 12 police community support officers.

Offenders (Unpaid Work)

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the funds saved through the use of unpaid work by offenders in each of the last 10 years. [63024]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not possible to give a precise figure but the following table provides a broad estimate of the value of the unpaid work done by offenders since 1995. It takes no account of the costs to the probation service of managing the work. Orders that include unpaid work vary in length but the calculation is based on the average number of hours per order. An allowance has been made for the fact that not all offenders complete their orders. The estimated total number of hours has been multiplied by the national minimum wage for each year. (Because the minimum wage came into force in 1999, the introductory figure of £3.60 has been used for 1995 to 1998.)

	Estimated total value (£ million)
1995	18.0
1996	17.5
1997	18.4
1998	19.2
1999	19.2
2000	19.0
2001	18.7
2002	21.1
2003	21.7
2004	24.4

Passports

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have applied for a passport in each of the last eight years; and how many of those who have applied were rejected due to the applicant's *(a)* criminal record and *(b)* antisocial behaviour in each year. [80308]

Joan Ryan: The number of passport applications received by the Identity and Passport Service (formerly UKPS) in each of the last eight calendar years is in the following table.

A criminal record or a record of antisocial behaviour does not disqualify a British national from holding a passport and applicants are not required to give this information. If notified by the police, the IPS would refuse a passport to a person for whose arrest a warrant had been issued in the United Kingdom, or a person who was wanted by the United Kingdom police on suspicion of a serious crime.

	Passport applications
1998	4,834,000
1999	4,685,000
2000	5,150,000
2001	5,692,000
2002	5,570,000
2003	5,635,000
2004	6,134,000
2005	6,539,000

People Trafficking

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of children trafficked into the UK in the last five years. [76842]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* We have no centrally collated data on the numbers of children trafficked into the UK. The Home Office recognises there is an urgent need to improve its intelligence on this issue and for this reason has commissioned a scoping project in partnership with the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) to estimate the scale and nature of the problem including source countries. Additionally newly established Minors Intelligence Teams based at Croydon and Liverpool asylum screening units now provide monthly reports on children who have been identified as being at risk, including those that they believe have been trafficked.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1840-41W, on people trafficking, what proposals for combating human trafficking were discussed at the G8 meeting on 15 and 16 June. [81827]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* Both the Attorney General and my hon. Friend the Minister for Policing, Security and Community Safety addressed the issue of human trafficking when addressing

G8 Justice and Interior Ministers in Moscow 15 and 16 June. They urged that the G8 step up its work in tackling organised human trafficking and referred to a UK-led project to establish ways of further enhancing cooperation and the exchange of intelligence to combat organised trafficking and smuggling.

G8 Justice and Interior Ministers stressed the importance of cooperation with Interpol as well as Europol to enhance the efficiency of cooperation in the fight against smuggling and human trafficking and the use of the Interpol Lost, Stolen and Invalid Passports Database. They also called for increased interaction with relevant UN institutions, as well as the International Organization for Migration, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization, and the Europol in combating illegal migration.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to meet their obligations under Section 7 of the Council of the European Union's Framework Decision on combating trafficking in human beings to ensure appropriate assistance is provided for the families of child victims of trafficking. [79229]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* The Council of the European Union's Framework Decision on combating the trafficking in human beings, places certain obligations on member states to criminalise and prosecute traffickers, and to protect and support victims of trafficking. Under Article 7, paragraph 3 (Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA) member states are obliged to take the measures possible to ensure appropriate assistance for the family of a child victim of trafficking.

All agencies and organisations within the criminal justice system aim to work in partnership to meet the needs of all victims of crime, including young victims. Advice and information will be offered to families in line with the detailed provisions of Article 4, (Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA), cross referenced in Article 7 (Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA), on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of trafficking people since Sections 4 and 5 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 2004 came into force. [78813]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* To date there have been no prosecutions or convictions for trafficking under section 4 and 5 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc.) Act 2004.

Police (Cultural Items)

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many specialist police there are with responsibility for theft and other crimes relating to cultural items in England and Wales; and if he will make a statement. [73433]

Mr. McNulty: There is no specific data collected for the number of police officers with responsibility for theft and other crimes relating to cultural items.

As at 31 March 2005, there were 727 full-time equivalent police officers whose main function was "burglary". This includes staff who predominantly investigate offences of burglary. In the same period there were 16,887 full-time equivalent police officers whose main function was "CID". This includes staff mainly employed in plain clothes for the investigation of crime, and includes any specialist squads, e.g. robbery.

Prison Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place a much larger proportion of short-term prisoners in open prisons. [65573]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The length of a person's prison sentence is not the primary determinant for their categorisation. Prisoners are placed in the lowest security category consistent with the needs of security and control and the need to protect the public. Prisoners are subject to a rigorous and robust risk assessment when being categorised. Only prisoners categorised D and therefore considered to pose a low risk of escape and not represent a threat to the public may be placed in open prisons.

Prison Sentences

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who listed a residential address in Hartlepool constituency at the time of sentencing received a prison sentence in each year since 1990. [77116]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no information recorded on the Court Proceedings database relating to the home addresses of persons sentenced. The information contained in the table shows, however, the number of persons sentenced to immediate custody in the Hartlepool Petty Sessional Area (PSA) (sitting at Hartlepool Magistrates Court) or committed by Hartlepool Magistrates Court to the Crown Court for trial or sentence from 1990 to 2004, the latest year for which data are available.

Persons sentenced to immediate custody by the Hartlepool PSA[1], 1990 to 2004

	Number of persons
1990	104
1991	92
1992	106
1993	106
1994	138
1995	161
1996	200
1997	181
1998	247
1999	242
2000	269
2001	292
2002	264
2003	314
2004	260

[1] Including cases sentenced at the Crown court following committal from Hartlepool PSA.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff are employed in the Prison Service Security Group; and if he will make a statement. [78184]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As at 31 May 2006, 65 staff were employed in the Prison Service Security Group.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many personnel the Prison Service Fraud Investigation Unit employs; how many investigations the unit has undertaken in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [80021]

(2) what assessment was made by the Prison Service of the risk of fraud in its latest assessment of business risk; what the date was of the last assessment; and if he will make a statement; [80024]

(3) how often within the last five years the Prison Service Fraud Investigation Unit interrogated Prison Service corporate data to identify indicators of fraud; and if he will make a statement. [80025]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* There are the equivalent of two full-time staff within the Fraud Investigation Unit, which is contained within the Audit and Corporate Assurance Group. The unit has undertaken 90 investigations over the last five years:

	Number of investigations
2001-02	25
2002-03	17
2003-04	14
2004-05	15
2005-06	19

Individual establishments and headquarters groups are required to undertake a fraud risk assessment annually and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to mitigate this risk. In addition, one of the key systems in place to manage one of the Prison Service corporate risks measures the effectiveness of compliance with financial controls and standards. The Prison Service Management Board has assessed this as satisfactory at the last assessment on 24 April 2006.

The Fraud Investigation Unit along with other members of Audit and Corporate Assurance have been fully engaged in advising on the design of major Prison Service systems for human resources, Finance and Procurement, in order to reduce the risk of fraud. Once these systems have been fully implemented, it is intended that the Fraud Investigation Unit will use appropriate software to interrogate corporate data systems. It has not yet happened.

Prisons

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are used to determine whether a prisoner should be categorised as category A. [81025]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prisoners are categorised according to the risk they present to the public, to the police or to the security of the state.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what processes are in place for the review of category A status for prisoners; and what records are kept of such reviews. [81036]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The security category of a prisoner is assessed, decided, and kept under review in the light of all available information. The processes in place for reviews of category A status for prisoners are set out in Prison Service Order 1010 which provides for annual reviews of categorisation for sentenced prisoners. Records are kept in the prisoners file at prisons and also at Prison Service headquarters.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions the judiciary has changed the status of a category A prisoner to facilitate the prisoner's attendance at trial in the last 10 years. [81125]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service has responsibility for categorisation of prisoners. The judiciary cannot change the status of a category A prisoner to facilitate their attendance at trial.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inmates were being held in open conditions who had previously been Category A or Category B prisoners on 31 December of each of the last 10 years. [63082]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only by examination of individual records at a disproportionate cost.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely effect by 2010 on *(a)* the prison population and *(b)* prison costs of requiring all prisoners currently under sentence to serve their full sentences. [76608]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Projections of the prison population in 2010 if all prisoners were to serve to their sentence expiry date have not been produced. Prison population projections to 2011 have been produced for a range of scenarios and are published in Home Office Statistical Bulletin 10/05, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of whether access to *(a)* naltraczone, *(b)* subutex and *(c)* methadone would increase the exchange of illegal drugs within the prison estate; and if he will make a statement. [78102]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prison Service Order 3550 requires that the administration and consumption of prescribed drugs used in maintenance and detoxification programmes is strictly monitored. In possession medication is not indicated for subutex and methadone. Naltrexone is an opiate antagonist which does not have the same potential for abuse as methadone and buprenorphine (subutex).

A comprehensive range of measures is in place to reduce the supply of drugs in prisons, including routes from prescribed medication.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place within the Prison Service to advise the *(a)* police and *(b)* probation service of unexpected changes in prisoners' release dates brought about by restoration of remission boards; and if he will make a statement. [78103]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Governors are required to notify the police and probation service of the release dates for offenders. In the specific case of high risk offenders coming under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements, Governors must ensure that all staff involved in sentence calculation, decisions to restore 'added days' and facilitating release arrangements for high risk prisoners are aware of the need to advise the police and probation service immediately of any unexpected changes to release dates or release arrangements. In all cases where a prisoner is released on licence, a copy of the licence is sent to the supervising probation service shortly before release, and is updated in the event of any change in release date.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the *(a)* availability and *(b)* use of (i) naltraczone, (ii) subutex and (iii) methadone in dealing with drug addiction within the prison estate. [78109]

Mr. Coaker: Naltrexone, subutex and methadone are used in the management of those who are addicted to opiates, and as such they can be used as treatment interventions in prison.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison officers have been reinstated after dismissal in each prison in each of the last three years. [78133]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information is not available centrally on the number of prison officers who have been reinstated following dismissal in each of the last three years. This information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact on the overcrowding rate in female prison establishments of the re-roling of HM Prison *(a)* Bullwood Hall and *(b)* Brockhill; and if he will make a statement. [78144]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The impact of the allocation of women prisoners from Bullwood Hall and Brockhill in the women's estate has been assessed and no overcrowding is expected as a result of this change of function. There is still spare capacity within the women's estate.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks are carried out by the Prison Service into the nationality of prisoners entering prison establishments who claim to be British; and if he will make a statement. [78196]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prison Service Order 0500 requires prison reception staff to interview all incoming prisoners and note their stated nationality in the prisoner's core record. Any passport or other document providing evidence of the prisoner's nationality will be examined but prison staff do not have the means to carry out any specific checks to confirm the nationality of prisoners claiming to be British. Prisons will report the details of all prisoners who state that they are foreign nationals or dual nationals, all those whose nationality is initially unclear and all those who refuse to give their nationality to the Immigration Service who will then establish their immigration status.

As the Home Secretary outlined in his ministerial statement of 23 May, officials are now looking at the possibility of placing a legal obligation on those suspected, charged or convicted to declare their nationality.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times officials of his Department have met officials at HMP Peterborough since 1 January to discuss prisoner releases from HMP Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [78919]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Home Office controller for HMP Peterborough is the key official who meets with the prison's director to discuss operational matters, including the release of prisoners. Formal meetings take place monthly and in addition there are informal weekly meetings. Since January 2006 the controller has discussed with the director cases involving the release of eight individual prisoners, including five meetings between April and June concerning the release of foreign national prisoners.

It is a requirement that release licences for prisoners are signed by the Home Office controller in his or her capacity as a Crown servant. As a consequence of this the contractor's custody management team is in regular contact with the controller's team, who make the necessary checks prior to release taking place.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prisoners were detained at HMP Peterborough as at *(a)* 31 March 2005 and *(b)* 31 May 2006; and if he will make a statement; [79423]

(2) how many prisoners were transferred to HMP Peterborough in the six months to 31 May; from which institutions; how many new prisoners were admitted to HMP Peterborough in the same period; and if he will make a statement; [79424]

(3) how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female category A prisoners are held at HMP Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [79467]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* There are no category A prisoners held at HMP Peterborough. From information held on the prison IT system, there were 18 prisoners held in HMP Peterborough on 31 March 2005 (the establishment opened in spring 2005) and 759 held on 30 April 2006, the most recent date for which information has been published; and between 1 October 2005 and 31 March 2006 there were 1,208 first receptions into HMP Peterborough.

Comprehensive information on transfers between prisons is not collected routinely and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the re-offending rate is for prisoners who have absconded from HMP Sudbury in the last five years for which figures are available. [79994]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* Information on re-offending is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role the *(a)* Prison Service and *(b)* police have regarding the capture of absconded prisoners; and what measures are in place to ensure there is liaison between them. [79995]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* Prisons immediately inform the police in the event of an abscond and provide them with all relevant details of the prisoner. The police are responsible for recapturing prisoners unlawfully at large.

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have absconded from HMP Sudbury while on the resettlement programme. [79996]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* Centrally held records do not separately identify whether absconders are part of the resettlement programme and this information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of property stolen from the Prison Service in the year ending *(a)* 31 March 2005 and *(b)* 31 March 2006; and how many prosecutions arose therefrom. [80022]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* In the financial year ended 31 March 2005, there were 37 reported fraud and theft cases with a total value of 5,902. Of these, there were 10 cases with a value of £4,549 due to theft of property. In the financial year ended 31 March 2006, there were 30 cases of fraud and theft with a total value of £5,268. Of these, there were 15 cases with a total value of £3,157 due to theft of property. The Prison Service is aware of four cases with a total value of £8,169 that occurred in 2005-06 and are still under investigation and not yet recorded in the figures above.

The police are informed of most cases of theft of property but no records are kept centrally of the number of prosecutions resulting.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many conflicts of interest were registered in the local registers of conflicts of interest within the Prison Service at *(a)* each London prison establishment, *(b)* the London area office and *(c)* each Prison Service directorate for the year ending March 2006; and if he will make a statement. [80023]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* No central register of conflicts of interest is available from which readily to obtain the information requested. Each individual establishment or group should maintain its own register. Prison Service directorates are not required to compile a register. Given the time constraints and the disproportionate resource costs involved, it is not possible to provide the figures requested.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research *(a)* he has evaluated and *(b)* he plans to commission on the incidence of adult attention deficit hyperactivity in penal institutions. [80708]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No such research has yet been commissioned or evaluated.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average monthly number of prisoners were accommodated at HMP Full Sutton in 2005-06; how many of those prisoners had been given a sentence of more than six months; and how many prisoners had been resident at HMP Full Sutton for more than six months. [80715]

Mr. Sutcliffe: According to the prison IT system, (i) the average number of prisoners held in Full Sutton between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006 was 588 (average of end-month figures) and (ii) the number serving sentences of more than six months at end April 2006 was 567. Information on the number held in Full Sutton for more than six months is not held centrally.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support is available for those with severe personality disorders upon their release from *(a)* prisons and *(b)* HMP Lewes; and if he will make a statement. [81047]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* The Home Office and Department of Health have established the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder Programme. This has developed a range of pilot services in prisons, high and medium secure psychiatric services and residential and case management support in the community in four areas of England.

At present only the prison and high secure pilot services provide some national coverage for those who pose the most serious risk to the public. Access to local medium secure and community pilots is only available to local catchment populations in the pilot areas until evaluation is completed (in 2008) and future service roll out is agreed.

HMP Lewes has access to mainstream mental health services through an NHS mental health in-reach which can plan aftercare for prisoners released to the community. The development of new community personality disorder services form part of the local priority service development plans.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact on family contact for female prisoners from the West Midlands of the re-roling of HMP Brockhill as a male prison. [81201]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The average distance from home area for most women transferred from Brockhill will increase, while remaining within the average for all women prisoners. All women's prisons have arrangements designed to promote family contact.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prison cells and *(b)* prison wings deemed not fit for habitation by HM inspectorate of prisons have subsequently been kept open at any point in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [81206]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Recommendations by HM chief inspector of prisons to close or refurbish prison cells or wing in a prison are considered as part of the National Offender Management Service's building and refurbishment programme. Decisions on which of these are accepted are based on a number of factors, including priorities across the prison estate, funding and any impact in the operation of the prison.

The information requested can be supplied only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1212W, on Leyhill Open Prison, how many of the prisoners who escaped and were subsequently captured have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of escape from lawful custody; and what sentence was given in each such case where proceedings are complete. [81964]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally and may be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what religious teaching is available to prisoners; and if he will make a statement. [82362]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Chaplaincy programmes, which include religious teaching, are developed locally by prison establishments. All prisons have multi faith chaplaincy teams to enable prisoners to participate in religious activities and to encourage their spiritual and personal development whilst in custody and in preparation for release. Chaplaincy teams will run a range of classes and courses depending on the make-up and needs of the prison population. These will include religious education groups or classes, pertinent to all faiths, for those prisoners who wish to attend.

Rendition Flights

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether general aviation reports held by *(a)* local police special branch and *(b)* Home Office immigration authorities indicate that non-American nationals were on board registered aircraft (i) N8068V landing at RAF Northolt on (A) 15 May 2004 and (B) 17 May 2004, (ii) N129QS landing at Stansted on 23 February 2005, (iii) N970SJ landing at Luton on (A) 4 September 2003 and (B) 5 February 2004, (iv) N368CE landing at (A) Stansted on 6 May 2004 and (B) Luton on 17 June 2003 and (v) N2189M landing at Prestwick on (A) 18 January 2004 and (B) 25 May 2004; [62603]

(2) whether general aviation reports held by *(a)* local police special branch and *(b)* Home Office immigration authorities indicate that non-American nationals were on board registered aircraft N313P landing at (i) RAF Northolt on (A) 19 October 2003, (B) 22 October 2003, (C) 29 October 2003, (D) 1 December 2003, (E) 3 December 2003 and (ii) RAF Brize Norton on (A) 17 October 2003 and (B) 12 December 2003; [62604]

(3) whether general aviation reports held by *(a)* local police special branch and *(b)* Home Office immigration authorities indicate that non-American nationals were on board registered aircraft N379P landing at (i) RAF Northolt on (A) 18 October 2002, (B) 16 January 2003, (C) 24 February 2003, (D) 28 February 2003 and (ii) RAF Brize Norton on 20 November 2003; [62605]

(4) whether general aviation reports held by *(a)* local police special branch and *(b)* Home Office immigration authorities indicate that non-American nationals were on board registered aircraft N85VM landing at (i) Luton on (A) 26 December 2001 and (B) 12 November 2002, (ii) Edinburgh on 25 November 2002, (iii) Glasgow on 3 March 2003 and (iv) RAF Leuchars on (A) 14 October 2001, (B) 5 October 2002 and (C) 20 September 2003. [62606]

Mr. McNulty: Neither Special Branch nor the Immigration Service hold such information.

Resignation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria he used in deciding to offer his resignation to the Prime Minister. [68675]

John Reid: This is a matter for my right hon. Friend the former Home Secretary.

Security Industry

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many licence applications for operatives working in the private security industry were submitted *(a)* before and *(b)* after 31 October 2005. [79306]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* The information is as follows.

(a) 69,553 applications were submitted from the beginning of licensing until 31 October 2005.

(b) 99,239 applications were submitted between 31 October 2005 and 21 June 2006.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he last met the Security Industry Authority; and what was discussed at the meeting. [62264]

Mr. Coaker: Ministers and officials meet the SIA regularly to discuss a range of issues. I became the Minister with responsibility for the SIA on 4 May, and visited the SIA offices on 1 June to meet staff.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to provide a substantive reply to Question 59554, on the Security Industry Authority, tabled by the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight on 14 March. [63190]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2013W.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time for an application for registration as a door supervisor with the Security Industry Authority to be processed has been since establishment of the authority. [66519]

Mr. Coaker: The SIA do not calculate average processing times. Some, such as those including overseas criminal records checks, unavoidably take a considerable time. The SIA have a published target of processing 80 per cent. of all applications within six weeks, measured from the date that a properly completed application enters the processing system to the date that a licence is issued. From April 2004 until August 2005 the SIA processed 62 per cent. within six weeks and 88 per cent. within nine weeks. Since September 2005, there has been a backlog of applications that have been waiting to enter the system. These have added an additional time of between two and four weeks to the process, so it is now taking up to 10 weeks to process most applications.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long it has taken on average to process an application for a door supervisor's licence to the Security Industry Authority in the last 12 months. [81127]

Mr. Coaker: The Security Industry Authority (SIA) do not calculate the average processing times for applications. Some, such as those involving overseas criminal records checks, unavoidably take a considerable time. The SIA have a published target of processing 80 per cent. of all applications within six weeks, measured from the date that a properly completed application enters the processing system to the date that a licence is issued.

From April 2004 until August 2005 the SIA processed 62 per cent. within six weeks and 88 per cent. within nine weeks. Since September 2005, there has been a backlog of applications that have been waiting to enter the system. These have added an additional time of between two and four weeks to the process, so it is now taking up to 10 weeks to process most applications.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when the Security Industry Authority will reinstate the online application facility; and what alternative methods have been put in place for urgent applications; [81128]

(2) for what reasons the Security Industry Authority has suspended the facility for making online applications for door supervisors' licences. [81129]

Mr. Coaker: The Security Industry Authority (SIA) has a number of methods of ordering application forms. Application forms are available from the SIA call centre, the bulk applications department (which was set up in 2005 to enable companies to order volumes of application forms), and via the SIA website. Due to a high volume of requests, most of which were duplicate requests, the website ordering system was temporarily suspended for one month from 24 May to 27 June. The SIA deals with all licences with the same level of urgency. Currently, the SIA have no plans to implement an applicant fast-tracking system.

Sentencing Bodies (Appointments)

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what process is used to appoint members to the *(a)* Sentencing Guidelines Council and *(b)* Sentencing Advisory Panel; how vacancies are advertised in each case; and what criteria are used to assess candidates. [80355]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under section 167 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003, as amended by Schedule, Part 1, paragraph 357 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005, the Lord Chief Justice appoints the seven judicial members of the Sentencing Guidelines Council. The four non-judicial members of the Council are appointed by the Home Secretary after consultation with the Lord Chancellor and the Lord Chief Justice. A person is eligible to be appointed as a judicial member if he is: a Lord Justice of Appeal; a judge of the High Court; a circuit judge; a district judge (magistrates courts); or a lay justice. The judicial members must include a circuit judge, a district judge and a lay judge. A non-judicial member is eligible if he has experience in one of more of the following areas: policing, criminal prosecution, criminal defence, and the promotion of the welfare of victims of crime.

The Lord Chief Justice nominated the President of the Queen's Bench Division, the Vice President of the Court of Appeal Criminal Division, the Chair of the Criminal Committee of the Judicial Studies Board, and the Senior District Judge (Chief Magistrate) to be members of the Council and these appointments were agreed. It was also agreed that the Director of Public Prosecutions would be the member with criminal prosecution experience. The two circuit judges, the lay magistrate and the other non-judicial members were appointed after open competition following advertisements in the national media, and through targeted advertisements in professional publications and websites, including those aimed at BME communities. All appointments were made in accordance with the rules of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA) and an independent member sat on the interview panels.

Members of the Sentencing Advisory Panel are appointed by the Lord Chancellor following consultation with the Home Secretary and the Lord Chief Justice. Panel members are appointed following open competition and are drawn from a wide variety of backgrounds both from within and outside the criminal justice system. Panel members serve in a personal capacity, bringing the knowledge and experience they have gained in their professional and voluntary roles to bear on the issues under discussion. As with the appointed members of the Council, advertisements are widely placed and the recruitment process followed the OCPA procedures with an independent member sitting on the interview panels.

UK Presidency (EU)

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the priorities of his Department are for the UK Presidency of the EU. [26648]

Joan Ryan: Our JHA priorities for the UK's Presidency of the European Union were included in the White Paper on the Prospects for the European Union published on 30 June 2005. We also informed Parliament of our priorities during the course of the UK Presidency, in particular in relation to the JHA Councils on 13 July, 13-14 October and 1-2 December and the JHA Informal on 7-9 September.

UK Presidency (G8)

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the priorities of his Department are for the UK presidency of the G8. [26647]

Joan Ryan: Many of the priorities for the UK Presidency of the G8 related to the Secure and Facilitated Travel Initiative (SAFTI) a series of measures designed to improve travel security. By the end of our presidency, 20 SAFTI projects had been completed with four carrying into the Russian presidency. We also completed the International Child Sexual Exploitation Database Implementation Study, agreed a document setting out best practice in dealing with internet content, best practice for law enforcement and network providers on preventing and investigating various forms of electronic attack and organised a workshop in Nigeria dealing with the tracing and return of assets.

We also introduced a number of new initiatives, on the unlawful international supply of firearms for criminal use and in developing mechanisms to enable countries to share DNA data for intelligence purposes in the investigation of crime. At the ministerial meeting held in Sheffield in 2005 Ministers a greed to further work on biometrics, advanced passenger information, human trafficking, drug production in Afghanistan, internet crime and measures to tackle crime and corruption in Africa.

Violent Crime

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the recorded level of violent crime was in Yeovil constituency in *(a)* 1996 to 1997 and *(b)* 2004-05. [82135]

Mr. McNulty: Yeovil comes within the South Somerset Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area. Partnerships were set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and data are only available from 1999-2000. There were 3,058 violent crimes recorded by the police in the South Somerset CDRP in 2004-05.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes were recorded in the Humberside Police Authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [82465]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the tables.

Since 1997, there have been two major changes to the way in which crime is recorded. The effect of the change in counting rules in 1998 was to artificially increase recorded violent crime nationally by more than 80 per cent. while it is estimated that the effect of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002 caused a further 20 per cent. increase in recorded violent crime in its first year.

Table 1: Offences of violent crime recorded in Humberside—1997

	Number of offences
1997	7,758

Table 2: Offences of violent crime recorded in Humberside—1998-99 to 2001-02

	Number of offences
1998-99	10,947
1999-2000	10,752
2000-01	10,966
2001-02	11,849

Notes:
1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences of violent crime recorded in Humberside—2002-03 to 2004-05

	Number of offences
2002-03	19,360
2003-04	28,482
2004-05	26,855

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Young Offenders

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reverse the decline in family visits to inmates at young offender institutions. [81205]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prisoners and young offenders have a statutory entitlement to domestic or social visits. In addition, many establishments offer extended or family visits. The frequency of these additional visits remains a matter for each establishment, taking account of resources and regime. Statistics on the number of visitors are not routinely collated so there is no recent evidence as to the overall level of take up. However, in order to support and encourage more visitors, the Assisted Prisons Visits Scheme, which provides financial assistance for visitors on a low income, was extended in 2004. Good Practice Guidelines have also recently been issued to enable prisons and YOIs to examine and improve the effectiveness of their visits arrangements.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the ratio is of staff to individuals held in custody at *(a)* local authority secure units, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* young offenders' institutions. [79861]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 June 2006]*: Staff to trainee ratios are difficult to calculate, for a variety of reasons. For example, some staff spend almost all their time dealing with trainees; others, for example support staff, will have less frequent contact. The following figures are indicative:

Secure children's homes: the number of staff supervising trainees varies between one member of staff to two children and six staff to eight children.

Secure training centres: the number of staff supervising trainees ranges between two staff to five to seven trainees and three staff to eight trainees. Other staff at the centre include custody officers to supervise visits, admissions and movements in the centre.

Young offender institutions: no simple ratio is available. On each wing, there are between 40 and 60 trainees, under the supervision of between three and six staff. In addition, there are teachers, learning support assistants and support staff.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his latest estimate is of the cost per year per inmate at *(a)* local authority secure units, *(b)* secure training centres and *(c)* young offenders' institutions. [79862]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 June 2006]*: The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales commissions and purchases places in the secure estate for children and young people. It estimates the annual cost per place in 2005-06 as follows:

	£
Secure training centre	[1]171,500
Young offender institution	50,500
Secure children's home	194,800

1 Includes value added tax.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 5 July 2006

TRANSPORT

Airport Security

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the British Airports Authority on *(a)* security measures for and *(b)* congestion of the baggage handling facilities for domestic inbound travellers arriving at the south terminal in Gatwick. [76137]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with BAA on the specific issues raised, although officials in the Department work closely with BAA on a range of issues, including security measures.

China

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the risk of the transfer to China of information which could be used for military purposes through China's involvement in the Galileo project. [81044]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 29 June 2006]:* The current development phase is a joint project between the Directorate General for Transport and Energy in the European Commission and the European Space Agency (ESA). The Supervisory Board of the Galileo Joint Undertaking is established to ensure an adequate information flow and political control by member states of the implementation of the development phase.

The Government are aware of the sensitive nature of some parts of Galileo. We continue to monitor the project closely. We have been careful to ensure that any agreements with partners in the programme that are not member states of the EU or ESA specifically exclude them from participation in all sensitive aspects.

Individual member states of the ESA and EU participating in Galileo are responsible, under their own national and/or any international export control regimes—such as MCTR (Missile Technology Control Regime) and Wassenaar—of which they are signatories, for the control of strategic exports and should apply these rules to Galileo as required. For example, all EU countries follow the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports which prohibits export of military technology, including dual use technologies where a military end use is known or suspected, to non-EU states, including China, where this is inappropriate. An assessment of the risk of diversion to an undesirable end user or end use is a key criterion under the code. The UK Government assess Galileo technology proposed for transfer to non-EU states against these criteria.

Commission for Integrated Transport

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much it has cost to run the Commission for Integrated Transport in each of the last four years. [82215]

Gillian Merron: The principal spend of the Commission for Integrated Transport (CfIT) is on the research programme which underpins its policy advice. The costs of this for the last four years are set out in the following table, together with the Commission's other running costs. Both figures also cover the research and running costs of the Motorists Forum, established by CfIT in January 2000, at Ministers' request.

£

	Programme costs	*Running costs (pay and non-pay)*
2002-03	1,378,818	328,950
2003-04	604,124	310,211
2004-05	421,971	279,315
2005-06	492,869	250,970

Cyclist Numbers

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of people who travel by bicycle to work in London each day. [79397]

Derek Twigg: Transport for London (TfL) estimate that 216,000 work-related cycling trips are made each day. However, TfL is in the process of developing a project to track businesses with travel plans called iTRACE, which in future will provide much more accurate information on the issue of cycling to work. This is expected to be operational by 2008.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to make copies of deposited papers available in the *(a)* Vote Office and *(b)* Printed Paper Office at the same time as copies are deposited in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [81246]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Leader of the House on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 729W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the draft Bills produced by his Department since October 2005; how many were examined or are planned to be examined by *(a)* a departmental Select Committee or a combination of Select Committees and *(b)* a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [81640]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport has not produced any draft Bills since October 2005.

Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be indicated in the Queen's Speech.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in his Department are carbon neutral; and if he will make a statement. [81392]

Gillian Merron: All central Government ministerial and official air travel is being offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases Certified Emissions Reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

Judicial Review

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of his Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80490]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

M11

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he has taken to examine the merits of introducing a toll on the M11. [82319]

Dr. Ladyman: The use of a tolled lane on the M11 was considered and discussed with BAA Plc as part of the modelling of surface access infrastructure supporting Stansted's second runway. This idea was dismissed at an early stage. No further discussions on this issue have taken place.

Olympics

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which officials in his Department *(a)* are responsible for Olympics-related activity and *(b)* sit on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group for the Olympics. [81566]

Gillian Merron: Lucy Chadwick, Director of Regional and Local Transport Delivery Directorate, leads on Olympic-related issues within the Department for Transport and sits on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group.

Ports

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much it cost to conduct the review of the management of ports in local authority ownership in England and Wales. [82216]

Dr. Ladyman: This review was carried out over two years using in-house resources. Exact figures are unavailable, however it is estimated to have cost in the region of £70,000. This includes publication costs. The manpower element of this, £56,332, covers all municipal ports issues not just the review.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been budgeted for the cost of the ports policy review. [82217]

Dr. Ladyman: The total expenditure to date on the ports policy review has been £200,000 on two consultants' studies contributing to the evidence base; £203,000 internal staff costs and £19,000 launch costs. A further £150,000 has been budgeted for in-house costs for the completion of the exercise, with £90,000 provision for external costs.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many checks at ports on commercial vehicles were carried out by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in each region of the UK in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; how many infringements were found; how many vehicles were prohibited for overloading; and what other infringements were recorded. [82034]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is not able to supply detailed statistics on the exact number of checks carried out in or around individual ports. The majority of enforcement is carried out by intercepting traffic on arterial roads leading to or from a port.

Details of the number of vehicle checks carried out in 2004-05 and the number of vehicles prohibited is published in VOSA's Effectiveness Report which is available in the Libraries of the House. The 2005-06 report is to be published shortly.

Post Office Contracts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for which services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81536]

Gillian Merron: Vehicle re-licensing (car tax renewal) and a statutory off-road notification (SORN) service is provided over the counter in approximately 4,600 motor vehicle licensing (MVL) branches. Postal applications are handled in 120 of these offices.

A photo card driving licence premium service, checking application forms and supporting identity documents, is provided in approximately 740 branches.

A range of vehicle and driving licence forms, leaflets and booklets are held in all 14,000 branches.

Over the last five years Post Office Ltd./DVLA has introduced a new electronic system for both vehicle re-licensing and making a statutory off-road notification (SORN) at MVL Post Office® branches through reading barcodes on application forms/registration certificates.

Since August 2004, when re-licensing their vehicle or making a statutory off-road notification (SORN), customers

have been able to notify a change of tax class into the disabled tax class at MVL Post Office® branches.

The vehicles' re-licensing contract started in April 2002 and terminates on 31 March 2007.

The premium service contract started in November 2002 and terminates on 31 March 2007.

Negotiations are under way with Post Office Ltd. to continue both services from April 2007 onwards.

Railways

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of rail and underground journeys are made within London. [82090]

Derek Twigg: Statistics on rail travel in and between regions are published in National Rail Trends Yearbook editions, which are available in the House Library.

Data from the London Underground Rolling Origin-Destination Survey show that 99.2 per cent. of London underground journeys are made within London.

Information on other city underground systems are published in the Public Transport Statistics Bulletin, which is available in the House Library.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new railway stations have been built in London and the South East since 1995. [82086]

Derek Twigg: The answer includes stations that have been re-opened with new buildings.

Silverlink Trains network: Shepherds Bush and Imperial Wharf are under construction.

West Brompton had two new platforms opened in 1999.

C2C network: Chafford Hundred (1995) and West Ham (1999)

One network, Braintree Freeport (1999)

South West Trains network: Chandlers Ford (2003)

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects all trains to be accessible to disabled people by 2020. [82209]

Derek Twigg: The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 requires that all trains are subject to rail vehicle accessibility regulations by no later than 1 January 2020. We are currently developing the necessary regulations and will be consulting on these in due course.

The Secretary of State will, nevertheless, still have the power to grant exemptions from the regulations, even if these run past the "end date". Parliament accepted the necessity of this during the passage of the Bill for services such as heritage and tourist railways and tramways, which might not be able to meet accessibility requirements in full due to engineering and other constraints.

Road Pricing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures will be put in place under the proposed road pricing pilot to differentiate between those participating and not participating in the pilot for the purpose of measures taken to compensate those subject to road pricing. [82436]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1954W.

Sustainable Transport Towns

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his Department's press release of 22 December 2004, which of the shortlisted towns won the competition to be sustainable transport towns. [82207]

Gillian Merron: Details of the Sustainable Travel Towns Initiative, including the three successful towns, can be found on the Department's website at www.dft.gov.uk.

Thames Gateway

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what infrastructure spending he is planning to support the development of the Thames Gateway. [82320]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of Tuesday 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 929W to the hon. Member for North Cornwall.

Transport Links (Yorkshire)

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to improve *(a)* road and *(b)* rail transportation links between the major towns and cities of Yorkshire. [77674]

Gillian Merron: The Department has made substantial investment in road transport related schemes in Yorkshire during the first local transport plan period (2001-06) and will sustain this investment throughout the second period, which runs until 2011. This includes significant investment by the Highways Agency on the motorway and trunk road network in the Yorkshire and Humber region over the last five years. This high level of investment is set to continue with, for example, the innovative £1.29 billion programme announced last year to reduce congestion on strategic routes in South and West Yorkshire.

To enable better forward planning, the Government in July last year announced three year regional funding allocations to 2007-08 and planning assumptions for 2008-09 to 2015-16, amounting to over £1 billion for the Yorkshire and Humber region. These cover major (greater than £5 million) local transport plan schemes and major Highways Agency schemes other than on those on roads of the greatest strategic national and international importance.

On rail investment, new services have been introduced between Sheffield and Leeds, and new rolling stock provided to increase capacity on routes to Leeds and Bradford. In addition, the Secretary of State, through the rail re-franchising programme, has sought and will continue to seek improvements to rail links between the towns and cities of Yorkshire.

WALES

Severn Estuary Barrage

9. **Mr. Roger Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on a reappraisal of the proposal for a barrage in the Severn estuary. [81356]

Mr. Hain: Regular ones. Tidal energy, such as the Severn Barrage proposal, has huge potential to supply a significant proportion of the country's future energy needs and in turn make a significant contribution to our emissions reduction targets.

Antisocial Behaviour

12. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make a statement on the implementation in Wales of measures introduced to tackle antisocial behaviour. [81360]

Nick Ainger: Through measures such as those included in the Respect Action Plan, we are building on the progress we have already made against antisocial behaviour and are now, working to tackle its root causes.

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what average hourly rate was paid by his Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81488]

Mr. Hain: The average hourly rates paid to employment agencies by the Wales Office in 2005-06 are as follows:

	£ *Per hour*
Adecco	14.19
Kelly	11.28
Acorn	9.76

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 67W, on correspondence, what estimate he has made of the cost of answering the question; and if he will make a statement. [82631]

Mr. Hain: We do not record the staff time taken in replying to letters. To answer the earlier question, we would have needed to monitor staff time taken for a big enough sample of letters from hon. Members and members of the public over a long enough period to give reasonably representative results. We estimated that the total cost of the exercise would exceed three days' work and cost more than £600.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what plans he has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in his Department are carbon neutral; and if he will make a statement. [81398]

Mr. Hain: All central Government ministerial and official air travel is being offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases Certified Emissions Reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

Draft Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his practice is regarding meeting, discussions with and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81653]

Mr. Hain: The Department always seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy-making process; both informal and formal. The Wales Office was an early adopter of pre-legislative scrutiny and the national health service (Wales) Bill was scrutinised during the 2001-02 session. Since then, a further three Bills introduced by my Department were published in draft for consultation: the Public Audit (Wales) Bill; the Transport (Wales) Bill; and, the Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Bill. A public consultation has always been conducted in parallel with the pre-legislative scrutiny process. My Department has also introduced two further Bills. My Department had conducted a public consultation jointly with the Welsh Assembly on the principles underlying the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill, and as there was general support for the proposals, further scrutiny was not considered necessary, and would only have further delayed the legislation. The Government of Wales Bill, which is currently before the House, was introduced without pre-legislative scrutiny, because the proposals need to be implemented for the May 2007 Assembly elections. Extensive consultation was however undertaken on the White Paper, which was published well in advance of this Bill being introduced. All the Department's formal consultations also abide by the Code of Conduct on Consultation.

Energy Review

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what impact he expects the outcome of the energy review will have in Wales. [81839]

Mr. Hain: The energy review will provide a framework for the energy policies of HMG and the Assembly Government to meet the four goals set out by the 2003

Energy White Paper: To put ourselves on a path to cut the UK's CO_2 emissions by some 60 per cent. by about 2050, with real progress by 2020; to maintain the reliability of energy supplies; to promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve our productivity; and to ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.

Olympics

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which officials in his Department *(a)* are responsible for Olympics-related activity and *(b)* sit on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group for the Olympics. [81568]

Mr. Hain: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Responsibility for Olympics-related activity in the Wales Office rests within the local government, culture and sport team.

(b) The majority of functions concerned with the Olympic and Paralympic Games are devolved to the National Assembly for Wales. The Assembly Government therefore represents Wales on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group. I do, however discuss Olympic issues with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport on a regular basis, and the Wales Office is represented on the Wales Olympic Steering Group, established by the Assembly Government.

Police Force Restructuring

Mr. David Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent meetings he has had to discuss police force restructuring in Wales. [81358]

Mr. Hain: I have had, and will continue to hold, regular meetings with ministerial colleagues and key stakeholders on this important issue.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what advertising campaigns his Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81916]

Hilary Benn: DFID does not hold a separate advertising budget. The majority of advertising spend relates to recruitment advertising in newspapers and journals. For the last two calendar years the costs have been as follows:

	£
2004	594,769
2005	307,359

Since July 2004, DFID has run the following promotional campaigns:

Trade Matters Campaign

To raise awareness of the role of trade in fighting world poverty and promote availability of a new free publication—Trade Matters. Promotional inserts were placed in the following publications:

	£
December 2005	
Independent and New Statesman	6,765
Big Issue North	3,290
March 2006	
Sunday Herald	2,068
The Grocer	3,713
May 2006	
SAGA Magazine	10,340
Total	26,176

Developments Magazine Campaign

To increase numbers of subscribers to the Department's free magazine—Developments. Promotional inserts were placed in the following publications:

	£
April 2006	
Greenbelt mailing	1,233
Big Issue	5,463
Asian Times	1,110
Christianity Magazine	888
Church Times	1,941
Catholic Herald	1,242
July 2006	
Birmingham Post	1,057
Total	12,934

Developments Magazine and Rough Guide Campaign

	£
October 2005	
Black History Month magazine	3,642

Draft Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his practice is regarding meeting, discussing and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81324]

Hilary Benn: DFID does not regularly draw up legislation, and has not done so since the International Development Act (2002), the main legislation governing its activities. If it were to be involved in future legislation, it would consult widely, both formally—in line with the Code of Conduct on Consultation—and informally.

EU Water Projects

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the relationship between the EU Water Initiative and the EU Water Fund. [81996]

Hilary Benn: The EU Water Initiative (EUWI) is primarily a political rather than a financial initiative with five objectives, as follows:

Reinforce political commitment to action;

Make water governance effective;

Improve water management through multi-stakeholder dialogue and co-ordination;

Support regional co-operation, and

Identify additional financial resources and mechanisms.

The EU Water Fund, formally known as the EU water facility (EUWF), was established, in part, as a response to the fifth objective of the EUWI; namely to identify additional financial resources and mechanisms, but there is no formal link between the two. In contrast to the EUWI, the EUWF is a funding mechanism. The Water Facility has made €500 million available for water and sanitation and aims to leverage additional funds from other sources.

Progress to date has been slow, mainly because of lengthy procurement procedures, but approximately €230 million is currently being committed to co-fund 97 projects, valued overall at €412 million. An initial analysis of these selected proposals by the EUWF has found that by 2010 approximately 10 million people will benefit from access to drinking water and approximately 5 million people will benefit from access to basic sanitation. A second call for proposals has been launched this year and the full €500 million of the water facility will be committed by 2007.

Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the shortfall in funding for the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria on the ability of the fund to achieve its objectives. [82023]

Hilary Benn: The UK strongly supports the Global Fund and wants it to be effective in the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria. The Global Fund recently revised its resource needs to an estimated US$5.5 billion for 2006 and 2007. There is a current funding gap of US$2.1 billion for 2006 and 2007. Of this, US$1 billion is needed this year to fund a new round of grants which was launched by the board in April. The Mid-Term Review of the Global Fund (4-5 July 2006) will review the fund's performance and mobilise extra resources for 2006-07 to fill the funding gap. The UK has committed £359 million to the Global Fund (2002-08). We have doubled our pledge for 2006 and 2007 to £100 million in each of those years. This means that our overall share of support for the Global Fund at around 5 per cent. is consistent with our support over the 2001-05 period. The UK is meeting its fair share—other donors need to do the same.

The Global Fund is only one part of our contribution to tackling AIDS, TB and malaria. The UK is committed to spend at least £1.5 billion on the global AIDS response over three years (2006-08), including our support to the Global Fund. We also provide support to the Roll Back Malaria (£7 million pledged to 2008) and Stop TB initiatives (over £49 million pledged from 1999 to 2007), as well as direct support to countries to help tackle diseases of poverty.

The UK will continue to encourage other donors including the private sector to support the Global Fund. The Prime Minister has also recently made clear that we are committed to working with developing countries, NGOs and other partners to encourage the development of long-term—10 year—health plans and to help ensure that predictable support is available from donors to support them. This will be key in helping countries strengthen their health systems and to be able to more effectively combat AIDS, TB and malaria.

Health Projects

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has committed for long-term health sector projects in developing countries for *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [81829]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* DFID does not track long-term health sector spending because we provide pooled financial support for basic health services. But, as the Prime Minister recently made clear, we are committed to making good on our G8 promises, and a key part of this is to support developing countries with long-term, sustainable financing for health. We are currently working with developing countries, NGOs and other partners to encourage development of long-term—10 year—health plans and to ensure that predictable support is available from donors for them. This long-term support will provide poor countries with the security to make long-term investments and meet the costs of salaries, drugs, infrastructure and training. We have also increased our funding to multilateral organisations supporting countries to strengthen their health services, including to the Global Fund and Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI). We are spearheading innovative efforts to secure significant additional resources for essential health care through the International Finance Facility for Immunisation, with the first bond issue due in the coming months.

Israel

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact on the work of humanitarian agencies of Israel's targeting of civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip in the military incursions commenced by Israel on 27 June. [82161]

Hilary Benn: DFID is in close contact with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) which is monitoring the humanitarian situation in Gaza. All crossing points into Gaza have been closed for goods since 25 June, with the exception of Karni which was open for one day on 2 July. This enabled some humanitarian supplies to enter Gaza. Karni was closed again on 3 July.

Only diplomats are freely able to enter Gaza. All international staff of humanitarian organisations not holding diplomatic passports, such as those working for non-governmental organisations, require prior co-ordination with the Israeli authorities. No Palestinian staff of humanitarian organisations are able to enter Gaza.

DFID is helping UNOCHA by providing a movement and access specialist to help the UN coordinate with the Israeli authorities. Current information on humanitarian access to the West Bank and Gaza is available at http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/opt/.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact on *(a)* Palestinian health facilities, *(b)* the Palestinian economy and *(c)* Palestinian water supply and sewage disposal of Israel's targeting of civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip in the military incursions commenced by Israel on 27 June. [82164]

Hilary Benn: The main impact of recent military action has been to the loss of electrical power following damage to Gaza's only power plant. The closure of the Nahal Oz oil pipeline from 26 June to 2 July and greater difficulty in movement due to the destruction of three bridges providing north-south access have also had an effect. Hospitals in Gaza are maintaining services by using back-up generators, although there are reports that supplies of some essential drugs and supplies are nearly finished. It is difficult for anyone from the south to access to the main referral hospital in Gaza city in the north.

The Gaza economy has been severely constrained since March, when Hamas assumed power. Since then, the access point for exports from Gaza has been closed, trade with Israel has all but stopped and a very limited number of public sector salaries have been paid. Most of the water supply to Gaza is pumped from wells. Supplies are being continued by connecting pumps to generators, but there is concern that fuel for these generators is dependent on the Nahal Oz pipeline remaining open.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact on Palestinian schools of Israel's targeting of civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip in the military incursions commenced by Israel on 27 June 2006. [82165]

Hilary Benn: Palestinian schools are currently on summer break and are scheduled to resume in September. There are as yet no reports that Israeli military activity has caused any damage to education institutions.

Opium Poppy Cultivation

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the methods used to reduce illicit opium poppy cultivation in *(a)* Laos, *(b)* Thailand and *(c)* Vietnam. [81734]

Hilary Benn: The UK Government do not maintain any bilateral programme to reduce illicit opium poppy cultivation in Laos, Thailand or Vietnam and have not made any assessment of the effectiveness of programmes undertaken by others in those countries.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Child Care

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what facilities are made available to Members of House staff to assist with child care costs and arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [81504]

Nick Harvey: The House provides child care vouchers to the value of £8 per child per day. The Commission favours the child care voucher scheme because of its flexibility and availability to staff wherever they are based. Vouchers are available for children up to and including age 11. The vouchers can be used to pay registered child minders, nurseries, playgroups, crèches, nannies, holiday play schemes for school age children, and close relatives who care for children, thus allowing staff a range of choices when making their child care arrangements. Information can be found on the parliamentary intranet. The scheme is currently under review to ensure the House continues to offer the most appropriate arrangements for the majority of staff.

Delegations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many officials of the House accompanied delegations of hon. Members overseas in the last 12 months. [81509]

Nick Harvey: The Overseas Office (European Section) in the Clerk's Department comprises five staff, two or three of whom accompany the UK delegations of hon. Members and Peers to each plenary session of the inter-parliamentary assemblies of the Council of Europe, NATO, OSCE and the Western European Union. One or two European Section staff accompany hon. Members and Peers to some of the assemblies' committee meetings.

Over the period from 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006, eight different House staff were involved in undertaking these duties.

Details of the numbers of staff accompanying Select Committees on visits abroad are given in the annual sessional return published by TSO which is available online, in the Vote Office and in the Library.

The British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the UK Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the British-American Parliamentary Group and the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body are funded directly by the Government; the staff who accompany delegations of hon. Members and Peers belonging to those organisations are not employed by the House of Commons Commission.

Senior Staff

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what percentage of the House's senior staff are women; and if he will make a statement. [81507]

Nick Harvey: As at 28 June 2006, 28.9 per cent. of staff in the Senior Commons Structure pay bands were women. This compares with some 48 per cent. for the House service overall. The proportion of women at senior levels is expected to continue to grow in the coming years.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what steps the Commission is taking to improve the representation of ethnic minority communities in the House's senior staff; and if he will make a statement. [81508]

Nick Harvey: The House's diversity forum action plan, available on the parliamentary intranet, has a wide range of actions aimed at all aspects of the diversity agenda. Representation of under-represented groups has improved in recent years as a result of measures to remove potential bias from recruitment and internal career progression arrangements, but the effects will inevitably take some time to feed through fully to senior levels.

September Sittings

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the cost was of the sittings of Parliament in September *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2004; how many contracts were changed due to the decision to sit in September in each year; and what resulting additional cost was imposed on the House in (i) wages and (ii) salaries. [82028]

Nick Harvey: The overall daily resource cost of running the House administration in 2003-04 and 2004-05 was £487,000 and £520,000 respectively. The difference in cost between sitting and non-sitting days is small, as the major costs of accommodation and staffing are not appreciably affected. Major works and other contracts were negotiated on the basis of the revised sitting arrangements in both September 2003 and 2004. It is therefore impossible to determine with any accuracy what the actual costs of alternative contracts might have been, but it is estimated that around £90,000 of additional works expenditure was incurred directly by the House sitting in each September period.

Staff Travel Allowances

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what allowances are made available to senior House staff to assist with travel costs in the event of a late sitting. [81506]

Nick Harvey: Senior House staff (in common with all staff) on official duty are entitled to use the late night transport service in the event of a late night sitting. A late night transport service is provided for staff on official duty if:

the House rises between 11 pm (or if the motion for the Adjournment is moved at or after 10.30 pm) and 9 am the next morning; or

a Committee rises between 11 pm and 9 am the next morning.

If there is a major disruption to public transport, the late night transport service is provided from 10 pm irrespective of what time the House rises. The House meets the cost of journeys of 25 miles or less. Staff wishing to travel outside this radius are advised (at the time of booking) to enter into a private arrangement with the driver and pay him/her the additional cost of the journey. Where practicable, taxis are shared between a number of staff.

Staffing Levels

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, when staffing levels in the House were last reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [81505]

Nick Harvey: The last significant review of staff numbers was a review of the needs of the Committee Office in 2003, conducted jointly by the House's Internal Review Service (IRS) and the National Audit Office. More generally, staffing levels are controlled by a budgetary mechanism rather than by limits on staff numbers. The IRS has recently completed the first stage of a review of staff grading. Subject to the views of the Administration Estimate Audit Committee, the second phase will be conducted later in the year.

Tours

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1250W, on tours, why it is not the Commission's practice to make available details of the use made by individual hon. Members of the organisation of tours of the House; and if he will make a statement. [81629]

Nick Harvey: Details of the use made by individual hon. Members of House facilities and services are regarded as personal data, and not appropriate for publication.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Authority Constitutions

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities are required to submit revised constitutions to the Department for evaluation. [81726]

Mr. Woolas: There is no requirement for local authorities to submit revised constitutions to the Department for evaluation.

Local authorities are required to submit proposals to the Department for Communities and Local Government in respect of a change from one constitutional model to another. There is no such requirement in respect of revisions to the same constitution. Local authorities will keep their constitutions under review and make amendments as necessary, and it is for the local authorities themselves to ensure that their constitutional arrangements are appropriate and compliant with legislation. The Department has no statutory role in evaluating local authority constitutions.

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on local authorities outsourcing administrative functions overseas. [81414]

Mr. Woolas: Local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions subject to the requirements of best value legislation and to the EU/UK regulatory framework. This includes any decision to outsource administrative functions overseas. Any specific complaint that best value is not being met in a particular set of circumstances would need to be addressed in the first instance to an authority's external auditor.

Oversight and Scrutiny Committees

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities do not offer the chairmanship of any oversight and scrutiny committees to opposition parties in the council. [81575]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not hold the information requested.

Parliamentary Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to make copies of deposited papers available in *(a)* the Vote Office and *(b)* Printed Paper Office at the same time as copies are deposited in the Library; and if she will make a statement. [82354]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 729W by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House.

Renewable Energy

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities use renewable energy for some or all of their *(a)* power and *(b)* energy requirements. [80268]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not held centrally although we understand that a number of local authorities have installed micro-renewables to supply energy for their own use and also pursue initiatives to purchase renewable electricity and fuel.

As the 2006 Climate Change Programme made clear, local authorities have a key role in achieving the UK's goals on climate change and sustainable energy. Government strongly support innovative local action in this area.

Social Exclusion

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibilities her Department has for tackling social exclusion. [78361]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Communities and Local Government leads on policy and delivery in addressing social exclusion and deprivation in deprived areas. The Department has responsibility for the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund which aims to narrow the gap between the 86 most deprived local authority areas and others. It has five key 'floor targets', which are: education, employment, crime, health and housing and physical environment.

The new Social Exclusion Taskforce, based in the Cabinet office and formed from some previous Social Exclusion Unit staff, is currently undertaking work on an action plan looking at key priorities for the Prime Minister such as looked-after children, mental health, teenage pregnancy and tomorrow's problem families.

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster chairs the new Social Exclusion Cabinet Committee on which the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government sits as a key member, reflecting the strong synergies between the work of the Cabinet Office and that of the DCLG.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Correspondence

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has power to insist that the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis answer the letter dated 15 August 2005 and reminder letters dated 10 October 2005, 13 December 2005 and 28 April 2006 from the right hon. Member for North East Hampshire concerning his constituent, Mr Jasdeep Bajwa. [82092]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* This is an operational matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Crime Reporting

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether arrangements are in place *(a)* in Redbridge, *(b)* in Waltham Forest and *(c)* in England and Wales for the public to report a crime to the police online; and if he will make a statement. [78554]

Mr. McNulty: The national police portal (www.police.uk) provides the facility for members of the public to report 'non-emergency' crime and hate crime/incidents online. Event specific forms are available that seek information from the public. The information is then sent to the force in whose area the alleged crime is committed.

Guantanamo Bay

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedure is in place to allow hon. Members confidential access to each level of classified material on prisoners in Guantanamo Bay; and in what circumstances access would be denied. [80054]

Mr. McNulty: Hon. Members can either write to the relevant Minister to request material, or make a request to the relevant public body under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Foreign Secretary leads on most matters concerning prisoners in Guantanamo Bay.

Access to classified material may be refused in the interests of safeguarding national security

Labour Party Conference

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely impact on policing in Greater Manchester of the policing of the Labour Party Conference in September. [76671]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The chief officer is responsible for determining staffing requirements and deploying the resources available in accordance with day to day operational demands, within the overall policy and budget set by each police authority.

Life Sentences

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on life sentences, for which crimes each of the 53 life sentence prisoners were convicted. [78499]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information detailing the offences the 53 life sentenced prisoners were convicted of, as recorded in paper files for the individuals concerned, is set out as follows:

	Number
Automatic and discretionary life sentences	
Automatic	49
Discretionary	4
Total	53
Offence for which automatic life sentence was imposed (index offence)	
Manslaughter	7
GBH[1]	31
Possession of firearm[2]	2
Robbery and Possession of firearm	9
Total	49
Offence distribution for discretionary life sentences	
False imprisonment	1
Manslaughter	1
GBH[1]	2
Total	4

[1] Offences under section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (wounding, or causing grievous bodily harm, with intent).
[2] Offences under section 16 (possession of a firearm with intent to injure), section 17 (use of a firearm to resist arrest) or section 18 (carrying a firearm with intent) of the Firearms Act 1968.

The vast majority of the cases are automatic life sentences under the previous sentencing regime set out in the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997. This system meant that repeat offenders convicted of a second serious violent or sexual offence, were automatically sentenced to life imprisonment by the trial judge unless there were exceptional circumstances.

This framework has since been replaced with Indeterminate Public Protection sentences provided for in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 for offenders assessed as dangerous. These new sentences apply to a wider range of offences than those set out in the 1997 Act, and can be imposed for a first offence.

Information on releases per year is given as follows:

Year of release	*Number*
2001	1
2002	2
2003	6
2004	18
2005	18
2006	8

The fixing of a "minimum term" arises only in the case of an offender sentenced to mandatory life imprisonment for murder. None of those released since 2000 and referred to in the previous answer were so sentenced.

The minimum period of imprisonment for all non-mandatory life sentences is known as the "specified part". Details of the specified parts fixed by the trial judge in the cases in question are set out in the following table. At the end of the specified part the offender will be eligible to be considered for release by the parole board. The offender will only be released if the parole board consider it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined.

Table of specified parts

Length of specified part—period to be served before eligible for consideration of release by parole board	*Number of offenders since 2000 receiving this period of specified part*
One year or under	2
Over one year—up to 18 months (inclusive)	2
Over 18 months—up to two years (inclusive)	9

Table of specified parts

Length of specified part—period to be served before eligible for consideration of release by parole board	*Number of offenders since 2000 receiving this period of specified part*
Over two years—up to two years six months (inclusive)	9
Over two years six months—up to three years (inclusive)	7
Over three years—up to three years six months (inclusive)	9
Over three years six months—up to four years (inclusive)	10
Over four years—up to four years six months (inclusive)	5
Over four years six months—up to five years (inclusive)	0
Over five years—up to five years six months	0
Over five years six months—up to six years (inclusive)	0
Over six years	0

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1035W to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) on life sentences, for what offences the 53 prisoners had been sentenced to life; and if he will make a statement. [78802]

John Reid *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* Information detailing the offences the 53 life sentenced prisoners were convicted of, as recorded in paper files for the individuals concerned, is set out as follows:

	Number
Number of automatic and discretionary life sentences	
Automatic	49
Discretionary	4
Total	53
Offence for which automatic life sentence was imposed (index offence)	
Manslaughter	7
GBH[1]	31
Possession of firearm[2]	2
Robbery and possession of firearm	9
Total	49
Offence distribution for discretionary life sentences	
False imprisonment	1
Manslaughter	1
GBH[1]	2
Total	4

1 Offences under section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (wounding, or causing grievous bodily harm, with intent).
2 Offences under section 16 (possession of a firearm with intent to injure), section 17 (use of a firearm to resist arrest) or section 18 (carrying a firearm with intent) of the Firearms Act 1968.

The vast majority of the cases are automatic life sentences under the previous sentencing regime set out in the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997. This system meant that repeat offenders convicted of a second serious violent or sexual offence, were automatically sentenced to life imprisonment by the trial judge unless there were exceptional circumstances.

This framework has since been replaced with Indeterminate Public Protection sentences provided for in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 for offenders assessed as dangerous. These new sentences apply to a wider range of offences than those set out in the 1997 Act, and can be imposed for a first offence.

Information on releases per year is given as follows:

Year of release	*Number*
2001	1
2002	2
2003	6
2004	18
2005	18
2006	8

The fixing of a "minimum term" arises only in the case of an offender sentenced to mandatory life imprisonment for murder. None of those released since 2000 and referred to in the previous answer were so sentenced.

The minimum period of imprisonment for all non-mandatory life sentences is known as the "specified part". Details of the specified parts fixed by the trial judge in the cases in question are set out in the following table. At the end of the specified part the offender will be eligible to be considered for release by the parole board. The offender will only be released if the parole board consider it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined.

Table of specified parts

Length of specified part—period to be served before eligible for consideration of release by Parole Board	*Number of offenders since 2000 receiving this period of specified part*
One year or under	2
Over one year—up to 18 months (inclusive)	2
Over 18 months—up to two years (inclusive)	9
Over two years—up to two years six months (inclusive)	9
Over two years six months—up to three years (inclusive)	7
Over three years—up to three years six months (inclusive)	9
over three years six months—up to four years (inclusive)	10
over four years—up to four years six months (inclusive)	5
Over four years six months—up to five years (inclusive)	0
Over five years—up to five years six months	0
Over five years six months up to six years (inclusive)	0
Over six years	0

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on life sentences, how many of the 53 prisoners were released in each year since 2000. [79022]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* Information detailing the offences the 53 life sentenced prisoners were convicted of, as recorded in paper files for the individuals concerned, in the following table.

	Number
Automatic and discretionary life sentences	
Automatic	49
Discretionary	4
Total	53
Offence for which automatic life sentence was imposed (index offence)	
Manslaughter	7
GBH[1]	31
Possession of firearm[2]	2
Robbery and possession of firearm	9
Total	49
Offence distribution for discretionary life sentences	
False imprisonment	1
Manslaughter	1
GBH[1]	2
Total	4

[1] Offences under section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (wounding, or causing grievous bodily harm, with intent).
[2] Offences under section 16 (possession of a firearm with intent to injure), section 17 (use of a firearm to resist arrest) or section 18 (carrying a firearm with intent) of the Firearms Act 1968.

The vast majority of the cases are automatic life sentences under the previous sentencing regime set out in the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997. This system meant that repeat offenders convicted of a second serious violent or sexual offence, were automatically sentenced to life imprisonment by the trial judge unless there were exceptional circumstances.

This framework has since been replaced with Indeterminate Public Protection sentences provided for in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 for offenders assessed as dangerous. These new sentences apply to a wider range of offences than those set out in the 1997 Act, and can be imposed for a first offence.

Information on releases per year is given in the following table.

Year of release	*Number*
2001	1
2002	2
2003	6
2004	18
2005	18
2006	8

The fixing of a "minimum term" arises only in the case of an offender sentenced to mandatory life imprisonment for murder. None of those released since 2000 and referred to in the previous answer were so sentenced.

The minimum period of imprisonment for all non-mandatory life sentences is known as the "specified part". Details of the specified parts fixed by the trial judge in the cases in question are set out in the table below. At the end of the specified part the offender will be eligible to be considered for release by the parole board. The offender will only be released if the parole board consider it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined.

Table of specified parts

Length of specified part - period to be served before eligible for consideration of release by parole board	*Number of offenders since 2000 receiving this period of specified part*
One year or under	2
Over one year—up to 18 months	2
Over 18 months—up to two years	9
Over two years—up to two years six months	9
Over two years six months—up to three years	7
Over three years—up to three years six months	9
Over three years six months—up to four years	10
Over four years—up to four years six months	5
Over four years six months—up to five years	—
Over five years—up to five years six months	—
Over five years six months—up to six years	—
Over six years	—

[1] Inclusive

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on life sentences, what minimum term was set for each of those released. [79535]

John Reid: Information detailing the offences the 53 life sentenced prisoners were convicted of, as recorded in paper files for the individuals concerned, is set out in the table:

	Number
Number of automatic and discretionary life sentences	
Automatic	49
Discretionary	4
Total	53
Offence for which automatic life sentence was imposed (index offence)	
Manslaughter	7
GBH[1]	31
Possession of firearm[2]	2
Robbery and Possession of firearm	9
Total	49
Offence distribution for discretionary life sentences	
False imprisonment	1
Manslaughter	1
GBH[1]	2
Total	4

[1] Offences under section 18 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 (wounding, or causing grievous bodily harm, with intent).
[2] Offences under section 16 (possession of a firearm with intent to injure), section 17 (use of a firearm to resist arrest) or section 18 (carrying a firearm with intent)of the Firearms Act 1968.

The vast majority of the cases are automatic life sentences under the previous sentencing regime set out in the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997. This system meant that repeat offenders convicted of a second serious violent or sexual offence, were automatically sentenced to life imprisonment by the trial judge unless there were exceptional circumstances.

This framework has since been replaced with Indeterminate Public Protection sentences provided for in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 for offenders assessed as dangerous. These new sentences apply to a wider range of offences than those set out in the 1997 Act, and can be imposed for a first offence. Information on releases per year is given in the table:

	Number
2001	1
2002	2
2003	6
2004	18
2005	18
2006	8

The fixing of a "minimum term" arises only in the case of an offender sentenced to mandatory life imprisonment for murder. None of those released since 2000 and referred to in the previous answer were so sentenced.

The minimum period of imprisonment for all non-mandatory life sentences is known as the "specified part". Details of the specified parts fixed by the trial judge in the cases in question are set out in the following table. At the end of the specified part the offender will be eligible to be considered for release by the parole board. The offender will only be released if the parole board consider it is no longer necessary for the protection of the public that the prisoner should be confined.

Table of specified parts

Length of specified par— period to be served before eligible for consideration of release by Parole Board	*Number of offenders since 2000 receiving this period of specified part*
One year or under	2
Over one year—up to 18 months (inclusive)	2
Over 18 months—up to two years (inclusive)	9
Over two years—up to two years six months (inclusive)	9
Over two years six months—up to three years (inclusive)	7
Over three years—up to three years six months (inclusive)	9
Over three years six months—up to four years (inclusive)	10
Over four years—up to four years six months (inclusive)	5
Over four years six months—up to five years (inclusive)	0
Over five years—up to five years six months	0
Over five years six months up to six years (inclusive)	0
Over six years	0

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 810W, for what crimes the 23 former prisoners whose life licences have been revoked were convicted; when the Probation Service lost contact with them; and if he will make a statement. [79536]

John Reid: Of the 23 life licensees referred to in the previous answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), 21 had been convicted of murder, one of manslaughter and one of robbery and possession of a firearm. Four of the 23 offenders unlawfully at large at the beginning of June when the information was collated are now back in custody. Police continue to pursue vigorously all information and lines of enquiry in order to find these offenders and effect a swift return to custody. Details of the time that the original 23 licensees have been out of contact with the probation services are set out in the following table:

Time	*Number of offenders*
6 months or under	5
Over 6 months—up to 12 months[1]	5
Over 12 months—up to 2 years[1]	3
Over 2 years—up to 4 years[1]	3
Over 4 years—up to 6 years[1]	4
Over 6 years—up to 8 years[1]	1
Over 8 years—up to 10 years[1]	1
Over 10 years	1
Total	23

[1] Inclusive

Police

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the police stations where *(a)* closures and *(b)* manning reductions are planned, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [68498]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there are in each ward in London; and if he will make a statement. [81532]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* This information is not held by the Home Office. The table sets out the number of police community support officers in each London borough operational command unit on 31 March 2006 and is provided by the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis.

Metropolitan Police—Police Community Support Officers

Operational Command Unit	*Numbers at 31 March 2006*
Barking & Dagenham	42
Barnet	48
Bexley	53
Brent	27
Bromley	57
Camden	55
Croydon	58
Ealing	41
Enfield	50
Greenwich	53
Hackney	51
Hammersmith & Fulham	36
Haringey	39
Harrow	36
Havering	43

Metropolitan Police—Police Community Support Officers

Operational Command Unit	*Numbers at 31 March 2006*
Hillingdon	57
Hounslow	41
Islington	40
Kensington & Chelsea	100
Kingston-upon-Thames	34
Lambeth	75
Lewisham	49
Merton	34
Newham	82
Redbridge	46
Richmond-upon-Thames	38
Southwark	46
Sutton	43
Tower Hamlets	79
Waltham Forest	44
Wandsworth	46
Westminster	272

Probation Service

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* murders, *(b)* violent offences, *(c)* sexual offences and *(d)* other serious offences have been committed by offenders under the supervision of the Probation Service in each of the last eight years. [77129]

John Reid: This information for the years 1998 to (March) 2005 is published in annual Home Office Statistics. This can be found in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 17/05, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 15/04 and Probation Statistics England and Wales 1999.

School Safety

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are being taken to ensure that *(a)* knives and *(b)* guns are not taken into schools. [82267]

Mr. McNulty: Measures on ensuring school security are a matter for the Secretary of State for Education and Skills. We work closely with the Department on a range of issues, including current legislative proposals contained in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill on powers for head teachers to search pupils for weapons.

Tasers

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the relevance for practice in the UK of the review of the use of tasers being carried out by the US Department of Justice. [82267]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* This review is a long-term study by the National Institute of Justice that will be conducted in stages. The Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) are in regular communication with them via the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations. No major issues have been identified by the study to date. Tasers in the UK are only made available to authorised firearms officers as a less lethal alternative for use in situations where a firearms authority has been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the ACPO Manual of Guidance on Police Use of Firearms.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what average hourly rate was paid by her Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81500]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has used two employment agencies to provide temporary staff during 2005-06. The average hourly rate for staff provided by Josephine Sammons was £14.50 and the average hourly rate for Adecco was £13.96.

Dance Facilities

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what central funding is available for dance facilities in local communities. [82414]

Mr. Lammy: Central Government does not provide direct funding for local community dance facilities. However, funding can be made available through local government programmes and through Arts Council England revenue funding for arts organisations. Funding for dance for 2006-07 is £34 million rising to £35 million for 2007-08.

Since 1994 the Arts Council has also invested £126.4 million into establishing a national infrastructure of dedicated dance venues across the country, including Yorkshire Dance in Leeds, the Laban Centre in London and Dance City in Newcastle.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in her Department are carbon neutral; and if she will make a statement. [81405]

Mr. Lammy: All central Government ministerial and official air travel is being offset from 1 April 2006. DCMS's aviation emissions will be calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset.

Draft Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her practice is regarding meeting, discussing and taking into account the views

and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations, when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [81274]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport always seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy-making process, both informal and formal. The Department holds regular meetings with representatives of the principal stakeholder groups for our policy areas and with relevant experts. Organisations and individuals can also contribute to the Department's formal consultation which abides by the Code of Conduct on Consultation. Known stakeholders are alerted to the fact that a formal consultation is taking place. As required by the code, the DCMS then gives feedback on the responses received and on how the consultation process influenced the policy decision.

Gambling

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* her European Union counterparts and *(b)* Governments outside the EU on the regulation of internet gambling. [82689]

Mr. Caborn: I outlined the Government's internal approach to regulating remote gambling when I met Jean-Francois Lamour, French Minister for Youth, Sport and Community Life recently in Paris.

The Secretary of State will shortly be writing to her counterparts inside and outside the European Union inviting them to participate in an international summit with a view to developing some international minimum standards for remote gambling regulation.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had with credit card providers on the use of credit cards for internet gambling. [82690]

Mr. Caborn: Ministers and officials have met several times with international financial institutions, including credit card providers, to discuss issues relating to internet gambling. We will build on, and develop, these relationships to inform our international summit on remote gambling to explore the development of some minimum international standards for remote gambling regulation.

We are also supportive of the efforts that the remote gambling industry is making to engage the banking sector.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many cases involving misuse of credit cards for gambling over the internet have been reported in each of the last three years. [82700]

Mr. Caborn: The Government do not hold this information centrally.

Judicial Review

Mr. Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of her Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80468]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Library Facilities

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support her Department makes available for library facilities for older people. [82262]

Mr. Lammy: Responsibility for the provision of day to day library services lies with the 149 library authorities in England. Emphasis may differ slightly from authority to authority but older people benefit from library services which are available to all library users. Services include silver surfer sessions, help with charges such as reservations and fines, services to the housebound and homes for the elderly and provision of materials in accessible formats.

People's Network services funded through Framework for the Future strategy programme are of particular benefit including (i) 'Enquire' service, giving round the clock real-time access to advice from librarians and (ii) 'Read' service, an on-line tool for finding interesting books for individual readers. Both these services particularly benefit people who find difficulty in visiting their library.

National Lottery

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the next lottery licence competition. [82260]

Mr. Caborn: The National Lottery Commission (NLC) began preparations for the third national lottery operating licence competition in June 2004 with an extensive period of consultation and analysis. The NLC published its statement of main principles in November 2005 before publishing a draft invitation to apply in April 2006 and the final invitation to apply on 29 June. The NLC has asked for bids to be submitted by 15 December 2006 and aims to announce the preferred bidder in mid-May 2007 and finalise the draft third licence with the next operator by July 2007, giving ample time for transition before that licence commences on 1 February 2009. I am confident that the NLC has done everything possible to provide a fair, open and transparent process to deliver a vigorous, well-run competition.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on progress on the work of the Big Lottery Fund. [82261]

Mr. Coburn: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for East Lothian (Anne Moffat) on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 128W.

Post Office

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for which services *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81544]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has no contracts with the Post Office.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has over 60 sponsored bodies/Executive agencies and the figures for them could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what services *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies (i) make available and (ii) have made available in the last five years through the Post Office network; through how many outlets the service is or was made available; and how many relevant transactions were undertaken in each case in the most recent year for which figures are available. [79202]

Mr. Lammy: DCMS does not have any of its services provided through the Post Office network.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is the only DCMS sponsored body that has used the services of the Post Office network in the last five years. It provides services for BBC TV Licensing including budget card payments and refunds from all of its available branches. However, I am unable to provide the total number of transactions because the information relating to television licence fees is not collected centrally by post offices.

Tennis

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations are being supported with public funding to encourage aspiring tennis players to stay in the sport. [82265]

Mr. Coburn: Significant levels of funding are being provided to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to support grass roots tennis, increase participation and support talented young athletes. Sport England is providing £8 million in Exchequer funding over the period 2005-09 to support the strategic priorities contained in the LTA's Whole Sport plan. These priorities are to attract and retain juniors in the sport; to increase standards and develop better players through a strong network of tennis providers and to develop talented players and coaches to achieve sustained international success.

Over the same period the LTA has also been provided with £9.4 million in lottery funding through the Community Club Development programme to assist them to develop community sports clubs in order to increase participation and widen access.

The British Tennis Foundation has been awarded £455,000 in 2005-06 and £272,000 in 2006-07 to deliver the Government's PE, School Sport and Club Links programme. The programme aims to increase the take-up of sporting opportunities by five to 16-year-olds so that 85 per cent. of children by 2008 experience a minimum of two hours high quality PE and school sport within and beyond the curriculum each week.

The Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) has supported young tennis players to enable them to continue in their education while pursuing their sporting ambition. During 2004-05 and 2005-06, TASS supported 48 and 66 tennis players respectively.

In addition four tennis players have received support through the TASS 2012 programme. Over £310,000 has been provided by TASS to help athletes with their sporting costs and support services.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the distribution is of UK forces between Operation Enduring Freedom and security assistance to the Afghan Government; and whether personnel may be moved between each role. [81840]

Des Browne *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* When the UK forces' current deployment to Afghanistan is complete, there will be around 5,000 troops deployed to Afghanistan, of which the majority will be under the command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) with a small number, including the training teams in Kabul and a number of staff officers remaining under Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) control. Our detachment of Harrier GR7s will be available to support both ISAF and OEF. These are separate and distinct missions, although troops deployed on OEF may also act in support of the NATO mission.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the deployment of 16 Air Assault Brigade to Afghanistan is due to cease. [81994]

Des Browne: The deployment of HQ 16 Air Assault Brigade and associated force elements will end as planned in October.

An announcement on which units will replace them will be made in the House in due course.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2511W, on Afghanistan, what the time interval was between notification of the incident to the local HQ and the arrival of the CH-47 Chinook helicopter on the scene. [82244]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The CH-47 Chinook helicopter reaches the scene of the incident within the time period determined by the medical planning guidelines for emergency responses of this type. I am withholding the exact details as disclosure

would, or would be likely to prejudice the security of the armed forces. However, a recently completed post-incident report found no fault with the CASEVAC service.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the quality of the intelligence information available to coalition and NATO forces in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [82622]

Des Browne: We constantly assess and evaluate the information and intelligence available to coalition and NATO forces in Afghanistan. Such material is evaluated and, where necessary, graded to ensure only reliable and credible material is used.

Aldermaston

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which proposed new facilities and refurbishment projects at Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston are funded from the £1,050 million allocation announced on 19 July 2005. [79091]

Des Browne: The programme of extra investment at the Atomic Weapons Establishment embraces a range of activity necessary to sustain Trident for its remaining in-service life. Investment will be made in essential accommodation improvements, business communications, infrastructure, laser physics, hydrodynamics, materials science, high performance computing, uranium component manufacture, fissile and special materials handling, explosives handling, and assembly/disassembly. In the absence of the ability to undertake live nuclear testing in the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty era, this investment is necessary to provide assurance that the existing Trident warhead stockpile remains safe and reliable.

Colchester Garrison

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 20, on Colchester Garrison, (1) how many houses the Department is renting from the private sector to accommodate soldiers from the Colchester Garrison; [81780]

(2), how many bed spaces will be provided at the new Colchester Garrison; and whether he expects there to be a shortfall of bed spaces. [81781]

Mr. Ingram: Pursuant to my answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 20, on Colchester Garrison, I can confirm that 55 houses/flats are rented from the private sector to house the 56 soldiers living in Substitute Service Single Accommodation (SSSA).

An additional 48 rented properties are no longer required and are in the process of being handed back to the private sector.

We can confirm that we do not anticipate a shortfall in bed spaces at the new Colchester Garrison based on the current endorsed requirement. The total number of bed spaces is 2,232 and not 2,231 as I said in my reply on 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 20.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost to his Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80473]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS.

The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost, however it is of note that the Department has received a total of in excess of 15,000 letters from both hon. Members and members of the public over the past 12 months.

Credit Unions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if his Department will provide information and membership forms for credit unions to its employees. [79942]

Mr. Watson: The Government welcome the contribution made by the various savings institutions in providing for greater choice and diversity in the financial services sector.

The Government's guiding principles are to ensure impartiality and to help create a level playing field for all providers of financial services in order that their specific attributes can be properly harnessed.

It would therefore be inconsistent for a Government Department to favour credit unions above other financial institutions.

Employees are of course free to join in credit unions if they meet their relevant membership criteria and Departments may provide appropriate levels of support if employees wish to set up a credit union.

Deaths in Action

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Department's policy on the publication of the names of members of the armed forces killed in action has changed since 27 June 2006; and if he will make a statement. [82620]

Des Browne: There has not been a change in the Ministry of Defence's policy on the publication of the names of members of the armed forces killed in action.

Defence Analytical Services Agency

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Reserve Forces data TSP07 for 1 April will be available on the Defence Analytical Services Agency website. [82577]

Mr. Watson: The anticipated publication date of Reserve Forces (TSP07) at 1 April 2006 is August 2006. Data will be made available on the Defence Analytical Services Agency website immediately upon publication. I will write to the hon. Member to confirm when this has been done.

Defence Training Review

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution the implementation of the two packages comprising the Defence Training Review private finance initiative programme will make to departmental targets for *(a)* improved quality of training, *(b)* cost reduction and *(c)* contractions of the defence estate. [81425]

Mr. Watson: The Defence Training Review Programme aims to provide the best possible living and learning environment for our people. This programme will make a positive contribution to improving the quality of training while reducing costs through the reduction of the Defence Estate. I am not in a position to make any detailed comment on the exact impact of the Defence Training Review as this will be entirely dependent on the solutions put forward by the Preferred Bidders. An announcement is not expected before the end of the year.

Departmental Premises (Security)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures are in place to ensure that no illegal immigrants are employed in the manned guarding of his Department's premises. [80800]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence has a rigorous basic check process, based on Government guidance given in the Cabinet Office's Manual of Protective Security. The basic check is applied to every employee of the MOD, and to contractors' employees working on MOD property. This employment/recruitment check aims to verify identity and nationality details, requires the applicant to declare unspent criminal convictions, and follows up the applicant's employment references.

We are aware that identity fraud is becoming increasingly sophisticated, and we are taking additional measures to increase the likelihood of illegal immigrants being detected before they are employed. These include the introduction across Government of a more rigorous baseline personnel security standard, replacing the basic check.

Extraordinary Rendition

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, further to his answer of 7 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1083W to the hon. Member for Camarthen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price), on extraordinary rendition, what records were checked in giving his reply. [75033]

Mr. Ingram: Officials consulted both operational reports and records from deployed headquarters in the relevant theatres.

Food Supply Contracts

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 5WS, on defence food supply contracts, for what reasons Purple Foodservice Solutions was selected as the provider of food services; what process was followed to select the provider; and which other companies applied to be considered. [82075]

Mr. Ingram: Purple Foodservice Solutions presented the lowest risk and most technically compliant bid which, overall, offered the best value for money. The contract was run under Public Procurement Regulations, which take full account of UK and EU procurement legislation. The other companies that submitted bids were 3663, First for Foodservice, and Brakes Foodservice Solutions.

Gulf War Veterans

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken by his Department towards commissioning *(a)* endocrine studies and *(b)* genetics studies of Gulf War veterans; and if he will make a statement. [81625]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence is guided on its programme of research into Gulf veterans' illnesses by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and has undertaken studies into: the anthropology of "Gulf War Syndrome", cancer, changing health, mortality/morbidity, neuromuscular symptoms, paraoxonase, reproductive health, testing for squalene in vaccines and vaccines interactions. I am aware of a concern on the part of the Gulf Veterans Association and National Gulf Veterans and Families Association that research should be undertaken on possible endocrine and/or genetics aspects of the illnesses experienced by veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf Conflict, as well as on the synthesis of adenosine triphosphate. We are awaiting detailed proposals which we will then refer to the MRC for their independent advice on the case for the Department commissioning such research, taking account of research already being undertaken elsewhere.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent on research into Gulf War Syndrome, broken down by area of expenditure. [81626]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given in another place on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column WA99 by my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Procurement (Lord Drayson) to the noble Lord, Lord Morris of Manchester.

Infantry

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average cost is of *(a)* recruitment of an infantryman and *(b)* training an infantryman from

recruitment to being ready for overseas deployment in an active formation in the latest period for which figures are available. [82518]

Mr. Watson: The average costs of recruiting and training an infantryman during financial year 2004-05, the latest period for which figures are available, were as follows:

Financial year 2004-05	*Costs (£)*
Recruitment/selection	7,000
Training phase 1 and 2—the Combat Infantryman Course	23,000

Notes:
1. Costs are calculated on an accrual basis and include non cash items such as depreciation and cost of capital.
2. Only costs that are within the Army Recruiting and Training Division spend are included.
3. There has been no apportionment of indirect headquarters costs to the training and recruiting outputs.

Training of infantry recruits is conducted at the Infantry Training Centre (ITC) Catterick. Since 2000 the infantry have had a combined phase 1 and 2 course at Catterick; the Combat Infantry Course, which prepares the infantryman for his first appointment with the field Army.

Once an infantryman has completed his Combat Infantryman Course at ITC Catterick, he is ready to be deployed on operational service after the completion of the appropriate pre-deployment training, the cost of which is negligible.

All infantrymen will also undergo phase 3 training during their career, known as Career Training, which provides the soldier with professional development and career progression once he has joined his regiment; this training is also conducted through the ITC and costs on average £8,000.

Iraq

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on changes in the security situation in Basra province since March. [81138]

Des Browne: The United Kingdom's area of responsibility in multi-national division (south-east) remains relatively quiet compared to other parts of the country, accounting for around 4 per cent. of overall attacks in Iraq. There has been a rise in violence in Basra, and there have been a number of developments since March that seek to address this. The provincial council has re-engaged with UK forces, allowing the recommencement of the full programme of operational activity for our forces in MND(SE). Most recently, we have secured important undertakings from the Iraqi Government on delivering a new security plan for Basra.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training programmes in Iraqi native languages are available to troops prior to deployment in Iraq; what type of courses are taught; what levels of proficiency are taught; and how many personnel have taken each of the courses available in each of the last three years. [82570]

Mr. Watson: There are three courses specialising in Iraqi language training available for troops prior to deployment to Iraq, each with a different proficiency level. The numbers undertaking this training over the last three years are shown in the following table.

Standard language profile level(SLP)	*Proficiency descriptor*	*Description of competence*	*Numbers trained training 2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
1	Survival(one soldier per sub-unit)	Copes with routine, social and practical demands and the most limited work demands. Cannot write in the language	36	60	60
1	Basic patrol Arabic (junior commanders and soldiers)	Copes with routine, social and practical demands and the most limited work demands. Cannot write in the language	n/a	250	250
4	Operational Linguist	Copes with routine social and practical demands using spoken and written skills. Copes with some of the more sophisticated and demanding situations encountered when listening to and reading in the language	N/A	12	24

In addition to these courses Cascade Training takes place at unit level during pre-deployment training over anything up to six months. The training is undertaken by those who have completed the Basic Patrol Arabic Course augmented by specially appointed and trained Operational Unit Education Officers. Once deployed training is continued by the same staff augmented by the Theatre Education Centre. Every soldier is also issued with a language card which is taught during pre-deployment training and is practised regularly by all in theatre.

Joint Personnel Administration

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* regular and *(b)* reserve army personnel have failed to be fully paid by the army personnel centre since the implementation of Pay 2000; what the total of the underpayments is; what assessment he has made of the reasons for the underpayments; whether he expects all payments to be made prior to the roll-out of joint personnel administration; and if he will make a statement. [79650]

Mr. Watson: Pay 2000 is the generic term used to describe the incremental pay system for armed forces personnel. It arose as a consequence of the recommendations made in the independent review conducted by Sir Michael Bett in 1995, and was introduced in April 2001 for regular personnel, and November 2002 for reservists.

Some 4,160 regular and reserve army personnel have been either under, or overpaid electronically at some time since, and as a result of the implementation of Pay 2000. The number of pay accounts in need of rectification was reduced to some 8,900 during 2004-05, and this figure has been reduced further to some 1,000 during 2006. I am confident that the remaining 1,000 pay accounts will be rectified prior to the roll-out of joint personnel administration to the army.

Arrangements ensure that any shortfalls are paid manually at unit level. The primary causes of the problem have been late changes in the interpretation of policy, computer programming difficulties and the ageing army computer systems.

The total amount of electronic underpayments could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Meteorological Office

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will reconsider the Meteorological Office plans to withdraw its *(a)* mountaincall and *(b)* mountainfax services from the general public and mountain rescue services; [67147]

(2) what specialist services the meteorological service plans to provide for *(a)* mountain rescue services and *(b)* hillwalkers once the mountaincall and mountainfax services are withdrawn. [67148]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 2 May 2006]:* The same meteorological information previously provided by the mountaincall and mountainfax commercial services is now provided through a public service available free of charge on the Met. Office website. The service is also available through the Met. Office customer centre.

Military Co-operation with France

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the extent is of UK military co-operation with France. [82305]

Des Browne *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* At the recent UK-France summit on 9 June, the United Kingdom and France re-affirmed their shared commitment to act together against evolving threats and challenges to our security and defence and to that of our allies and partners. An important element of this is the long-standing military co-operation between our armed forces, who currently work together on operations and regular exercises, and in the fields of concepts, doctrine and training. This collaboration is undertaken both bilaterally and through multilateral organisations such as NATO and the EU.

Our armed forces co-operate on operations in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bosnia. Other recent interaction includes:

- Routine integration of Royal Navy and French Navy ships into respective Task Group deployments, most recently in the UK Naval Task Group Deployment AQUILA 2006 and the French Carrier Task Group
- AGAPANTHE 06, which deployed to the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and Gulf regions.
- British Army staff officers attached to the French Rapid Reaction Corps Headquarters in Lille where they contribute to French work on achieving NATO Response Force readiness.
- The Royal Air Force and French Air Force combining to provide a Joint Force Air Component Headquarters, and substantial force elements, for NATO Response Forces 5 and 6.
- Agreement to co-operate in establishing a network of Peace Support Training Centres in Africa.

This close and highly valued military relationship is fostered through regular dialogue at all levels from the Chief of the Defence Staff downwards and underpinned by bilateral agreements and letters of intent. There is also a network of exchange and liaison officers across all three services. The continuation of our excellent military relationship with France will remain important as we work together to tackle the challenges ahead.

Nuclear Deterrent

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he was informed of the proposed content relating to retention of the nuclear deterrent in the long term of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Mansion House speech prior to its delivery. [81533]

Des Browne *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* I have regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a range of issues.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the time scale is for *(a)* a national debate, *(b)* a White Paper and *(c)* a decision to be made for the replacement of the UK's nuclear deterrent. [82421]

Des Browne: Decisions on the future of the UK's nuclear deterrent will be taken this year. We expect to publish a White Paper once decisions have been taken and, as the Prime Minister made clear on 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 253, the means of consultation will be made clear when we publish the White Paper.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what structures exist within the Government to provide a framework for formulation of policy on the future of the UK's nuclear deterrent; [82422]

(2) what consideration Ministers have given to detailed policy on the future of the UK's nuclear deterrent. [82423]

Des Browne: Work is under way by officials in a number of Departments to prepare for decisions on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent. Ministers have been briefed by officials on some of the relevant issues and have requested that further work be undertaken.

It remains the case that no decisions have yet been taken, either in principle or in detail although, as the Prime Minister said on 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 253 decisions will be taken this year.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with Ministers in other Departments about the future of the UK's nuclear deterrent. [82424]

Des Browne: I have regular discussions with my Cabinet colleagues and other Ministers on a wide range of issues.

Search and Rescue Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2052W, on search and rescue services, what timetable he has set for *(a)* the assessment to be completed, *(b)* further announcements to be made, *(c)* invitations to tender to run the services and *(d)* other matters relevant to the future operation of search and rescue services in the UK. [81981]

Mr. Ingram: The timing for the competition for UK Helicopter Search and Rescue capability is set out in the Official Journal of the European Union Notice (No 2006/S 90-096731) of 12 May 2006. This advises that it is planned to complete the Competitive Dialogue process in mid 2008, at which time the final invitation to tender is planned to be issued. The final assessment of basing solutions and all other relevant matters will be completed after this, with announcements made when the decisions are mature.

Submarines

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many submarines are operationally available to Commander in Chief Fleet, broken down by type. [82900]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1262W to the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare (Mr. Penrose) in respect of operational submarines. Two types of submarines make up the Royal Navy Submarine Service. There are 10 Fleet Submarines, of which eight are operational. There are four Ballistic Missile Submarines, of which three are operational. The position remains unchanged.

Tetanus

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what stock of tetanus immunoglobulin is held *(a)* centrally, *(b)* in Iraq and *(c)* in Afghanistan; [80340]

(2) which naval and military units do not have their required stock of tetanus immunoglobulin. [80341]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence's requirement for tetanus immunoglobulin is low. It is only used to treat patients with wounds who have not received the normal tetanus vaccine. Very few such cases arise in our armed forces since MOD aims to ensure that all its personnel have up-to-date tetanus vaccinations prior to deployment. The only people who would need it would therefore be any service personnel who missed their vaccination and any non-UK individuals who are treated in our medical facilities in theatre.

There is a temporary UK national shortage of tetanus immunoglobulin. We do not currently have any centrally held defence stocks in the UK. However, with the exception of designated field hospitals, units are not required to hold tetanus immunoglobulin, although some do at the discretion of individual medical officers. We are not aware of any stock shortfall of tetanus immunoglobulin in the designated field hospitals and we do not expect a shortfall to arise before supplies become available again.

Routine tetanus immunisation is given by the combined low dose diphtheria/tetanus/inactivated polio (Td/IPV) triple booster which is administered at trainee entrant establishments. Personnel who require a further booster dose because they have sustained an injury from which they could be at risk of an acute tetanus infection can also be given the Td/IPV triple booster. Supplies of the Td/IPV triple booster are not affected by the national shortage of immunoglobulin, and there are currently no known shortages in naval or military units.

In light of the national shortage, the MOD has repeated recent Department of Health guidance on tetanus immunoglobulin to defence medical personnel, advising them of the necessary action they will need to take. This will mainly involve ensuring that all personnel have up-to-date tetanus vaccinations.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Chief Crown Prosecutors

Keith Vaz: To ask the Solicitor-General how many chief Crown prosecutors in England and Wales were from black and Asian minorities in each year since 1997. [81586]

The Solicitor-General: The number of chief Crown prosecutors in England and Wales who were from black and ethnic minorities, for which data are available, is shown in the following table.

Month/year	*Item*	*BME*	*White*	*Total percentage*
April 2002	Number	4	36	
	Percentage	10.0	90.0	100
April 2003	Number	3	40	
	Percentage	7.0	93.0	100
April 2004	Number	4	36	
	Percentage	10.0	90.0	100
April 2005	Number	6	40	
	Percentage	13.0	87.0	100
April 2006	Number	7	38	
	Percentage	15.6	84.4	100

Keith Vaz: To ask the Solicitor-General what steps are being taken by his Department to ensure that the number of chief Crown prosecutors in England and Wales from black and Asian minorities better reflects the ratio in the population. [81587]

The Solicitor-General: In common with other Whitehall Departments, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has produced a diversity delivery plan to support the delivery of targets across the senior civil service (which includes the chief Crown prosecutor grade) range of diversity categories by 2008. As at April 2006, the CPS has seven black and minority ethnic (BME) chief Crown prosecutors (of whom two are of Asian origin). This BME total represents 15.6 per cent. of staff at that level within the service.

Identity Theft

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General what recent discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on prosecutions for identity theft. [81835]

The Solicitor-General: I have had no recent discussions with the Home Secretary on prosecutions for identity theft, but I have discussed the issue with Home Office Ministers, one of whom wrote to the hon. Member in February 2006 about identity theft.

Iraq

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Solicitor-General when he was first informed that "wetting" was official policy for dealing with looters in Basra; what witness statements to this effect were disclosed to Crown counsel; and if he will make a statement. [77183]

The Solicitor-General: I have never been informed that "wetting" is official policy for dealing with looters in Basra. No witness statements saying that "wetting" is official policy for dealing with looters in Basra were disclosed to Crown counsel either prior to the trial of soldiers relating to the death of an Iraqi youth in the Shatt al Basra River or since the conclusion of these proceedings.

I am told that during the trial three witnesses gave evidence as to a practice of putting detained looters in water which appears to refer to "wetting". Mr. Daniel O'Connell, formerly a Lieutenant Platoon Commander, said there was a practice of making looters wet which was discussed at the company "O" Group meetings; however it was not formal policy. He indicated that he had witnessed one such incident of looters being put into a dyke where they were waist high and in no real danger.

Major Peter MacMullen the Company Commander said that the looting problem was discussed at Battle group meetings and that he was aware of a range of sanctions that were being deployed, which included people being put into water so that they would be left cold, wet and miserable.

Mr. Niall Brennan, formerly the Company Second in Command, said he knew of other companies throwing looters into the Shatt al Arab River. He did not consider they were in danger of drowning and claimed that he did not consider this dangerous because it involved the use of minimum force.

Despite this evidence, coming from higher up the chain of command, the evidence given at trial made it clear that neither the commanders on the ground nor the individual soldiers were aware of such a policy or practice (officially sanctioned or otherwise). Not one of the accused raised this in their witness statements or interviews under caution. None of the members of their platoon or section who gave evidence knew of such a policy or had even heard of looters being put into water. Knowledge of the policy, if one did indeed exist, was restricted to the middle echelons of the chain of command only.

During the course of the trial a statement was obtained from the then Battle Group Commander, Brigadier Riddle-Webster, who said that the practice of "wetting" had never been discussed and had he heard of such a practice he would have put a stop to it immediately since he regarded it as illegal, dangerous and immoral. However due to legal reasons this was not put before the Board.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of his Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80466]

The Solicitor-General: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost,

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Solicitor-General which Private Members' Bills were drafted by his Department in each Session since 1997; and which subsequently received Royal Assent. [77849]

The Solicitor-General: Members will consider a range of possible subjects before introducing their Private Members' Bills.

Government draftsmen do draft some Bills in advance which are available as one of the options for Members to consider before they make their selection.

However, Members may make subsequent amendments or revisions to a Government-drafted Bill, or use it as the basis for a Private Member's Bill in the future.

The information requested is therefore not collected.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advertising campaigns his Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81919]

Jim Fitzpatrick: For expenditure on advertising campaigns run by the Department through the Central Office of Information from July 2004 until April 2006, the figures are as follows. Figures include Small Business Service, but exclude VAT.

(The Department does not centrally collect information on other campaigns, including those by non-departmental public bodies, and to do so would entail disproportionate cost.)

2005-06

	Amount (£)
Consumer Direct 2005-06	1,277,850
SBS Business Link 2005-06	1,502,301
National Minimum Wage 2005-06	328,603
Directgov—DTI Employee Franchise 2005-06	117,690
Total	3,226,445

2004-05

	Amount (£)
Consumer Direct 2004-05	706,488
SBS Business Link 2004-05	552,712
Import Licence Announcements 2004-05	74,300
National Minimum Wage 2004-05	315,754
Renewable Energy (Advertorials) 2004-05	15,542
Queen's Awards for Enterprise 2004-05	30,494
Firework Safety 2004-05	188,480
DTI—Dispute Resolution (media only)	81,768
SBS Press Media Buying Costs 2004-05	3,255
Total	1,968,793

Debt Collectors

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its (i) executive agencies and (ii) non-departmental public bodies use the services of private debt collectors. [71061]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department does not make use of private debt collectors. Of the executive agencies, Companies House uses the services of a debt collector in connection with the administration of the penalties raised on companies for late filing of accounts. The Insolvency Service uses agents for the collection of book debts (moneys owed by creditors to bankrupts and companies in liquidation) where the Official Receiver is trustee or liquidator and to collect costs from directors who are disqualified as a result of a court hearing.

Among the Department's non-departmental public bodies, the use of private debt collectors is limited to a number of the research councils and regional development agencies as follows:

The Arts and Humanities Research Council has made limited use of an agency to help recover outstanding debts;

The Medical Research Council has used an agent to trace debtors, conduct correspondence, manage recovery schedules and where necessary prepare cases for County Court recovery;

Advantage West Midlands has used a firm of solicitors for collecting sales ledger debts over £500;

The London Development Agency has not had the occasion to employ any debt collectors, but has used firms of certified bailiffs with regard to repossessions, and these firms also provide this form of service. In addition the LDA outsources some of its estate management service to managing agents, and they have used certified bailiffs to recover bad debts;

The North West Development Agency uses certified bailiffs to recover unpaid rent via management agents.

The South West Regional Development Agency uses an agency to collect debts from tenants who owe the Agency rent;

Yorkshire Forward has used agents to collect debts such as non-payment of rent and to pursue small claims.

DNA Sequences

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what regulations are in place to restrict the purchase of sequences of DNA; and if he will make a statement; [79174]

(2) what plans he has to review the regulations governing the sale and possession of sequences of DNA that may be used to prepare viruses; [79175]

(3) what restrictions his Department places on the sale of DNA sequences to private individuals and organisations whose primary purpose is not published research. [79176]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no specific regulations that govern the sale, supply, or purchase of DNA sequences. The potential chemical hazards associated with the sequence itself would be covered by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended); if DNA sequences were to be used to create a biological agent, the Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations 2000 (as amended) are likely to apply. These provide for a high level of protection for human health and the environment (including animal and plant health). In addition, the Specified Animal Pathogens Order 1998 (SAPO), administered by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, regulates possession of nucleic acid derived from any animal pathogen specified under SAPO. In all cases the relevant containment and operating requirements laid down by Health and Safety Executive/Defra would need to be met.

Provisions in the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 place an obligation on managers of laboratories and other premises holding specified pathogens or toxins to notify the authorities and to comply with the security requirements which the police may impose.

There is a wide range of legitimate uses to which DNA sequences may be put and the imposition of onerous controls could discourage valuable scientific research and industry use. The Government do not believe that it is necessary to require suppliers of DNA sequences to be licensed or for them to screen customers or check the intended use of the sequences. But we will continue to monitor the situation as the relevant technologies develop.

Electoral Roll Fraud

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether his Department has undertaken an assessment of the extent to which *(a)* foreign nationals not from the Commonwealth or the Irish Republic, *(b)* failed asylum seekers and *(c)* illegal immigrants are fraudulently on the electoral roll in order to obtain consumer credit. [73986]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

We do not hold information as to the reasons why persons may apply to be on the electoral register other than for the purposes of voting in elections. In respect of the numbers of those persons specified in the question who may be on the electoral register, I explained in my previous answer on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1045W, that this information is not collected. Electoral registers are available for public inspection and anyone who believes that an ineligible person has been included may notify the ERO who may then make further inquiries as to the eligibility of that individual. Currently, it is an offence to fail to supply information to the ERO and knowingly supply false information on the annual canvass form.

The Electoral Administration Bill strengthens the objection process and creates a new offence of supplying false information of any kind to an ERO, or failing to supply information, in connection with registration, at any time. The electoral register does not specify the immigration or asylum status of individuals entered on it; however, the addition of a "nationality" box in the registration form does provide an opportunity for EROs to determine the eligibility of an applicant for inclusion in the register on the basis of their stated nationality.

Employment Act

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many requests for flexible working have been made in each region since the relevant provisions of the Employment Act 2002 came into force; and how many were granted. [82605]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The table shows the proportion of employees who have requested to work flexibly and the resulting acceptance rate, for each region/nation in Great Britain. These figures are from the second Flexible Working Survey (2005).

The new employment rights introduced on 6 April 2003 gave parents of children under six and disabled children under 18 the right to request flexible working. It is not known how many employees have requested flexible working since the right was introduced. The second Flexible Working Survey was conducted in January 2005 and respondents were asked to consider their last two years of employment.

Employee requests to work flexibly over last two years (percentage)

Nation and region	*Employee requests for flexible working*	*Acceptance (fully and partially)*
Great Britain	14	81
England	14	80
North East	13	[1]—
North West	13	88
Yorkshire and the Humber	12	69
East Midlands	16	82
West Midlands	10	79
East of England	[1]—	[1]—
London	15	81
South East	14	82
South West	17	79
Wales	14	[1]—
Scotland	12	87

[1] Reliable figures are not available due to small sample sizes.

Source:
Second Flexible Working Employee Survey 2005

Heavy Vehicle Fitter Apprenticeships

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many heavy vehicle fitter Apprenticeships have been completed in *(a)* England and *(b)* Merseyside in each of the last five years, broken down by sex. [78433]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

A key success criterion for Apprenticeships from the outset has been that the programme should be open to all young people regardless of gender, ethnic origin or disability and it should provide equal access particularly to those from potentially socially disadvantaged or marginalised groups. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has worked hard to establish and build on the Apprenticeship Frameworks and procedures required for successful equality. The Apprenticeships Approvals Group (independently chaired by the Skills for Business Network ie Sector Skills Council led) have a key role to play in ensuring that Apprenticeship Frameworks make all reasonable adjustments to maximise participation from diverse groups.

The LSC maintains a website detailing starts, leavers and completions of individual frameworks http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/partners/frameworks/apprenticeshipsdata/. However, published figures for completions are not broken down by geographical area or sex. For this reason Mark Haysom, the council's Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Rob Wye, dated 28 June 2006:

I am responding on behalf of Mark Haysom, due to him currently being on annual leave, to your Parliamentary Question that asked the number of completed Heavy Vehicle Fitter Apprenticeships in England and Greater Merseyside, broken down by gender in each of the last 5 years.

The Vehicle Fitting Apprenticeship framework was implemented on 1st September 2005. This is in effect its first year for apprentices to enrol onto and as yet there is no usable framework completion data at any geographical level.

Prior to 1st September 2005 there were more generic Apprenticeship frameworks in operation for the Retail Motor Industry. An analysis of these framework completions where the NVQ within the framework is for "Vehicle Fitting" shows the following results.

Table 1: Automotive Industry Frameworks completed with a Vehicle Fitting NVQ as the main aim[1]

	Female		*Male*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Greater Merseyside				
2002/03	0	0	10	100
2003/04	0	0	10	100
2004/05	0	0	30	100

Table 1: Automotive Industry Frameworks completed with a Vehicle Fitting NVQ as the main aim[1]

	Female		Male	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
England				
2002/03	0	2	60	98
2003/04	0	1	120	99
2004/05	0	0	240	99

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 for reasons of disclosure

Source:
LSC WBLILR.

Specific information regarding heavy vehicle fitting is not available at framework level or at NVQ qualification level, hence this response can only look at vehicle fitting in general.

The Learning and Skills Council publishes regular statistical information on Apprenticeships including framework completion data on its website (www.apprenticeships.org.uk). The information is provided for each Apprenticeship framework and as such the volume of completers nationally will be provided in future updates.

Consistent and high quality data is only available from the first full academic year following the commencement of the Learning and Skills Council in April 2001. For this reason the table above only shows information for the past three full academic years.

I trust this provides the information you require.

LSC-funded adults in FE in 2005/06 with level 2 entitlement

Ethnicity	Participation	Percentage of total participation
Asian or Asian British	1,900	7
Black or Black British	2,400	8
Chinese	100	0
Mixed	700	2
White	22,100	78
Any other	550	2
Not known/not provided	650	2
Total	28,400	100

Source:
F01 2005/06 ILR Results are rounded to the nearest 50 volumes <10 are suppressed

LSC-funded adults in FE in 2005/06 with level 2 entitlement

Gender	Participation	Percentage of total participation
Female	16,350	58
Male	12,050	42
Total	28,400	100

Source: F01 2005/06 ILR Results are rounded to the nearest 50 Volumes <10 are suppressed

LSC-funded adults in FE in 2005/06 with level 2 entitlement

Disability	Participation	Percentage of total participation
Visual impairment	50	0
Hearing impairment	150	1
Disability affecting mobility	100	0
Other physical disability	50	0
Other medical condition (for example epilepsy, asthma, diabetes)	350	1
Emotional/behavioural difficulties	50	0
Mental ill health	150	1
Temporary disability after illness (for example post-viral)	—	0
Profound complex disabilities	—	0
Multiple disabilities	100	0
Other	250	1
No disability	24,400	86
Not known/information not provided	2,750	10
Total	28,400	100

Source:
F01 2005/06 ILR Results are rounded to the nearest 50 Volumes <10 are suppressed

Milk Co-operatives

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will reform current arrangements for the development of vertical cooperatives in the milk industry. [75985]

Barry Gardiner: I have been asked to reply.

Mergers, acquisitions and other competition matters are the responsibility of the competition authorities. These bodies are independent and the Government have no role in the administration of competition law, except in very restricted circumstances.

Ministerial Flights

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in his Department are carbon neutral; and if he will make a statement. [81401]

Jim Fitzpatrick: DTI ensures that all flights undertaken by its Ministers and officials are carbon neutral by participating in the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund.

Post Office Card Account

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the major banks which contributed to the cost of the launch of the Post Office card account regarding its termination. [82060]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There have been no discussions on this issue between the Department and those banks that contributed to the establishment of the Post Office card account. The Post Office card account contract between the Department of Work and Pensions and Post Office Ltd will end in 2010 as always intended.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 5 July 2006

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what advertising campaigns his Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81915]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's records are retained on a financial year basis, and it is only possible to provide annual information on advertising campaigns from April 2004 to present. The following tables show advertising campaign expenditure broken down by year and title:

2004-05

Advertising campaign title	*£000*
Education Maintenance Allowance	4,511
DfES Supermarket Sweep	502
Sure Start	133
Adult Basic Skills—Gremlins	5,875
Teenage Pregnancy	1,087
Student Finance	1,224
Fast Track Teaching	73
Foundation Degrees	556
DfES Childcare	295
Need to Know	400
DfES Parents Centre	182
Total	14,838

2005-06

Advertising campaign title	*£000*
Sure Start	3
Education Maintenance Allowance	1,499
Teenage Pregnancy	1,497
Childcare Recruitment	661
Adult Basic Skills - Gremlins	1,818
Student finance	3,271
DfES Parents Centre	149
Every Child Matters	2
Parenting Pilot	637
Foundation Degrees	869
Fast Track Teaching	19
DfES Education and Learning Launch	204
Need to Know	118
Total	10,747

All figures in the tables are exclusive of VAT. We would only be able to break down information from July 2004 at disproportionate cost.

Bullying

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many incidents of homophobic bullying were recorded by *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each of the last five years. [82670]

Jim Knight: We are unable to provide this information as we do not collect these data centrally. However, individual schools may record incidents of bullying, including homophobic bullying, and some local authorities keep records for their own area.

We take the issue of homophobic bullying in schools very seriously and we gave an undertaking in the White Paper, "Higher Standards, Better Education for All" to issue guidance on bullying motivated by prejudice, including homophobia.

During Anti Bullying week in 2004 we published "Homophobia, Sexual Orientation and Schools: a review and implications for action", by the Thomas Coram Research Unit, which looked at three areas: behaviour and bullying; teaching and learning about sexual orientation and relationships; and employment issues. It collates, summarises and assesses both peer reviewed research material, from this country and abroad, and less formal work conducted by bodies active in this area. It reports the views of a wide range of organisations, 28 in all, with an interest in this area to paint a picture of how the issues are currently perceived. The report is available on the DfES website http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research and the findings will be used to inform future work in this area.

Children's Centres

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children's centres there are in each local authority area in England. [81872]

Beverley Hughes: The number of Sure Start Children's Centres in each local authority area is listed in the following table:

Region	*Local authority*	*Number of centres designated as at 30 June 2006*
East of England	Bedfordshire	7
East of England	Cambridgeshire	3
East of England	Essex	9
East of England	Hertfordshire	6
East of England	Luton	9
East of England	Norfolk	11
East of England	Peterborough	5
East of England	Southend on Sea	3
East of England	Suffolk	6
East of England	Thurrock	3
East Midlands	Derby	4
East Midlands	Derbyshire	10
East Midlands	Leicester	9
East Midlands	Leicestershire	3
East Midlands	Lincolnshire	10
East Midlands	Northamptonshire	3
East Midlands	Nottingham City	3

Region	Local authority	Number of centres designated as at 30 June 2006
East Midlands	Nottinghamshire	16
East Midlands	Rutland	—
London	Barking and Dagenham	5
London	Barnet	1
London	Bexley	4
London	Brent	4
London	Bromley	1
London	Camden	9
London	Croydon	3
London	Ealing	10
London	Enfield	3
London	Greenwich	9
London	Hackney	5
London	Hammersmith and Fulham	5
London	Haringey	10
London	Harrow	1
London	Havering	—
London	Hillingdon	1
London	Hounslow	3
London	Islington	9
London	Kensington and Chelsea	4
London	Kingston upon Thames	—
London	Lambeth	10
London	Lewisham	3
London	Merton	1
London	Newham	5
London	Redbridge	4
London	Richmond Upon Thames	—
London	Southwark	9
London	Sutton	1
London	Tower Hamlets	9
London	Waltham Forest	5
London	Wandsworth	3
London	Westminster	5
North East	Darlington	4
North East	Durham	16
North East	Gateshead	10
North East	Hartlepool	5
North East	Middlesbrough	8
North East	Newcastle upon Tyne	10
North East	North Tyneside	5
North East	Northumberland	9
North East	Redcar and Cleveland	6
North East	South Tyneside	7
North East	Stockton-on-Tees	4
North East	Sunderland	11
North West	Blackburn with Darwen	9
North West	Blackpool	6
North West	Bolton	5
North West	Bury	2
North West	Cheshire	5
North West	Cumbria	16
North West	Halton	5
North West	Knowsley	7
North West	Lancashire	30
North West	Liverpool	11
North West	Manchester	18
North West	Oldham	1
North West	Rochdale	3
North West	Salford	5
North West	Sefton	6
North West	St. Helens	5
North West	Stockport	1

Region	Local authority	Number of centres designated as at 30 June 2006
North West	Tameside	4
North West	Trafford	2
North West	Warrington	3
North West	Wigan	4
North West	Wirral	5
South East	Bracknell Forest	—
South East	Brighton and Hove	4
South East	Buckinghamshire	1
South East	East Sussex	6
South East	Hampshire	7
South East	Isle of Wight	5
South East	Kent	13
South East	Medway	4
South East	Milton Keynes	2
South East	Oxfordshire	4
South East	Portsmouth	6
South East	Reading	3
South East	Slough	3
South East	Southampton	4
South East	Surrey	3
South East	West Berkshire	—
South East	West Sussex	6
South East	Windsor and Maidenhead	—
South East	Wokingham	—
South West	Bath and North East Somerset	1
South West	Bournemouth	2
South West	Bristol, City of	9
South West	Cornwall	20
South West	Devon	6
South West	Dorset	4
South West	Gloucestershire	8
South West	North Somerset	1
South West	Plymouth	8
South West	Poole	—
South West	Somerset	14
South West	South Gloucestershire	—
South West	Swindon	3
South West	Torbay	2
South West	Wiltshire	—
West Midlands	Birmingham	18
West Midlands	Coventry	8
West Midlands	Dudley	4
West Midlands	Herefordshire	4
West Midlands	Sandwell	7
West Midlands	Shropshire	2
West Midlands	Solihull	3
West Midlands	Staffordshire	5
West Midlands	Stoke-on-Trent	8
West Midlands	Telford and Wrekin	6
West Midlands	Walsall	6
West Midlands	Warwickshire	9
West Midlands	Wolverhampton	8
West Midlands	Worcestershire	9
Yorkshire and Humberside	Barnsley	13
Yorkshire and Humberside	Bradford	7
Yorkshire and Humberside	Calderdale	4
Yorkshire and Humberside	Doncaster	14
Yorkshire and Humberside	East Riding of Yorkshire	4
Yorkshire and Humberside	Kingston upon Hull, City of	8

Region	Local authority	Number of centres designated as at 30 June 2006
Yorkshire and Humberside	Kirklees	6
Yorkshire and Humberside	Leeds	21
Yorkshire and Humberside	North East Lincolnshire	4
Yorkshire and Humberside	North Lincolnshire	6
Yorkshire and Humberside	North Yorkshire	4
Yorkshire and Humberside	Rotherham	7
Yorkshire and Humberside	Sheffield	11
Yorkshire and Humberside	Wakefield	4
Yorkshire and Humberside	York	—
Total		867

Consultants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what consultants are employed by his Department to work on *(a)* policy development and *(b)* cost control; and if he will make a statement. [81858]

Mr. Dhanda: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Emissions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the total carbon emission of his Department in each year since 1997. [81910]

Mr. Dhanda: A complete answer cannot be provided as validated carbon emission information is only available from 1999. The figures presented in the following table are based on kilograms of carbon emitted per square metre of let table area in our HQ buildings.

	[1]kgC/m²
1990-2000	28
2000-01	30
2001-02	29
2002-03	28
2003-04	32
2004-05	31

[1] These figures exclude carbon emissions from road vehicles used for Government administrative operations as this information is not held

Departmental Fax Machines

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many department-owned fax machines have been issued to his staff in the last 12 months; to whom they were issued; and at what cost. [81945]

Mr. Dhanda: A complete answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost, but we do know that 11 fax machines were purchased at a cost of £4,137.17 in the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of his Department. [80089]

Mr. Dhanda: The Director General of Finance of the Department for Education and Skills is Jonathan Thompson.

He is a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), a member of the CIPFA Council and a member of the Chartered Institute of Management.

He was appointed in May 2006. He was previously Director of Finance of Ofsted, and before that Director of Finance and Resources at North Somerset council. Prior to that he was senior public sector services manager with Ernst and Young.

Departmental Guidance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pages of guidance have been issued by his Department in the last 12 months. [80038]

Jim Knight: The Department only sends hard copy publications automatically to schools in England in exceptional cases having stopped regular paper mailings in December 2004. Most recently a letter regarding the Ofsted report on staff recruitment checks was made available online and schools notified electronically by email.

Discussions with head teachers and detailed research showed that schools wanted to be able to choose the printed publications they needed, when they needed them, and to be able to order multiple copies.

The online ordering system enables schools to choose whether to download electronic copies or order the paper based publications they need at the right time for them and in the multiples they require. This system is linked directly to the fulfilment service and an existing telephone ordering line. A fortnightly email service to schools informs them of new and important publications.

This has resulted in schools being able to order a wider variety of publications from the Department, putting schools in direct control of what they receive, when they receive it.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make it his policy to make copies of deposited papers available in the

(a) Vote Office and *(b)* Printed Paper Office at the same time as copies are deposited in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [81237]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 729W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the deposited papers placed in the Library by his Department since 2000; and when they were published. [81294]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not collected.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75099]

Mr. Dhanda: Annual reports for the last performance year (2005-06) are currently being collated. In the previous year, there were less than five cases of unacceptable performance and this information is therefore suppressed on grounds of confidentiality. In the 2003-04 performance year, five staff failed to achieve an acceptable mark, which represents 0.1 per cent. of all staff at that time.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77278]

Mr. Dhanda: A total of 3,350 staff are under 55 years of age, and 418 are aged 55 years and over.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into his Department in each of the last three years. [77279]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is given in the following table.

Recruits into DfES over the age of 55

	Number
2004	1
2005	6
2006 (to date)	2

EU Integration

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make it his policy to remove from all EU legislation which he is responsible for transposing into UK law any references supporting EU integration. [82291]

Mr. Dhanda: I have no plans to do so. In cases when EU legislation is proposed which would need to be transposed into UK each proposal will be considered on its individual merits. However, EU competence in education and training is limited to supporting and supplementing the actions of member states, and fully respects the responsibility of member states for the content and organisation of education and training. There is therefore not a great deal of EU legislation in the education and vocational training field to be transposed into domestic legislation. In the majority of cases the Department for Education and Skills responds to EU decisions, recommendations and communications through the development of policy rather than legislative changes.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of his Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80476]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Post Office

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills for which services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81541]

Mr. Dhanda: A definitive answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies (i) make available and (ii) have made available in the last five years through the Post Office network; through how many outlets the service is or was made available; and how many relevant transactions were undertaken in each case in the most recent year for which figures are available. [79201]

Mr. Dhanda: A definitive answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Primary Schools

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the most recent average cost per annum was of educating a child at primary school in England; [82076]

(2) what the most recent average cost per annum was of educating a child at primary school in each local education authority area in England; [82077]

(3) what the most recent figures are for the average cost per annum of educating a child at primary school in *(a)* rural and village areas and *(b)* town and city areas in England. [82078]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the following table.

Primary school based expenditure[1] per pupil[2]	£
In England during the 2004-05 financial year	
£ per pupil[3]	2,910
In 2004-05 financial year	
Barking and Dagenham	3,150
Barnet	3,280
Barnsley	2,910
Bath and North East Somerset	2,850
Bedfordshire	2,830
Bexley	2,810
Birmingham	3,200
Blackburn and Darwen	2,910
Blackpool	2,880
Bolton	2,760
Bournemouth	2,670
Bracknell Forest	2,730
Bradford	3,070
Brent	3,230
Brighton and Hove	2,820
Bromley	2,690
Buckinghamshire	2,740
Bury	2,660
Calderdale	2,940
Cambridgeshire	2,720
Camden	4,120
Cheshire	2,640
City of Bristol	2,860
City of Kingston-Upon-Hull	2,990
City of London	4,990
Cornwall	2,810
Coventry	3,010
Croydon	3,060
Cumbria	2,870
Darlington	2,710
Derby	2,940
Derbyshire	2,630
Devon	2,790
Doncaster	2,860
Dorset	2,790
Dudley	2,760
Durham	3,000
Ealing	3,330
East Riding of Yorkshire	2,760
East Sussex	2,830
Enfield	3,270
Essex	2,900
Gateshead	2,850
Gloucestershire	2,720
Greenwich	3,530
Hackney	4,010
Halton	2,910
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,880
Hampshire	2,850
Haringey	3,590
Harrow	3,100
Hartlepool	2,840
Havering	2,920

Primary school based expenditure[1] per pupil[2]	£
Herefordshire	2,780
Hertfordshire	2,780
Hillingdon	2,920
Hounslow	3,160
Isle of Wight	3,000
Isles of Scilly	7,280
Islington	3,760
Kensington and Chelsea	4,160
Kent	2,770
Kingston upon Thames	3,110
Kirklees	3,060
Knowsley	3,010
Lambeth	4,110
Lancashire	2,900
Leeds	3,010
Leicester	2,990
Leicestershire	2,580
Lewisham	3,800
Lincolnshire	2,600
Liverpool	3,100
Luton	3,100
Manchester	3,030
Medway	3,050
Merton	3,200
Middlesbrough	2,980
Milton Keynes	2,760
Newcastle upon Tyne	2,840
Newham	3,630
Norfolk	2,770
North East Lincolnshire	2,920
North Lincolnshire	2,840
North Somerset	2,650
North Tyneside	2,760
North Yorkshire	2,890
Northamptonshire	2,720
Northumberland	2,940
Nottingham City	3,410
Nottinghamshire	2,900
Oldham	2,740
Oxfordshire	2,790
Peterborough	2,890
Plymouth	2,800
Poole	2,620
Portsmouth	3,070
Reading	2,720
Redbridge	2,830
Redcar and Cleveland	2,940
Richmond upon Thames	3,030
Rochdale	2,910
Rotherham	2,820
Rutland	2,950
Salford	2,920
Sandwell	3,010
Sefton	2,980
Sheffield	2,780
Shropshire	2,600
Slough	2,990
Solihull	2,580
Somerset	2,610

Primary school based expenditure[1] per pupil[2]

	£
South Gloucestershire	2,610
South Tyneside	2,970
Southampton	3,170
Southend	2,860
Southwark	3,970
St. Helens	2,790
Staffordshire	2,620
Stockport	2,720
Stockton-on-Tees	2,810
Stoke on Trent	2,730
Suffolk	2,920
Sunderland	2,840
Surrey	2,790
Sutton	2,870
Swindon	2,630
Tameside	2,750
Telford and Wrekin	2.660
Thurrock	2,940
Torbay	2,730
Tower Hamlets	4,300
Trafford	2,500
Wakefield	2,810
Walsall	2,770
Waltham Forest	3,390
Wandsworth	3,630
Warrington	2,630
Warwickshire	2,670
West Berkshire	2,840
West Sussex	2,780
Westminster	3,800
Wigan	2,780
Wiltshire	2,670
Windsor and Maidenhead	2,870
Wirral	2,730
Wokingham	2,650
Wolverhampton	2,810
Worcestershire	2,740
York	2,680

Primary school based expenditure[1] per pupil[2]

	£
In urban and rural schools[3] in England during the2004-05 financial year	
Urban primary schools[4, 5]	2,920
Rural primary schools[4, 5]	2,900

[1] School based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by local authority schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure. This is drawn from the 2004-05 Section 52 Outturn Statement (Table A line 50).

[2] Pupil numbers include only those pupils attending local authority maintained primary schools and are drawn from the DfES Annual Schools Census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.

[3] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 30 June 2006.

[4] The urban/rural classification is drawn from the Edubase (the DfES database of educational establishments). As at 30th June 2006, the database did not hold an urban/rural classification for 32 of the 17,864 primary schools included on local authorities' 2004-05 Section 52 Outturn Statements.

[5] Rural primary schools are on average much smaller than those in urban areas. Funding to offset diseconomies of scale therefore increases the amount spent in rural primary schools to a level very close to urban schools.

School Buses

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will set an upper limit on charges local education authorities are permitted to make for school bus journeys under the school transport section of the Education and Inspections Bill. [82417]

Jim Knight: The Education and Inspections Bill includes provisions that will allow a small number of 'Pathfinder' authorities to pilot innovative school travel arrangements. While it will be up to local authorities themselves to draw up a charging policy, the draft guidance to potential 'Pathfinder' authorities, which has been published on the Department's website, suggests a maximum charge of £1 per day.

School Principals

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average salary was of *(a)* head and *(b)* deputy head teachers in (i) England and (ii) each region in each of the last 10 years. [81697]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the average salary of full-time regular head and deputy head teachers in maintained sector schools in England and by Government office region. The average salaries are given for March each year from 1996 to 2003, the latest year for which the information is available.

Average salary of full-time regular head and deputy head teachers in maintained sector schools in England by Government office region, March 1996 to 2003

£

	1996	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001[1]*	*2002[1]*	*2003[1]*
England								
Head	31,040	32,370	33,530	35,020	37,710	40,010	42,380	44,960
Deputy head	27,540	28,640	29,640	30,890	32,160	34,810	36,800	38,950

Average salary of full-time regular head and deputy head teachers in maintained sector schools in England by Government office region, March 1996 to 2003

£

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001[1]	2002[1]	2003[1]
North East								
Head	30,080	31,240	32,270	34,040	36,520	38,950	41,250	43,790
Deputy head	26,640	27,570	28,450	29,800	30,970	33,880	35,630	37,780
North West								
Head	30,250	31,450	32,570	33,850	36,820	39,410	41,640	44,190
Deputy head	26,940	27,980	28,900	30,110	31,370	34,120	36,100	38,100
Yorkshire and the Humber								
Head	30,020	31,190	32,290	33,500	36,650	39,130	41,490	44,180
Deputy head	26,680	27,740	28,690	29,870	31,130	34,120	35,980	38,170
East Midlands								
Head	30,470	31,680	32,730	34,080	36,670	38,510	40,810	43,400
Deputy head	27,220	28,200	29,300	30,390	31,650	34,400	36,130	38,120
West Midlands								
Head	30,950	32,320	33,370	34,930	37,390	40,000	42,060	44,860
Deputy head	27,260	28,330	29,290	30,550	31,790	34,490	36,240	38,440
East of England								
Head	30,910	32,290	33,360	34,720	37,370	39,460	41,880	44,440
Deputy head	27,370	28,500	29,530	30,640	31,960	34,360	36,340	38,680
London								
Head	34,910	36,630	38,300	40,170	42,790	45,800	49,010	52,240
Deputy head	30,230	31,400	32,560	33,980	35,390	38,160	40,780	43,300
South East								
Head	31,610	33,070	34,290	35,810	38,350	40,530	42,750	45,390
Deputy head	27,700	28,840	29,830	31,070	32,370	34,800	36,560	38,770
South West								
Head	29,830	31,070	32,190	33,570	36,210	38,380	40,390	42,720
Deputy head	27,020	28,210	29,130	30,450	31,640	34,100	35,910	37,960

[1] Provisional estimates subject to future revision.

Source:

Database of Teacher Records (DTR).

Sexual Health Education

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what expenditure is planned for sexual health education in schools in each of the next three years. [82546]

Mr. Dhanda: It is for local authorities and schools to decide the level of resources required to support sexual health education in schools taking account of local needs. We are working to improve the quality of sexual health education in maintained schools. The Department for Education and Skills, together with Department of Health, is supporting the PSHE certification programme for teachers with over £2 million in 2006-07. In addition, both Departments are supporting the national healthy schools programme with £12.3 million of funding in 2006-07. These programmes support schools in delivering sexual health education as part of broader programmes.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much of the recent increase in local authority spending on special educational needs provision is being used to pay for out-of-authority placements for pupils because of the lack of suitable provision locally. [81438]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is not available in the requested format. The following table shows how much of the total planned net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special

educational needs, local authorities have budgeted for fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad.

The Education (Budget Statements) (England) Regulations. Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs[1,2,3] since 2000-01. Cash terms figures[4] as reported by local authorities[5] as at 28 June 2006

£

	Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs[1,2]	*Of which: Budgeted net expenditure on fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad[3]*
2000-01	2,763,226,000	287,821,000
2001-02	2,908,380,000	305,782,000
2002-03	3,038,661,000	309,646,000
2003-04	3,466,180,000	394,609,000
2004-05	3,774,757,000	441,977,000
2005-06	4,120,549,000	481,127,000
2006-07[5]	4,466,690,000	507,133,000

[1] Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and coordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools. Does not include any contribution to combined budgets or fees for pupils at independent schools for pupils without SEN.

[2] The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN. From 2004-05 onwards "notional SEN" delegated to nursery schools was reported on section 52 for the first time and accounts for £7.8 million, £9.5 million and £10.2 million of the 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 totals respectively.

[3] Includes all planned net expenditure on the payment of fees in respect of pupils with special educational needs at independent schools or non-maintained special schools.

[4] Figures are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

[5] 2006-07 data are provisional and are therefore subject to change by the local authority.

Source:

The data are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Budget Statements (Tables 1 and 2) submitted to the DfES.

Speech and Language Therapy

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the ratio is of full-time speech therapists to pupils at schools which provide speech and language therapy; [81442]

(2) what the average expenditure per pupil on children with speech and language difficulties in the teaching of speech and language therapy was in the last period for which figures are available. [81443]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures the Department has put in place to assist pension transferability of public pensions for members of the Teachers' Pension Scheme. [79770]

Mr. Dhanda: All public service schemes pay cash equivalent transfer values to other pension schemes in respect of accrued rights in compliance with pensions law. Under the Fair Deal for Staff Pensions there is a requirement to transfer pension rights when employments are transferred to the private sector under Public Private Partnerships/Public Finance Initiatives and subsequent transfers for former public servants. Public service scheme members can also transfer accrued pension rights by way of the Public Sector Transfer Club. The Club is a network of public and private sector occupational pension schemes which makes it easier for employees who move between employers covered by separate participating schemes to transfer their accrued pension rights.

Unemployment (Yeovil)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to encourage long-term unemployed people in Yeovil constituency to return to education and training. [82180]

Phil Hope: Responsibility for encouraging long-term unemployed people to return to education and training is shared between the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Secretary of State for Education and Skills.

Both Departments, along with their respective delivery agencies Jobcentre Plus (JCP) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), are working closely together to ensure that long-term unemployed people have the skills they need to secure sustainable and productive jobs. There has already been significant progress in joint working between the LSC and JCP and a joint delivery plan is currently being developed which will cover the Yeovil area in order to meet local employment and skills needs.

The Government's skills strategy sends out a strong signal about the priority we attach to helping adults with few or no qualifications to attain a platform of wider employability skills. All those on jobseeker's allowance or income related benefits and their dependents receive free tuition in further education, in addition to the support available through their local JCP office. Unemployed people also have access to in-depth advice about their education and training options through the Learndirect one-stop telephone and online advice service.

The Government do, however, recognise that more needs to be done to tackle long-term unemployment and published a Green Paper in January 2006 "A New Deal for Welfare: Empowering People to Work" including measures to help low skilled adults secure employment through the New Deal for Skills. These include piloting skills coaching in a number of JCP districts and our latest evidence shows that skills coaching is helping long-term unemployed people improve their employability skills.

In addition, the Chancellor announced in his Budget Report that Lord Leitch's review of skills would be extended to include better alignment of measures to tackle worklessness to support labour market flexibility, better employment outcomes and greater

progression to productive and sustainable jobs for those with skill needs. We expect Lord Leitch's report this autumn and my Department looks forward to working with the Department of Work and Pensions to take forward Lord Leitch's proposals.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Biodiversity

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the loss of species in the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [81317]

Barry Gardiner: Extinction of a species within the UK is now a rare event. The UK Biodiversity Action Plan was published in 1995 and included a list of priority species and habitats for which urgent conservation action was required.

In 1999, 2002 and 2005 reports were published on the progress made on these priorities. These reports included actions to be taken and an update on the status of the priority species. In 2002, one species, the Starry Breck Lichen (Buellia asterella), was reported as having become extinct, and two UKBAP priority species, the pool frog and interrupted brome, were reported to have been lost. Both the pool frog and interrupted brome have since been re-introduced. Although both re-introduction projects are at an early stage and there is some way to go before the species are successfully re-established, effectively their extinction has been reversed.

This is the only evidence we have of a UK species becoming extinct within the last 10 years. It is also worth noting that the Pashford pot beetle (Cryptocephalus exiguus), another priority species, has not been found at its known localities for a number of years but this is not thought to represent sufficient evidence of extinction yet.

In terms of non-priority species, we cannot be certain that there have been no extinctions because some species have never been named and others are recorded extremely infrequently.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has benchmarked the loss of species in the UK in each of the last 10 years against the performance of other countries. [81694]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA has not benchmarked the loss of species because there is no easily accessible source of information on extinctions for other countries. The cost of obtaining the information would far outweigh the benefits we could gain from it.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many instances of bovine tuberculosis have been recorded in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [82112]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Suffolk

	Total new herd incidents	*Confirmed new herd incidents*
2005	—	—
2004	3	1
2003	—	—
2002	1	—
2001	—	—

Note:
Provisional data downloaded from DEFRA's animal health database (Vetnet) on 7 March 2006. Subject to change as more data becomes available.

In 2001, the TB testing and control programme was largely suspended due to the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak. When testing resumed in 2002, resources were concentrated on herds with overdue TB tests which would have had a longer period in which to contract the disease. Also the proportion of high risk herds tested immediately after the FMD outbreak was greater than that prior to the outbreak. As a result, data for 2001 and 2002 are not comparable with other years.

Conservation

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department gives to competent authorities intending to carry out appropriate assessment of plans or projects likely to affect European wildlife sites with regard to consulting *(a)* statutory bodies, *(b)* other interested parties and *(c)* the general public; and whether this advice differs according to whether this assessment is carried out under regulation 3 or regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 (as amended). [80295]

Barry Gardiner: English Nature provides advice to competent authorities intending to carry out appropriate assessment of plans or projects likely to affect European wildlife sites, with regard to consulting statutory bodies and the general public. This is done through their Habitats Regulations Guidance Note 1 ("The Role of the Appropriate Assessment in Regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994"). This guidance relates to assessment being carried out under regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994. The Guidance Note does not provide specific advice for consulting other interested parties, though it does advise that consulting the general public,

"may include taking the opinion of others with relevant knowledge or expertise".

This advice in relation to consulting statutory bodies, other interested parties and the general public does not specifically relate to the obligations placed upon competent authorities under regulation 3 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 (as amended).

My Department is currently considering what further guidance is necessary in relation to obligations placed upon competent authorities regarding appropriate assessment of plans and projects. These considerations will be informed by the results of the public consultation on Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 due to end on 30 June 2006.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how competent authorities are required to report the results of appropriate assessment of plans or projects under the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 (as amended) to *(a)* the UK Government, *(b)* the European Commission and *(c)* the Scottish Executive; and whether the appropriate assessments are public documents. [80296]

Barry Gardiner: There is no requirement in the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 for competent authorities to report the results of appropriate assessment carried out under regulation 48 of these Regulations to (a), (b) or (c) if the authority concludes the plan or project will not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

Where a competent authority other than the Secretary of State proposes to agree to a plan or project under regulation 49 (that is where a plan or project is considered necessary in the overriding public interest), notwithstanding a negative assessment of the implications for a European site, it must notify the Secretary of State in England. There is no requirement under the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations 1994 to report the outcome of the appropriate assessment in these circumstances to the European Commission. As a matter of policy however, the Secretary of State reports the outcome of such assessments in the above circumstances to the European Commission, including details of how appropriate compensatory measures have been secured. Equivalent provisions exist in Scotland. Appropriate assessments carried out under the planning regime would normally constitute public documents.

Appropriate assessments carried out under other consent regimes would normally, where not already in the public domain, be available under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answers of 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1098W, on the EU Habitats Directive, whether competent authorities proposing to agree a plan or project of a type not specified by Regulations 54 to 85 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994 (as amended) notwithstanding a negative assessment of the implications for a European site are required *(a)* to notify the Secretary of State and *(b)* not to agree to the plan or project for a period of 21 days unless the Secretary of State notifies them that they may do so. [80426]

Barry Gardiner: Competent authorities proposing to agree to a plan or project not specified by Regulations 54 to 85 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994, notwithstanding a negative assessment of the implications for a European site, are (a) not required to notify the Secretary of State and (b) not required to agree to the plan or project for a period of 21 days unless the Secretary of State notifies them that they may do so.

Correspondence Costs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average cost to his Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80479]

Barry Gardiner: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members'/Peers' correspondence. The Report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS.

The information requested is not recorded and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Dairy Industry

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the dairy supply chain forum. [79757]

Barry Gardiner: The dairy supply chain forum, now chaired by my noble Friend Lord Rooker, meets on a quarterly basis. Recent discussions have covered: the environmental challenges facing the dairy sector; barriers to innovation; the National Farmers' Union's paper, "A Vision for the Dairy Industry"; the Milk Development Council's paper, "Raw milk contracts and relationships—the need for change"; and animal health and welfare initiatives.

Notes of the meetings are available at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodrin/milk/supplychainforum/dscfworkofforum.htm

Departmental Catering

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has held with other Ministers on the sourcing of publicly-procured food; and what proportion of such food was of British origin in 2005. [78163]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* DEFRA Ministers have had recent discussions with other Ministers on the sourcing of publicly-procured food and announcements will be made in the very near future.

The Department is not aware of any central source of information on the proportion of publicly-procured food that was of British origin in 2005. The information could be determined only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Press Office

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his Department's press office. [74357]

Barry Gardiner: The Department currently has 31 members of staff employed in the Press Office,

of which 15 have declared they are white, three black and Asian, and 13 are unknown/undeclared.

Information on the ethnicity is collected on a voluntary basis.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his staff are *(a)* under and *(b)* over 55 years of age. [77272]

Barry Gardiner: As at 31 December 2005, there were *(a)* 5,212 staff under and *(b)* 735 staff over 55 years of age in DEFRA.

End-of-life Vehicles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what obligations are placed on members of the public wishing to sell vehicle parts on *(a)* the internet and *(b)* elsewhere under the End of Life Vehicles legislation. [82427]

Mr. Bradshaw: End of Life Vehicles legislation does not place any requirements on members of the public selling vehicle parts on the internet or elsewhere.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Environment Agency in enforcing the End of Life Vehicles legislation. [82428]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA is satisfied with the way the Environment Agency are enforcing the End of Life Vehicles legislation.

In 2004, the Environment Agency took 15 prosecutions for offences involving the keeping or treating of End of Life Vehicles (ELVs). The figure for 2005 was 30. There have been 13 in the first five months of 2006. These are cases where ELVs were the main or a significant proportion of the waste being handled illegally.

English Nature

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the grant-in-aid to English Nature for 2006-07 will be paid. [81083]

Barry Gardiner: Grant in aid is paid to English Nature on a monthly basis. Payments totalling £16 million have already been made to English Nature during the first quarter of this financial year. The next monthly claim, for £4 million, has recently been submitted by English Nature to cover July operational costs and this will be paid within the next week. My Department expects to be in a position to confirm English Nature's overall financial settlement for 2006-07 shortly.

Fisheries

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Libyan counterpart on British fishing rights in Libyan waters. [81461]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have participated in no recent discussions regarding fishing opportunities for UK fishermen in Libyan waters.

Fishing opportunities for European Fishermen in Third Country Waters are negotiated by the European Commission through a Fisheries Partnership Agreement. Under the Common Fisheries policy the European Commission has competency to represent the member states in this context.

Currently there is no Fisheries Partnership Agreement between Libya and the European Community and there are no plans to make one in the foreseeable future.

This would not prevent individual UK fishermen gaining access to Libyan waters under a private agreement with Libyan fishermen. There are no European or UK laws preventing this at present. However this would be a private business venture up to the fishermen involved, and would necessitate the agreement of the Libyan Government.

Housing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the Affordable Rural Housing Commission; and when he expects to make a decision on additional funds for housing in rural areas. [77813]

Barry Gardiner: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Minister for Housing and Planning both took part in discussions of the Affordable Rural Housing Commission report on the day of its launch. Affordable rural housing will continue to be one of the subjects covered in the regular dialogue between the two Departments and across Government.

The Government are currently considering the report and will use a range of channels and mechanisms to respond in a constructive way to the agenda set by the Commission, including in the forthcoming Spending Review.

Information Technology

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on information technology (IT) sourced from outside his Department in each of the last five years; who is responsible for such projects in his Department; and what IT *(a)* expertise and *(b)* qualifications they possess. [71792]

Barry Gardiner: In each of the last five years, the Department (core Defra only) has spent the following on information technology (IT) sourced from outside the Department:

	Amount (£)
2001-02	29,713,164
2002-03	43,297,947
2003-04	54,704,124
2004-05	41,214,953
2005-06	86,253,815

Notes:
1. These figures do not include expenditure on Capital Equipment or Construction in Progress (CIP)*.
2. Capital Expenditure (Capex) is shown on clearing account balance sheets, if expenditure is not cleared to the Fixed Assets Register (FAR) and CIP Register.
3. Therefore the end year balances on the Clearing equipment and CIP balance sheets may include expenditure c/f from earlier years.
4. There are no central records of actual IT Capex spend for these years.
5. Costs include consultancy expenditure related to the E-nabling programme.
6. Does not include any IT spend hidden in programme—0460**.

The Chief Information Officer, Chris Chant, is responsible for the successful delivery of IT projects within Defra. He has extensive experience in leading business transformation, large programme management, strategic supplier management and change management. His previous experience includes being the Service Delivery Team Director in the e-Government Unit of the Cabinet Office, and responsibility for the Inland Revenue e-Services Programme.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was in each of the five largest information technology contracts agreed with outside suppliers over the last five years. [71793]

Barry Gardiner: The Department is able to confirm that over the last five years there have been three large IT contracts agreed with outside suppliers, and these are with Accenture, IBM, and LogicaCMG.

Accenture

(a) Original estimated cost—£34.10 million

(b) Recently estimated costs—£55.04 million

(c) Outturn costs—£55.04 million (plus enhancement work to the value of £928,000 in 2005-06 and £2.7 million in 2006-07).

IBM

(a) Original estimated cost—£85 million per year

(b) Recently estimated costs—£85 million per year

(c) Outturn costs—£24,499,785 in 2004-05 and £97,217,291 in 2005-06.

LogicaCMG

(a) Original estimated cost—£16.10 million

(b) Recently estimated costs—£17.492 million (plus annual indexation)

(c) Outturn costs—Cost of supply was £6.7 million in 2002. The balance is for support and maintenance to be paid over the remainder of the contract, which ends in 2014.

Smaller, local IT contracts will also have been agreed; however, information on these is neither managed nor maintained centrally, and therefore it would incur disproportionate costs to collate. Only by reference to such information would it be possible to determine which are the fourth and fifth largest IT contracts, agreed with outside suppliers, in the Department.

Meat Imports

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many samples of imported beef and beef products from *(a)* other EU member states and *(b)* other countries were tested for residues of (i) oestradiol, (ii) testosterone, (iii) progesterone, (iv) zeranol, (v) trenbolone and (vi) melegesterol acetate in (A) 2004 and (B) 2005; [81209]

(2) what the most recent date on which beef imported into the UK was tested for residues of oestradiol; and how many samples were collected. [81210]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2004, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) organised the testing of 301 samples of imported beef for trenbolone and zeranol (one sample was found to be of UK origin and one was unassayable on arrival at the laboratory).

Of the 299 assayable imported samples, 82 were from other EU member states and 217 were from other countries. No detectable residues of either trenbolone or zeranol were found in 2004, which was also the case in 2003. Trenbolone and zeranol were therefore removed from the imports surveillance programme for 2005 on the recommendation of the independent veterinary residues committee, which oversees the surveillance work of the VMD and advises the food standards agency on relevant surveys. They may be included again in the future.

	2003		*2004*	
Substance	*Samples*	*Positive*	*Samples*	*Positive*
Trenbolone	300	—	299	—
Zeranol	300	—	299	—

Testing was not carried out for the other listed substances in 2004 and 2005 and imported beef has not been tested for residues of oestradiol. All of the results of the VMD's surveillance for residues of veterinary medicines and other substances are published in its quarterly magazine, (MAVIS) available from its website at: www.vmd.gov.uk

Oestradiol is a naturally occurring hormone. It will be present in beef at varying concentrations, dependant on the physiological state of the animal when it was slaughtered, and also its sex and age. Muscle, which is the matrix available for testing is not ideal. The EU's community reference laboratory recommends serum, which is not available in imported beef.

Scientific advice from two of the UK's national reference laboratories for veterinary residues analysis is that any difference in concentrations between untreated animals and those treated with exogenous oestradiol is very small. So, distinguishing between them would be unlikely. Therefore no testing has been carried out on imported beef in the last 10 years. Responsibility for testing produce from non-EU member states rests with

the country of entry into the EU. Once produce has entered the EU, it should have free circulation within all member states, as part of the single market.

EU legislation imposes a series of health and supervisory requirements on non-EU countries before they export food to the EU. These are designed to ensure that imported animals and animal products meet standards at least equivalent to those required for production in, and trade between, member states. The use of the listed substances as growth promoting hormones is banned in the EU, and therefore they should not be present in beef imported into the EU.

The European Commission's Food and Veterinary Office check on compliance with such legislation in EU and non-EU countries exporting to the EU.

Milk Industry

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance he is making available to encourage co-operation in the milk industry. [76072]

Barry Gardiner: The Government are helping to promote greater co-operation through the Dairy Supply Chain Forum. The group regularly brings together all the key links in the supply chain to discuss the challenges facing the dairy industry, and to develop collaborative solutions.

The dairy industry also directly benefits from grants awarded under the Agriculture Development scheme. These are helping to fund benchmarking workshops and create a network of dairy best practice groups.

The Government are also supporting the work of English Farming and Food Partnerships (EFFP). Its aim is to promote and encourage greater co-operation and collaboration in all sectors of the farming and food industries, and all the major dairy co-operatives in England are involved. EFFP is currently taking forward an initiative called "share to milk", which will highlight examples of successful collaborative activity and best practice in the dairy sector.

Minister of State (Sustainable Farming and Foods)

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 100W, of the Minister of State (sustainable farming and foods), if he will estimate the proportion of the time that Lord Rooker has devoted to official duties that he has spent on the affairs of his Department. [79226]

Barry Gardiner: Lord Rooker works full-time on Defra affairs. His other responsibilities, as Northern Ireland spokesman and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords, are undertaken on top of his departmental duties when he is in the House of Lords.

New Technologies (Research)

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of his Department's budget was spent researching new technologies in the last period for which figures are available. [76807]

Barry Gardiner: Science, engineering and technology (SET) statistics provide a breakdown of Government R and D expenditure by primary purpose and Department. The following table outlines spend for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for 2003-04 on Technology Support and gives this as a percentage of the Department's total budget. The category Technology Support includes strategic as well as applied research, and pre-competitive research. These figures exclude funding of the research base under the science budget and are derived from SET statistics. Tables 3.5 and 3.10 are available on the DTI website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/science/science-funding/set-stats/govt-exp-r&d/index.html hard copies of which are available in the House of Commons Library.

Analysis of DEFRA R and D expenditure

Purpose	*£ million*	*Percentage of total Department budget*
General Support	16.9	0.33
Government Services	6.0	0.12
Policy Support	128.8	2.52
Technology Support	29.2	0.57
Total R and D	181.0	3.55

Definitions:

General Support for research
All basic and applied R and D which advances knowledge for its own sake; support for postgraduate research studentships (PhD's).

Government Services
R and D relevant to any aspects of Government service provision (all defence included here).

Policy Support
R and D which Government funds to inform policy (excluding Government Services and Technology Support) and for monitoring developments of significance for the welfare of the population.

Technology Support—applied
R and D that advances technology underpinning the UK economy (but excluding defence). The category includes strategic as well as applied research, and pre-competitive research under schemes such as LINK.

Source:
ONS Government R and D Survey.

Olympics

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which officials in his Department *(a)* are responsible for Olympics-related activity and *(b)* sit on the inter-departmental steering group for the Olympics. [81562]

Barry Gardiner: Jonathan Tillson, head of the sustainable communities division, is responsible for Olympics-related activity within the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and sits on the inter-departmental steering group for the Olympics.

Rural Enterprise Scheme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will enable surplus funds in his Department's rural enterprise

scheme and processing and marketing scheme to be re-allocated to the South-West England region to cover the funding shortfall; and if he will make a statement. [81760]

Barry Gardiner: The rural enterprise scheme and processing and marketing grant have been very popular and successful across the country. The announcement, in February this year that these schemes would close on 30 June led to a large increase in the number of applications, all of which were seeking funding from a limited budget.

DEFRA and the Rural Development Service (RDS) expect to be able to award fully the remaining funds to projects in the respective regions where that money was scheduled to be allocated. In the event that any money remains unallocated after the final Regional Appraisal Panels have met (in August), RDS have put in place plans and procedures to allocate any surplus to the highest quality reserve projects from around the country.

Good quality reserve projects from the South-West region would be included in this exercise, but in such an event projects will be judged on their merits regardless of the region they are from.

Rural Payments Agency

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the costs of running the Rural Payments Agency for each year since 2001. [71515]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA), an agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), was formed on 16 October 2001. Its main objective is to administer the common agricultural policy for England. The gross running costs associated with the administration of the payments to farmers for each of the five years are given as follows. The figures for 2000-01 are the combined figures for the Intervention Board and the elements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that merged to become RPA in October 2001.

	Amount (£ million)
2000-01	140.0
2001-02	[1]126.5
2002-03	[2]186.4
2003-04	198.4
2004-05	249.2

[1] Restated figure due to reclassification of costs.
[2] Restated figure under merger accounting.

The detail supporting each of the years can be found in RPA's annual report and accounts under House of Commons publication numbers HC 1197 (for both 2000-01 and 2001-02), HC 940, HC 1009 and HC 82 respectively.

Single Farm Payments

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made in making single farm payments to farmers in Northamptonshire. [72937]

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single farm payments have been made in *(a)* England and *(b)* Shropshire in excess of entitlements; and, in each case, by what aggregate amount. [74175]

Barry Gardiner: As at 23 June 2006 104,230 payments had been made in respect of Single Payment Scheme applications. This figure consists of full and partial payments. Work is continuing by the Rural Payments Agency to pay as many claims as possible using a variety of methods by the end of the payment window on 30 June.

Payments have been calculated and paid based on the number of entitlements established, including a substantial number of partial payments, where the payment was calculated on the basis of an estimated number of entitlements.

Details of payments made in England up to 30 June 2006, including by constituency and county, are not presently available but will be published in due course.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the chief executive of the Rural Payments Agency will receive a financial bonus for the complete payment of single farm payments. [76182]

Barry Gardiner: The chief executive of the RPA was replaced after advising Ministers that, contrary to earlier assurances, the bulk of 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) payments would not be made by the end of March. The current interim chief executive, who is now responsible for turning the system around, will be eligible for a bonus payment at the end of this financial year subject to the achievement of challenging targets. These will be set in the light of his plans to improve the RPA's performance and will certainly cover the administration of the SPS.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what payments have been made to third parties in relation to administering the Single Payment Scheme. [74071]

Barry Gardiner: The main third parties whose services have been used to set up the administration of the Single Payment Scheme are Accenture, Infoterra and Black & Veatch. Payments made to date to each of these companies are detailed as follows:

Main third party	*£ million*
Accenture	49.9
Infoterra	9.36
Black & Veatch	0.4

In addition, the Rural Payments Agency has employed agency staff and consultants.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission regarding EU fines for not paying all of the Single Farm Payment by 30 June 2006; whether the deadline will be extended; and if he will make a statement; [79894]

(2) how much the European Commission will fine the UK Government for missing the 30 June 2006 deadline for Single Farm Payment if *(a)* 85 per cent., *(b)* 86 per cent., *(c)* 87 per cent., *(d)* 88 per cent., *(e)* 89 per cent., *(f)* 90 per cent., *(g)* 91 per cent., *(h)* 92 per cent., *(i)* 93 per cent., *(j)* 94 per cent., *(k)* 95 per cent., *(l)* 96 per cent., *(m)* 97 per cent., *(n)* 98 per cent., *(o)* 99 per cent. have been paid by the deadline. [79895]

Barry Gardiner: The end of the regulatory payment window for the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) is 30 June 2006. Discussions with the European Commission suggest that a formal extension to that window is unlikely, but those discussions will continue, focussed on the application of separate regulatory requirements on the EU funding of payments. As things stand, those requirements are, in summary, that where payments made after 30 June in any member state amount to 4 per cent. or less of what was paid out before that date, no reduction in EU funding will be imposed. For any amounts outstanding after 30 June over and above the 4 per cent. threshold, reductions will apply as follows:

Month	*Percentage*
up to 1	10
up to 2	25
up to 3	45
up to 4	70
up to 5 or more	100

Furthermore, where the 4 per cent. threshold has not been used by 15 October, it will be reduced to 2 per cent.

Whether there is any reduction in EU funding of UK 2005 SPS payments and, if so, how much will, therefore, depend on the amount and timing of any payments made after 30 June deadline across the UK.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on computer training for the systems to implement the Single Farm Payment. [79897]

Barry Gardiner: The expenditure on training in the new business processes and IT systems in the implementation and ongoing delivery of the Single Payment Scheme was £1,342,296.

Sovereign Strategy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 165W, on Sovereign Strategy, on how many occasions *(a)* he, *(b)* his predecessor and *(c)* other Ministers in his Department met (i) Alan Donnelly, (ii) representatives of Alan Donnelly and (iii) others about whom he was informed that they were representatives of Sovereign Strategy, regardless of whether they were acting in that capacity at the meeting, in the last 12 months. [80252]

Barry Gardiner: There is no departmental record of any meeting in the last 12 months between the Secretary of State, his predecessor, or other Ministers, and representatives of Alan Donnelly or Sovereign Strategy.

Special Advisers

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what role is played by special advisers in answering parliamentary questions asked of his Department. [80647]

Barry Gardiner: Special advisers conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements of the code of conduct for special advisers.

Uplands Rewards Scheme

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to ensure that the Uplands Reward Scheme provides for *(a)* appropriate staffing levels and *(b)* appropriate levels and mix of stock to maintain the integrity of the Uplands. [80701]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* The consultation on the future upland reward structure closed on 22 May. We are currently considering responses. A mixed stocking option will be added to the Entry Level Environmental Stewardship Scheme this summer. This will encourage a mix of stock.

Water Companies

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of whether each of the regulated water companies is making a reasonable rate of return on capital as defined in the relevant legislation; and if he will make a statement; [81085]

(2) what assessment he has made of whether water companies are making excessive rates of return. [81583]

Ian Pearson: The Government recognise that companies have to earn a return on their capital and Ofwat has a duty to enable them to reasonably do so. At each price review, Ofwat must make a judgment about what is a reasonable return on capital to be allowed in price limits. If companies outperform Ofwat's assumptions at the last price review, then customers will share the benefit in their bills from 2010.

Rates of return earned by water companies in 2000-05 were lower than 1990-95.

Woodland

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place for the protection of woodland in *(a)* South Swindon constituency and *(b)* the Great Western Community Forest. [82415]

Barry Gardiner: A number of measures are in place to protect woodlands in England including South Swindon and Great Western Community Forest. In particular the felling of woodland is controlled through the felling regulations. Additionally, many woodlands are subject to further controls where they lie within designated areas such as sites of special scientific interest or special areas of conservation.

Local planning authorities also have wide powers to protect trees and woodland by means of Tree Preservation Orders.

Where it is intended to fell trees and use the land for another purpose the proposals will be assessed under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations and consent for felling under these regulations may also be required from the Forestry Commission.

Planning Policy Statement 9 says that, for areas of ancient woodland that do not benefit from statutory protection, planning permission should not be granted for any development that would result in its loss or deterioration unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location outweigh the loss of the woodland habitat.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Mayoral Referendums

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what guidance the Electoral Commission has issued on the classification of expenditure on *(a)* gathering signatures for a mayoral petition and *(b)* campaigning for or against a mayoral referendum. [82995]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it does not issue guidance on the classification of expenditure for mayoral referendums as it has no statutory remit in respect of such referendums.

Party Accounts

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Commission is taking to ensure compliance with the law on publication of party accounts; and how many constituency parties or associations of *(a)* the Conservative party, *(b)* the Labour party and *(c)* the Liberal Democrats complied in the last year for which information is available. [82534]

Peter Viggers *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The Commission informs me that it regularly communicates with registered political parties to ensure that both they and their registered accounting units comply with the law on submission of accounts. This includes the provision of information, sending out reminder letters and arranging meetings wherever necessary. Where the Commission feels further action is necessary, officers from the Commission work with individual parties in enhancing their financial reporting systems to improve their ability to comply with the law.

Any registered accounting unit whose gross income or total expenditure in a financial year exceeds £25,000 is required to submit a statement of accounts to the Commission within three months of the year end if these are not required to be audited, and six months if they are. The Commission has no means of knowing, in advance, which accounting units will exceed the £25,000 reporting threshold in any given year.

In the year to 31 December 2004 (the last year for which information is available), the number of constituency parties or associations that submitted accounts were:

	Total submitted	*Submitted on time*	*Submitted late*
The Conservative party	314	308	6
The Labour party	46	24	22
The Liberal Democrats	83	76	7

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the composition is of the British Provisional Reconstruction Team in Helmand Province. [82476]

Dr. Howells: The UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team in Lashkar Gah, Helmand Province, consists of representatives of UK armed forces, the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for International Development, and our embassy in Kabul's drugs team. In addition, there are UK-funded advisers working in the fields of governance, police reform, and justice/rule of law. Multinational elements include military and civilian elements from Denmark and Estonia and the US Agency for International Development, US Department for Agriculture and US State Department officials. The Afghan Government are represented by an official from the Ministry of the Interior.

Belarus

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what financial assistance the UK Government are giving to establish a free Belarus radio. [81847]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* Since 1 November 2005, the UK, together with EU partners, has funded independent radio broadcasts into Belarus. The most recently launched project by the European Commission is to last for two years at the cost of €2 million. The project comprises TV and radio broadcasts from Poland, Lithuania and Germany into Belarus. It also provides funding for internet print media and training of journalists.

Bulgaria/Romania

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions Ministers from her Department have visited *(a)* Bulgaria and *(b)* Romania in the last 12 months. [82119]

Mr. Hoon: The then Minister for Europe, my right hon. Friend the Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South (Mr Alexander), visited Bulgaria and Romania on 5-6 February and visited Bulgaria again from 27-28 April to attend the NATO Foreign Ministers meeting. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs also visited both countries on 8-10 May. I hope to visit later this year.

Burma

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the percentage of the world's uranium supplies which are in Burma. [82538]

Dr. Howells: The International Atomic Energy Agency online database of world uranium deposits lists no entries for Burma. The Burmese Government have identified five sites of uranium ore deposits, located at Magway, Taungdwingyi, Kyaukphygon (Mogok), Kyauksin, and Paongpyin (Mogok). Their official reporting can be found at: www.energy.gov.mm. The total quantity of uranium is unknown, but is likely to be very limited.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of whether the uranium produced and exported by Burma is the kind that can be used in the development of *(a)* nuclear weapons and *(b)* dirty bombs. [82539]

Dr. Howells: We are not aware of any exports of uranium from Burma. Burma maintains that its limited uranium production is for ongoing studies into the peaceful use of nuclear power.

Any uranium ore would have to be processed before it could be used in a nuclear facility. In particular, to be used in a nuclear weapons programme, uranium would have to be enriched to more than 90 per cent. U235. We are not aware of any enrichment facilities being operational in Burma.

Uranium is not an effective material to use in the construction of a radiological weapon, or "dirty bomb".

Corporal Gilad Shalit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on Israel's actions to secure the release of Corporal Gilad Shalit; and if she will make a statement. [82621]

Mr. McCartney: Israel has the right to take steps to secure the release of Corporal Shalit. Any military steps taken should avoid civilian casualties, abide by international law and observe the principle of proportionality. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the current situation in Gaza with Palestinian President Abbas and Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 25 June. We are in regular contact with the Palestinian President and his office. We call for the immediate and unconditional release of Corporal Shalit.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said on 25 June

"I was very disturbed to learn of this serious terrorist attack at Sufa. I send my condolences to the families of those Israeli soldiers who have died. Such continued violence makes the prospect of a negotiated, peaceful resolution more distant".

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have made to the Palestinian Authority regarding the abduction and detention without trial of Corporal Gilad Shalit by Palestinian militants. [82171]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the current situation in Gaza with Palestinian President Abbas on 25 June. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials are in regular contact with the Palestinian President and his office. We call for the immediate and unconditional release of Corporal Shalit.

As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said on 25 June

"I was very disturbed to learn of this serious terrorist attack at Sufa. I send my condolences to the families of those Israeli soldiers who have died. Such continued violence makes the prospect of a negotiated, peaceful resolution more distant".

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 16 May 2006 on Afghanistan and Iraq. [81452]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade (Mr. McCartney), replied to the hon. Gentleman's letter of 16 May on 29 June.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the UN peacekeeping operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [82058]

Mr. McCartney: The UN peacekeeping operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), MONUC, is the largest and most complex mission that the UN has managed to date. Its key tasks are to facilitate political transition and power sharing

arrangements, deal with armed groups outside the political process and to protect civilians.

MONUC chairing aided the peace process since 2002 by brokering cease-fires and peace deals and the International Committee in Support of the Transition, which engages with the Congolese Government. Following MONUC's support for a successful referendum last December, the country is set to hold its first elections since the 1960s. UN expertise and MONUC's logistical support for this process have been crucial to making this possible.

MONUC operates in a dangerous and complex environment and has been mandated by the UN Security Council, under chapter VII of the UN charter, to support the Congolese Army to disarm those groups that are a threat to the peace process and to protect civilians from rebel attack. There has been considerable progress in dealing with armed groups, but attacks on civilians remain at an unacceptable level.

In 2004 a number of cases of sexual abuse and exploitation by UN peacekeepers and staff in the DRC came to light, raising serious concerns about MONUC's management. After a thorough investigation by the Secretary-General's special representative on the issue, a series of measures were introduced to combat the problem of sexual abuse and exploitation by UN peacekeepers across all UN missions. MONUC has stringently imposed these measures on UN staff and peacekeepers. We continue to keep MONUC's performance under close review in all areas of its activity, through our Embassy in Kinshasa and through regular Security Council discussions.

Departmental Premises (Security)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are in place to ensure that no illegal immigrants are employed in the manned guarding of her Department's premises. [80799]

Mr. Hoon: Only British nationals can work as security guards in Foreign and Commonwealth Office premises in the UK. To ensure illegal immigrants are not employed the pre-employment checks require the following:

proof of nationality with photo ID (passport);

photo ID (passport or driving licence);

application form completed and checked;

four personal references;

and

five year employment history.

Departmental Staff

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many disabled staff in her Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82227]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not have a complete record of the number of officers who have received support through the Access to Work scheme. Staff who seek such support contact the Department for Work and Pensions directly and are under no obligation to notify the FCO. However, we are aware of 15 staff who are currently receiving support.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in her Department are carbon neutral; and if she will make a statement. [81408]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) offsets the carbon dioxide and other emissions generated by the air travel of Ministers and officials based in the UK. Each year we offset the previous year's air travel emissions, so in 2005-06 we offset our 2004 emissions. An agreement was signed with the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) at the end of 2005 to offset our 2004 emissions, one year ahead of the requirement for Government Departments to offset air travel by April 2006. Through REEEP we offset our emissions by investing in projects which provide carbon credits from renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes. Investment is concentrated in developing countries, which are highly dependent on fossil fuels and inefficient energy technology.

We are also running a travel management campaign to encourage staff to consider and use means other than travelling to communicate with their colleagues overseas wherever practical e.g. videoconferencing.

East Timor

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answers of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 470W, on East Timor, what assessment she has made of whether precautions to ensure the security of *(a)* Serious Crimes Unit files on crimes committed in 1999 and *(b)* other files, including those on the UN investigation into the deaths of Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters in 1975, were along lines requested by her Department of the UN and of the Government of Timor-Leste; and if she will make a statement. [81724]

Mr. McCartney: We have informed the UN Mission to East Timor and the East Timorese Government of the importance that we attach to the security of all case files. All Serious Crimes Unit files have been copied digitally and are held by the UN. However, as yet, due to the recent civil unrest in East Timor and resulting lack of personnel within the local government, it has not been possible for the UN to establish the location of the UN investigation files relating to Malcolm Rennie and Brian Peters. We will continue to press for this information.

Ethiopia

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations her Department has made to the Government of Ethiopia on the human rights situation in that country; and if she will make a statement. [82056]

Mr. McCartney: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to her on 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 574-75W.

EU (Qualified Majority Voting)

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when officials in her Department first became aware of EU Commission proposals to extend qualified majority voting over police and judicial affairs. [82307]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The possibility of extending qualified majority voting to police and judicial affairs was provided for in the Amsterdam and Nice treaties. Article 42 of the treaty on European Union (TEU)—the passerelle—allows for areas governed by title VI (third pillar) to be transferred to title IV (first pillar) by unanimous Council decision. It is likely, although not inevitable, that this would mean a move to qualified majority voting and co-decision, which is the norm in the first pillar.

The European Commission's plans to put forward proposals for exploiting Article 42 TEU and changing the decision-making arrangements in the field of police and judicial affairs were raised, in general terms, in its communication "A Citizens' Agenda: Delivering Results for Europe" on 10 May 2006. In this communication, the Commission announced its intention to

"present an initiative to improve decision taking and accountability in areas such as police and judicial co-operation and legal migration, using the possibilities under the existing Treaties".

The Commission's formal proposals for changing the decision-making procedure for the area of Justice and Home Affairs were not published until 28 June.

The Finnish presidency has also announced its intention to explore the possibility of using the article 42 passerelle to improve the decision-making process. In its "Preliminary Agenda for Finland's Presidency of the EU" of 24 May, the presidency said that the review of the Hague Programme

"could include...achieving more effective decision-making on police and criminal law (the "passerelle")".

EU Accession Countries

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment she has made of the suitability of the Republic of Montenegro for membership of the European Union; and if she will make a statement; [82115]

(2) what assessment she has made of whether *(a)* the Republic of Montenegro and *(b)* the Republic of Serbia will be first to join the European Union; and if she will make a statement; [82116]

(3) what discussions she has had with *(a)* European Commission officials and *(b)* other EU governments on the suitability of Montenegro for membership of the European Union; [82117]

(4) how the Stabilisation and Association negotiations will be re-launched in the aftermath of the separation of Serbia and Montenegro. [82118]

Mr. Hoon: The UK supports both Serbia's and Montenegro's European aspirations. The pace at which each country moves towards membership of the EU will depend upon it meeting the conditions required at each stage. The next stage for each state is to conclude negotiations with the EU on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement. The European Commission is likely to bring forward mandates for the negotiations shortly. Conclusion of agreements will depend, in both cases, on fulfilling the appropriate conditions, in particular full co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. We will maintain regular discussions with the European Commission and with our EU partners on these issues.

EU Fraud

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 301W, on EU fraud, what information is held on allegations by diplomats; to which cases the allegations refer; and if she will make a statement. [81943]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold a comprehensive record of EU fraud allegations. Such allegations are addressed to the EU Commission. The Government fully support the Commission's work on this issue.

However, I can confirm that the FCO Europe Directorate does hold the following information compiled when there was public interest in two cases on 9 December 2005:

The European Commission (EC) Staff Regulations require EC staff to raise any concerns they have with either the Director-General of their institution, the Secretary-General, "persons in equivalent positions", or the independent European Anti-Fraud Office.

Porte Schmidt-Brown

Ms Schmidt-Brown recently took a case to the European Court of Justice's Court of First Instance. The Court ruled against her. It would not be appropriate to comment on the Court's judgement.

Hans-Martin Tillack

Mr. Tillack filed a complaint against the European Anti-Fraud Office at the European Court of Justice's Court of First Instance. The Court rejected his case. It would not be appropriate to comment on the Court's judgement.

Extraditions (Colombia)

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations she has made to the Irish Government

about the extradition request by the Colombian Government of James Monaghan, Niall Connolly and Martin McCauley; [82377]

(2) what representations she has made to the Colombian Government in relation to its request for the extradition from the Irish Republic of James Monaghan, Niall Connolly and Martin McCauley. [82378]

Mr. McCartney: We have made no representations to either the Irish or Colombian Governments over this issue.

Extraordinary Rendition

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the statement of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 27 June on extraordinary renditions; and if she will make a statement. [81951]

Dr. Howells: The Government have fully co-operated with the Council of Europe inquiries. We have found no evidence of detainees being rendered through UK territory or airspace where there were substantial grounds to believe there was a real risk of torture. The then Foreign Secretary set out in his written ministerial statement of 20 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS, the results of the extensive review of Official Records back to May 1997.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she will provide the information on extraordinary rendition requested by the Joint Committee on Human Rights in its nineteenth report, published in May 2006. [81952]

Dr. Howells: The Government are considering the Joint Committee on Human Rights report on the Convention Against Torture and will reply to the Committee in due course.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the British Government will play a role in supporting the secure development of oil and gas exploration facilities in the Falkland Islands waters. [79700]

Mr. Hoon: The Government will play a role in supporting the secure development of oil and gas exploration facilities in the Falkland Islands territorial sea and continental shelf. The Government are responsible for the external security and defence of the Falkland Islands. The provision of routine security and policing of oilrigs is a matter for the Falkland Islands Government and the oil exploration companies.

Gaza

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Israeli authorities about the closure of the Kerem Shalom Crossing in Gaza; and what alternative arrangements are being made to allow access to Gaza for food and medical humanitarian assistance. [82607]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The Kerem Shalom, as well as all other crossing points between Gaza and Israel, remains closed for Palestinian nationals. We raised our concerns about their closure and the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip with the Israeli Government on 29 June and we will continue to do so. The Erez crossing remains open for humanitarian cases.

On 2 July the Karni crossing was opened for humanitarian aid. The crossing is expected to be open for six hours a day for four days this week. According to the Israeli Ministry of Defence, Israel would allow 150 trucks carrying food and medicine to pass through the crossing each day.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made by the *(a)* Government, *(b)* EU and *(c)* UN of the effect on the humanitarian situation in Gaza of (i) the closure of all land crossing in and out of Gaza, (ii) the prevention of fishermen accessing the sea and (iii) the destruction of the electricity supply station. [82610]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* We are concerned by the humanitarian situation in Gaza, particularly the supply of electricity, water and the closure of the Gaza-Israel crossing points. Our defence attaché in Tel Aviv raised our concerns about the worsening situation in Gaza, including the loss of power and water supplies, with the Israeli Defence Force on 29 June.

On 30 June, the EU said it regrets the destruction of essential infrastructure, which contributes to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Restoring electricity and water supplies and access for humanitarian organisations must be a priority now to avoid a humanitarian crisis. The EU has continually called upon both parties to implement the 15 November 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access, and for Israel to keep the crossing points between Gaza and Israel open.

On 29 June the UN Secretary-General highlighted his concerns about the humanitarian situation in Gaza. He called on

"the Government of Israel to show restraint, to avoid actions that damage civilian infrastructure and that aggravates the hardship of the Palestinian population, and to abide by international humanitarian law. To prevent a further decline in the humanitarian situation, Israel should also act urgently to facilitate the import of essential medical supplies, foodstuffs, and particularly fuel into the Gaza Strip".

The World Food Programme and the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported on the situation in Gaza on 30 June. They raised concerns over the water supply, health matters and food scarcity given the lack of electricity and a shortage of fuel caused by closures of the crossing points. We note with concern the World Food Programme assessment of the impact of fishermen not being able to go out to sea.

Israel

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what monitoring is being undertaken by the UK Government to ascertain whether military equipment and components supplied to Israel from the UK are being used in the military incursions by Israel into Gaza which commenced on 27 June 2006. [82166]

Dr. Howells: In common with all of our diplomatic posts, our Embassy in Tel Aviv monitors local developments closely and notes any information which comes to light that military equipment supplied by the UK has been used in a manner inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria. The Government will take this into consideration when assessing any future export licence applications. The Government may also revoke relevant licence(s) and ask the authorities in the country concerned to investigate.

All export licence applications from the UK are rigorously assessed on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Export Licensing Criteria, taking full account of the prevailing circumstances at the time of application.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of *(a)* the number of Palestinians taken by Israeli forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territories who are held in detention without trial and *(b)* the number of children taken and held in this way. [82170]

Dr. Howells: Administrative detainees are held in both Israeli Defence Force (IDF) and Israel Prisons Service (IPS) facilities. According to figures provided by the IDF to Israeli non-governmental organisations, the IDF was holding, as of 3 January 2006, 741 Palestinians in administrative detention. IPS told our embassy in Tel Aviv that, as of May 2006, 617 administrative detainees were being held in IPS facilities.

We are concerned at the policy of administrative detention, especially when periods of detention are repeatedly extended without trial and involves the detention of minors. We have made no estimate of the number of minors in Israeli prisons.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response she has made to the agreement between Hamas and Fatah regarding acceptance of a two state settlement in Israel and Palestine; and what representations she has made to *(a)* the Palestinian Authority, *(b)* Israel and *(c)* the USA on the subject. [82172]

Dr. Howells: We would welcome any movement toward the three Quartet (EU, UN, US and Russia) principles: renounce violence; recognise Israel; and accept previous agreements, including the Roadmap. We are aware of reports that an agreement has been reached between Hamas and Fatah. We await an official announcement and further details. We will judge Hamas by their actions. We urge all parties to find a way back to negotiations, which are the best way of ensuring a lasting peace.

I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister gave the right hon. and learned Member for North-East Fife (Sir Menzies Campbell) on 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 255.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the Israeli authorities about the detention of elected Palestinian representatives. [82611]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* At the G8 Foreign Ministers meeting in Moscow on 29 June, G8 Foreign Ministers called on Israel to exercise utmost restraint in the current crisis. They also expressed their concerns over the detention of elected members of the Palestinian Government and legislature.

On 30 June the EU raised its concerns

"about the detention of elected members of the Palestinian Government and legislature. Those detained should be accorded their full legal rights".

We have made no representations to the Israeli authorities on their behalf.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information she has received on the *(a)* names of the members of the Palestinian Parliament and Cabinet who have been recently arrested by the Israeli authorities and *(b)* (i) where, (ii) on what charges and (iii) under what legal authority they are being detained. [82618]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* Local media has reported that the names of the arrested members of the Palestinian Government are as follows: Omar Abdel Razeq, Dr. Samir Abu-Aisha, Khaled Abu-Arafeh, Wasfi Kabaha, Issa Al- Ja'bari, Fakhri Turkman, Sheikh Nayef Al-Rjoub, Muhammad Bargouti, Basem Za'raier, Khalil Raba'I, Samir Al-Kadi, Muhammad al-Tal, Muhamad abu-Jheishah, Muhammad Bader, Anwar Zboun, Mahmoud Al-Kahtib, Wael Al-Husseini, Muhammad Abu-Teir, Ahmad Atoun, Husni Bureini, Riyad Amli, Yassir Mansour, Ibrahim Dahbour, Ibrahim Abu-Salem, Khaled Abu-Hassan, Khaled Yahia, Ryiad Raddad, Fathi Kara'wi, Imad Nofal, Naser Abdel-Jawad, Abdel-Jaber Fuqaha, Muhammad Totah and Ali Romanin. The arrests took place in the West Bank.

Individual charges against those detained have not been made public. The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that the arrest of these people

"was taken within the context of a normal legal criminal procedure with the intention of questioning those who were arrested. They are suspected of criminal offences...that constitute a violation of the law according to the Ordinance for the Prevention of Terrorism".

Israel has said that those arrested will be entitled to legal defence and that

"in the event that there is no basis for putting someone among those arrested on trial, that person will be released".

Kosovo

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with the Serbian Government regarding the final status of Kosovo. [82302]

Mr. Hoon: I met the Serbian Prime Minister Vladimir Kostunica in London on 27 June. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also held a meeting with Prime Minister Kostunica. On 21 June I also saw President Boris Tadic in London. During these meetings, we both stressed the need for any final settlement for Kosovo to be a realistic one, acceptable to the people of Kosovo and promoting long-term regional stability.

We encourage Prime Minister Kostunica to ensure that the Serbian Government participate constructively in the status negotiations currently being conducted by UN Special Envoy, Martti Ahtisaari.

Russia

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the main priorities are of the UK in its relations with Russia. [81578]

Mr. Hoon: The Government will continue to sustain a productive and successful partnership with Russia which contributes to the achievement of the international priorities set out in the White Paper "Active Diplomacy for a Changing World" (28 March 2006) and the additional priority of climate security announced on 8 June 2006.

UK Ambassadors

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the names are of those who *(a)* approve and *(b)* select UK ambassadors. [80046]

Mr. Hoon: All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) appointments are made in accordance with the rules in the Diplomatic Service or Home Civil Service Orders in Council.

As with other FCO appointments, applications for Heads of Mission positions are invited and candidates considered by the relevant FCO Selection Board, as follows:

the No 1 Selection Board (for appointments in Senior Management Structure Pay Bands 2-4 and all Governorships of Overseas Territories) is chaired by the Permanent Under-Secretary, and consists of the five Directors General and a non-Executive member of the FCO Board of Management;

the No 2 Selection Board (for appointments in Senior Management Structure Pay Band 1) is chaired by the Director, Human Resources and consists of all FCO Directors in Senior Management Structure Pay Band 2, and the Directors for the Americas and for Russia and Central Asia, as well as an independent observer;

the Delegated Grades Band D Board is chaired by the Human Resources Assistant Director (Operations). Three independent board members sit on each board, drawn from a pool of Senior Management Structure officers who have volunteered for this role, undergone diversity training and been agreed by the Trade Union Side.

Some Heads of Mission appointments will be considered by interview panels, at the discretion of the Boards.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary approves all Head of Mission appointments, and my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister approves all Head of Mission appointments in Pay Bands 2-4 and all Governorships of Overseas Territories, before the names of the individuals are submitted to Her Majesty the Queen for her approval.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the Zimbabwean authorities on freedom of expression by opposition spokespersons in Zimbabwe. [81865]

Mr. McCartney: Our ambassador in Harare, Dr. Pocock, makes repeated representations to the Government of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front leaders to reverse their policies which are causing immense suffering to Zimbabweans and to restore the democratic space, including by permitting freedom of expression for all Zimbabweans as well as civic society and opposition representatives. Dr. Pocock made these representations most recently during a call on Minister Mnangagwa on 17 May.

We will continue to work for the restoration of good governance and the rule of law in Zimbabwe.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate the Government has made of the amount of Zimbabwean beef licensed for export to the EU which comes from confiscated *(a)* land and *(b)* stock. [81944]

Mr. McCartney: The Statistical Office of the European Commission estimate that around 33 tonnes of beef products were imported into the EU from Zimbabwe in 2005. It is not possible to identify whether this came from confiscated land or stock. It is clear, however, that seizures of commercial beef farms have greatly affected production, and further demonstrates the extent of the damage caused by the Zimbabwe Government's misguided policies.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Crown Courts

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when her Department expects to finalise plans to increase Crown court capacity in Buckinghamshire; and what assessment has been made of providing Crown court facilities at *(a)* Aylesbury, *(b)* Milton Keynes and *(c)* both. [82285]

Ms Harman: A strategic business case has been prepared which outlines the need to seek to replace the current Aylesbury Crown court facilities with modern premises that provide additional capacity for the future.

The business case was prepared on the basis of reviewing the current and future requirements for the county of Buckinghamshire including Milton Keynes Unitary Authority.

At this stage it is considered that the facility will be in one location, still to be defined, and will serve the county of Buckinghamshire, including Milton Keynes.

The business case has been submitted to Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) to be reviewed and receive detailed consideration by the National Property Board in the coming months. If the business case is determined as appropriate, it will be subject to prioritisation in the future HMCS building programme, and will then be dependant on Treasury approval of the HMCS capital spending programme.

In the meantime, the current Crown court requirements for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes are being reviewed to ensure that all courtroom capacity in the Thames Valley HMCS area is fully utilised to facilitate the early scheduling of cases. This does, on occasions, require the transfer of cases to other locations until a new facility is built to replace Aylesbury Crown court.

It is not anticipated that any new court building would be available before 2010, should it receive an early approval by the National Property Board for inclusion in current and future building schemes.

Parliamentary Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make it her policy to make copies of Deposited Papers available in *(a)* the Vote Office and *(b)* Printed Paper Office at the same time as copies are deposited in the Library of the House; and if she will make a statement. [81454]

Vera Baird: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 729W by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Accident Victims

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many cases recoupment of benefits for accident victims has taken place in the last three years; how much was recouped *(a)* in total, *(b)* for road accident cases, *(c)* for accidents at work cases, *(d)* for clinical negligence cases and *(e)* in other cases; and if he will make a statement. [75994]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following tables.

Total cases where recoupment from damages awarded to accident victims has been made by the Compensation Recovery Unit in each of the past three years

	Total cases	Road accident victims (motor)	Accidents at work (employer)	Clinical negligence	Other cases
2003-04	69,607	22,492	40,192	1,364	5,559
2004-05	66,369	21,722	37,542	1,426	5,679
2005-06	68,581	20,124	41,486	1,453	5,518

Amounts recovered by the Compensation Recovery Unit by way of recoupment from damages awarded to accident victims in each of the past three years

	Total Amount (£)	Road accident victims (motor)	Accidents at work (employer)	Clinical negligence	Other cases
2003-04	171,096,832	47,548,518	105,222,813	5,678,918	12,646,583
2004-05	163,392,733	46,369,383	98,117,141	6,110,571	12,795,638
2005-06	148,840,619	42,217,163	87,524,579	6,750,203	12,348,674

Notes:
1. The column titled "Other Cases" includes other, public and unknown liabilities.
2. The figures in table (2) are rounded up to the nearest £.

Source:
Figures are taken from the Compensation Recovery Unit's management information statistics.

Departmental IT Systems

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) of14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2167W, on departmental IT systems, if he will list the suppliers and contractors involved in each project; and what proportion of listed outturn for each project was paid to each supplier and contractor involved. [61401]

James Purnell: The following table shows the project name, purpose, actual end date and outturn included in the answer to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) of 14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2167W. We have added supplier/contractor and

proportion of outturn columns and included the name of the principal IT suppliers/contractors for each project and the proportion of the outturn paid to these suppliers/contractors.

Project/purpose	*Actual end date*	*Outturn (£ million)*	*Supplier/contractor*	*Proportion of outturn paid to the supplier/contractor (percentage)*
Customer Management System				
This system is an information gathering business process for working age income support, jobseeker's allowance and incapacity benefit claims and changes of circumstances. It will allow information supplied by the customer to be gathered electronically by staff, improving efficiency and customer service. Staff will be able to check information supplied against that already held	November 2005	250	IBM	41
			EDS	16
ISCS/JSA Modernisation Project				
Delivered initiatives that enhanced or augmented existing Working Age IT systems. These included the sharing of electronic data with disability living allowance, attendance allowance and personal details computer systems	August 2004	14	EDS	66
Digital Office Infrastructure				
DOI provided a modern IT infrastructure platform across the Department providing access for all staff to the internet and intranet and modern business software	June 2004	[1]726	EDS	65
			BT	30
Managing Core Systems Estate				
To improve the ways in which our core legacy systems are managed	February 2005	5	Accenture	45
			EDS	15
Pensions Forecasting Programme				
To establish the new Combined Pension Forecasting Service and enhance and replace the existing individual Pension Forecasting IT system	April 2005	43	EDS	40
Pensions credit				
This project successfully introduced pension credit in October 2003. It delivered new IT functionality to existing DWP systems, and associated business products (eg training, staff guidance, customer notifications)	October 2004	297	EDS	30.6
Payment Modernisation Programme				
The Payment Modernisation Programme aims to establish direct payment into a bank or building society account as the normal, method of payment for all customers. This includes those who wish to collect their money from the Post Office	June 2005	366	EDS	12
			ATOS Origin	47

[1] This resource expenditure relates to 64 per cent. of the total DOI figure. The remaining 36 per cent. of the total relates to capital expenditure—the records that would allow us to provide an accurate picture of how this capital expenditure was split over the suppliers has been archived. The costs associated with the retrieval of these documents, and the accompanying staff time costs required to go through the records to identify these by supplier/contractor, would be excessive and time consuming.

Notes:

1. Outturn figures show the final investment cost for the completed projects.
2. The New Tax Credits project has not been included above as the project is still ongoing. It was inadvertently shown as completed in my response to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) of 14 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 2167W.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many surviving spouses of members of pension schemes *(a)* have completed and *(b)* are in the process of completing the financial assistance scheme eligibility process. [72744]

James Purnell: The financial assistance scheme eligibility process is completed once a decision has been made as to whether or not a member is eligible for payments from the financial assistance scheme.

The process has *(a)* been completed for nine surviving spouses of members and *(b)* 10 are still being processed.

Housing Benefit

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent on

housing benefit in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [79533]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the table.

Local authority Housing Benefit expenditure; Great Britain.

£

1996-97	6,461,567,421
1997-98	6,382,935,803
1998-99	6,454,971,767
1999-2000	6,609,544,876
2000-01	6,800,139,226
2001-02	7,252,541,165
2002-03	8,279,956,608
2003-04	8,212,197,616
2004-05	13,146,385,061

Note:
1. From 2004-05, the DWP expenditure includes £4,157,388, 700 HRA rent rebates; HRA for previous years was paid by DCLG.
2. Figures are reported expenditure by local authorities and not DWP subsidy expenditure. 3. Figures are nominal amounts.
Source:
Local authority reported expenditure.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of housing benefit *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* fraud was to Luton Council in each of the last five years. [80369]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the table.

Overpayments and recoveries by Luton Council, 2004-05

£

Value of overpayments identified by Luton Council	*Subsidy paid by DWP to Luton council (40 per cent. of overpayments identified)*	*Net cost to Luton council before recovery*	*Recovered by Luton council*	*Net cost after recovery*
986,776	394,710	592,066	1,007,423	-415,357

Notes:
1. A negative amount implies a surplus.
2. The cost of overpayments is calculated first from the difference between the value of overpayments identified due to fraud and claimant error, and the subsidy received by Luton council for these overpayments. This value minus any overpayments subsequently recovered from claimants or landlords is presented here as the net cost after recovery. Administrative costs, such as those for fraud teams and for recovering overpayments, have not been included in this answer.
3. The amount recovered by Luton council in 2004-05 includes overpayments identified in earlier years.

Information is not available on local authority performance in respect of the level of Housing Benefit fraud present in their caseload, since it is not possible to robustly estimate the amount of undetected fraud and error at a local authority level.

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on housing benefit for tenants in *(a)* council property, *(b)* housing association property, *(c)* registered social landlord property and *(d)* private sector housing in Tamworth constituency in each of the last three years. [80135]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available broken down by constituency. Information cannot be broken down by landlord type other than by council or private tenancies. The latter includes housing associations and registered social landlords. The available DWP information for Tamworth borough council is in the table.

Housing benefit expenditure in Tamworth borough council.

£

	Expenditure in council property	*Expenditure in all private property*	*All housing benefit expenditure*
2002-03	237,000	3,824,000	4,061,000
2003-04	138,000	3,866,000	4,004,000
2004-05	7,318,000	4,027,000	11,345,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. There are issues still to be resolved in the 2004-05 claim and therefore the figures for this year are subject to change
3. From 2004-05, the DWP expenditure includes £7,086,780 HRA Rent Rebates; HRA for previous years was paid by DCLG.
4. Figures are reported expenditure by local authorities and not DWP subsidy expenditure.
5. Figures are nominal amounts.
Source:
Audited subsidy claims submitted by local authority

Kvaerner Pension Fund

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received regarding the decision of the pensions regulator on the future contributions of TH Global to the Kvaerner Pension Fund. [73211]

James Purnell: My Department has received seven written representations from Members of Parliament about the decision of the regulator in respect of the Kvaerner Pension Fund since the two press releases in April and May on the future of the scheme.

Pension Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of female pensioners were *(a)* eligible to claim and *(b)* receiving pension credit in (i) the UK, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv)

England in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [69554]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested. Information on female beneficiaries of pension credit in Great Britain is in the following table. In Northern Ireland, pension credit administration is a matter for the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Female beneficiaries of pension credit in Great Britain February 2006

	Female beneficiaries	*Female beneficiaries as a percentage of women 60 or over*[1]
Wales	130,080	34
Scotland	222,610	36
England	1,817,280	31
Great Britain	2,169,960	32

[1] Beneficiaries includes single women in receipt of pension credit, and women in couples who are in receipt of pension credit.

Notes:

1. These figures are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figures provided are the latest available figures which are taken from the GMS scan at 17 February 2006. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure. Average amounts are displayed as at the scan reference data of 17 February 2006.
2. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Percentages are rounded to the nearest full point.
4. Figures may include female partners who are aged under 60.
5. Population figures used in the percentage calculation are based on ONS mid-term 2004 population estimates.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS). Pension credit scan taken as at 17 February 2006.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of pensioners who will be entitled to receive pension credit in (i) 2010, (ii) 2020, (iii) 2030, (iv) 2040 and (v) 2050, assuming pension credit remains linked to earnings growth; and if he will make a statement. [70286]

James Purnell: The numbers eligible for pension credit in the future are subject to a range of uncertainties and a number of factors including policies on uprating different benefits. Table 1 shows the projected number and proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit under the proposals contained in the White Paper "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system."

Table 1: Projected number and proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit for selected years under the White Paper proposals

	Number of pensioner households eligible (million)	*Percentage of pensioner households eligible*
2010	4.15	44
2020	3.45	41
2030	2.95	31
2040	2.80	27
2050	2.95	29

Notes:

1. Projections of the number and proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit are sensitive to modelling assumptions and to projected changes in the distribution of pensioner incomes.
2. The estimates of proportions shown here are the mid-points of projections taken from two separate micro-simulation models. Modelling of the reform proposals does not include any increase in private saving from the introduction of personal accounts, which would further reduce the numbers eligible for pension credit.
3. Projections of the number of pensioner households eligible for pension credit are derived from the projected proportions eligible and projections of the number of pensioner households in Great Britain.
4. These projections assume: continued earnings uprating of the standard guarantee credit; earnings uprating of the savings credit threshold from 2008 to 2014; earnings uprating of the basic state pension from 2012; price uprating of the maximum savings credit from 2015; measures to improve coverage of the basic state pension described in the White Paper.
5. Estimates cover all those aged above women's state pension age in the private household population of Great Britain.
6. Estimates account for equalisation of state pension age between 2010 and 2020. They also account for the proposed further increases in state pension age described in the White Paper. The estimates assume that the minimum age at which people can claim pension credit rises in line with women's state pension age.
7. Estimates are calibrated to the mid-points of the 2004-5 National Statistics range estimates of non-eligibility to pension credit, which adjust 2004-05 Family Resources Survey data to take account of possible biases in reporting. Although the estimates here are not presented as ranges, they are subject to a margin of uncertainty.
8. Estimates of the number of pensioner households eligible are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the proportion of pensioner benefit units entitled to pension credit in each year between 2002-03 and 2020-21; and if he will make a statement. [70296]

James Purnell: The numbers eligible for pension credit in the future are subject to a range of uncertainties and a number of factors including policies on uprating different benefits. Table 1 shows the estimated proportion of all pensioner households eligible for pension credit from 2003-04—the first year in which pension credit was available—to 2007-08. Table 2 shows projections from 2008-09 to 2020-21 under the proposals contained in the White Paper "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system."

Table 1: Estimated proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit under the current system

	Percentage
2003-04	48
2004-05	46
2005-06	45
2006-07	45
2007-08	46

Table 2: Projected proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit for selected years under the White Paper proposals

	Percentage
2008-09	45
2009-10	45
2010-11	44
2011-12	45
2012-13	45
2013-14	44

Table 2: Projected proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit for selected years under the White Paper proposals

	Percentage
2014-15	44
2015-16	44
2016-17	43
2017/18	42
2018-19	41
2019-20	41
2020-21	41

Notes:
1. Projections of the proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit are sensitive to modelling assumptions and to projected changes in the distribution of pensioner incomes.
2. The estimates of proportions shown here are the mid-points of projections taken from two separate micro-simulation models. Modelling of the reform proposals does not include any increase in private saving from the introduction of personal accounts, which would further reduce the numbers eligible for pension credit.
3. The reform projections assume: continued earnings uprating of the standard guarantee credit; earnings uprating of the savings credit threshold from 2008 to 2014; earnings uprating of the basic state pension from 2012; price uprating of the maximum savings credit from 2015; measures to improve coverage of the basic state pension described in the White Paper.
4. Estimates cover all those aged above women's state pension age in the private household population of Great Britain.
5. Estimates account for equalisation of state pension age between 2010 and 2020. They also account for the proposed further increases in state pension age described in the White Paper. The estimates assume that the minimum age at which people can claim pension credit rises in line with women's state pension age.
6. Estimates are calibrated to the mid-points of the 2004/5 National Statistics range estimates of non-eligibility to Pension Credit, which adjust 2004/5 Family Resources Survey data to take account of possible biases in reporting. Although the estimates here are not presented as ranges, they are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many plastic folder-style pension credit wallets have been printed by the Pension Service. [80874]

James Purnell: The pension credit "plastic folder style" wallets were designed to allow customers to store their pension credit correspondence. Production of these wallets ceased in February 2003; approximately 1,350,000 were produced.

Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the effect on retirement income for pensioners who are members of defined contribution schemes in *(a)* 2020, *(b)* 2030, *(c)* 2040 and *(d)* 2050 of a reduction equivalent to the value of the contracted-out rebate in contributions. [77998]

James Purnell: The amount of pension derived from the contracted-out rebate for defined contribution schemes depends on investment returns and annuity rates at the point of retirement and it is not possible to predict the amount of that pension.

Where people contract out under such schemes, they forego all or part of their State Second Pension and, in return, part of their National Insurance Contributions is rebated and invested to build up a funded pension. The value of these rebates, subject to an age cap, is actuarially neutral in relation to the State benefit foregone. If a person ceases to be contracted-out, they will start to build up rights to State Second Pension. Given the actuarial neutrality of the rebate, they should generally be no better or worse off in retirement as a result of not receiving the contracted-out rebate.

Security in Retirement

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the proposals in "Security in retirement" whether earnings-related accruals in the state second pension (SSP) scheme up to 2030 will be paid to those receiving SSP for the first time after 2030; and how the earnings-related accruals to SSP will taper away after the restoration of the earnings link to the basic pension. [75246]

James Purnell: Earnings-related accruals of state second pension would be tapered away by around 2030 by freezing the national insurance upper earnings limit, for the purpose of state second pension accruals, in cash terms from the point at which earnings uprating of the basic state pension as proposed in the White Paper is introduced. Earnings-related accruals built up under the state earnings-related pension scheme and/or the state second pension prior to 2030 would be fully protected and would continue to be revalued in line with earnings from that date. The combination of our proposals to 'flat-rate' accruals of the state second pension and earnings uprate the basic state pension would ensure that the state pension outcomes for people reaching state pension age after 2030 would not be reduced. The following table shows examples of the state pension outcomes for individuals under the proposed reforms.

	£	£	£
	Low earner (c £12,000 a year)	*Median earner (c £23,000 a year)*	*High earner (c £33,000 a year)*
Under Reform (2053)			
Basic State Pension	73	73	73
State Second Pension	61	66	67
Total State Entitlement	134	139	140
Without Reform (2050)			
Basic State Pension	33	33	33
State Second Pension	56	67	69
Total State Entitlement	89	100	102

Notes:
1. Figures have been expressed in 2005-06 earnings terms and reflect the value of pension entitlement in 2050 or 2053 relative to expected changes in the level of average earnings over time.
2. We have assumed that standard rate class 1 national insurance contributions have been paid or treated as paid over a working/caring life of around 40 years, from age 25 to state pension age.

Senior Citizens Forums

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Department provides funding for senior citizens forums. [73399]

James Purnell: The Department does not directly fund senior citizens forums.

Senior citizens forums are responsible for securing their own funding and are financed mainly through membership fees, grants (usually from local government or organisations such as Age Concern) and lottery funding.

However, we do indirectly provide support to the development of senior citizens forums through our partnership in, and financing of, Better Government for Older People (BGOP).

We have no plans to offer a government grant to Shrewsbury senior citizens forum.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will meet the leaders of Shrewsbury Senior Citizens Forum to discuss their priorities for senior citizens. [74334]

James Purnell: I will be happy to consider a meeting if the hon. Gentleman will write detailing the areas of DWP policy the forum members wish to discuss.

NORTHERN IRELAND

AIDS

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were receiving treatment for AIDS in the Province in each of the last three years, broken down by health board area. [82103]

Paul Goggins: The number of diagnosed HIV infected-individuals resident in Northern Ireland, whose most advanced clinical stage ever was AIDS (including those who died of AIDS) seen for care in the survey year, broken down by health board area, is detailed in the following table.

	Calendar year		
Board	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Eastern Health and Social Services Board	33	34	29
Northern Health and Social Services Board	10	11	12
Southern Health and Social Services Board	4	3	3
Western Health and Social Services Board	7	4	4
NI Total	54	52	48

Note:
Individuals are aged 15 years of age and over.
Source:
Survey of Prevalent HIV Infection Diagnosed conducted by Centre for Infections, Health Protection Agency, London.

Assembly

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects the next plenary session of the Assembly to take place in Northern Ireland. [82628]

Mr. Hain: The next plenary session of the Assembly will take place at 10.30 am on Friday 7 July.

Bullying

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has any strategies specifically tailored to combat bullying of children with special needs; and if he will make a statement. [79786]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education makes clear that all forms of bullying are unacceptable and actively promotes the development of anti-bullying initiatives through its Anti-Bullying Programme.

Information about the scale and nature of bullying in Northern Ireland schools is contained in a research report published in October 2002. A research briefing summary is available on the Department's website at www.deni.gov.uk/rb8_2002.pdf.

The Department has recently commissioned updated research into bullying, in all its forms, and the results are expected to be ready for publication by mid 2007.

Children and Young People's Funding

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria were used to ensure that funding from the Children and Young People's funding package would reduce under-achievement and improve life chances of children and young people by enhancing their educational development and fostering their health, well-being and social inclusion. [81785]

Maria Eagle: The criteria for the inclusion of activities under the Children and Young People Funding Package are as follows:

Provision of high-quality structured learning and related activities, support and services, offered from 8 am to 6 pm in schools, youth settings, pre-school centres, child care settings, Sure Start and Children's Centres;

Development of innovative approaches to delivery that build capacity and ensure that children and young people who are disadvantaged or marginalised, including those in rural areas, can benefit fully from early years education and after-school activities, supported by appropriate health related services;

Strengthening child protection arrangements and fostering inter-agency co-operation and collaboration;

Improving education provision and support for Looked after Children and vulnerable young people;

Developing and implementing an integrated framework for service delivery, that delivers high-quality, cost-effective and flexible provision that meets the needs of children and young people and their families.

Putting in place, from the outset, monitoring and inspection arrangements to assure Departments that the provision is making a positive difference to children and their families.

To ensure maximum impact from the available funding, the programme is being taken forward on a phased basis, targeted initially on children and young people who are disadvantaged, marginalised or have the most limited access to current services.

Departmental Contracts

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what contracts above the European Union threshold have been awarded by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies since 2000. [80967]

Mr. Hanson: Contracts awarded above the European Union threshold since 2001 by Northern Ireland Departments, their agencies and non-departmental public bodies will be placed in the Library.

Details relating to the year 2000 cannot be provided, as this information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Dietary Supplements (Schools)

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether education and library boards in Northern Ireland are using omega 3 and fish oil supplements in school meals; and whether boards have plans to use such supplements. [81835]

Maria Eagle: The education and library boards regularly provide certain foods in school meals that contain naturally occurring omega 3 and fish oils, and therefore do not currently provide these as supplements.

The Department of Education is currently considering responses to its consultation on new nutritional standards for school meals and other food in schools. One of the new food-based standards will ensure that oily fish is available at least once every three weeks.

International Monitoring Commission

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will publish an audit of the implementation of recommendations from the International Monitoring Commission to Government and Government bodies. [80968]

Paul Goggins: Decisions by the Government in relation to implementation of recommendations of the Independent Monitoring Commission are a matter of public record. There is no intention to publish a comprehensive audit at this stage.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of his Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80488]

Mr. Hain: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Knockavoe School and Resource Centre

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the new Speech and Language Unit and Behavioural Unit at Knockavoe School and Resource Centre in Strabane was completed; what the total capital expenditure on the unit was; when this unit will be commissioned to operate; what the reason was for the delay in the commissioning of the unit; for what reason the unit did not have sufficient recurrent expenditure to open upon completion; and if he will make a statement. [81815]

Maria Eagle: The new Knockavoe School and Resource Centre, Strabane, including Speech and Language Unit and Behavioural Units, was completed in June 2005 at a total capital cost of £3.68 million.

The school is to accommodate pupils with both severe learning difficulties (SLD) and with moderate learning difficulties (MLD). In planning for the establishment of the Speech and Language and Behavioural Units, the Western Education and Library Board always envisaged that it would be a phased three-year project in order to allow time to establish what staffing complement would be required for the pupils and to establish the extent of provision required within the two units.

Additional recurrent funding of £170,000 was allocated to Knockavoe School in 2005-06 to develop staff resources and equipment, with a further £174,000 provided in 2006-07 for additional staffing costs. The final phase is planned for 2007-08 with the opening of the Speech and Language and Emotional/Behavioural Disorder Units. Funding of £490,000 has been earmarked for 2007-08 to facilitate this and includes for teaching and classroom assistant staff and equipping of both units.

Lindsay School

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the future of the Lindsay School at the Forster Green Hospital in Belfast. [81812]

Maria Eagle: The South Eastern Education and Library Board has commented that the board's education committee at a meeting on 13 June 2006, agreed to commence consultation on the possible closure of the Lindsay School. Such a closure will not take place until an alternative appropriate model of educational provision is in place.

Any proposal to close the school will require the board to publish a development proposal, which initiates a two-month public consultation period during which comments, including objections, may be submitted to the Department of Education. The Department will give full consideration to all representations made during this two-month period, before making a decision on any such proposal.

Local Government

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Public Record Office of

Northern Ireland has been tasked with developing a generic policy for the retention of local government documentation. [81784]

Maria Eagle: Records of all public authorities, including local government, in Northern Ireland are subject to the provisions of public records legislation. It is the responsibility of public authorities to draw up retention/disposal policies to ensure that records of historical or other research importance are identified and, ultimately, transferred to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) for permanent preservation. Under the Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Management of Records by Public Authorities, issued under Section 46 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, it is the responsibility of local government authorities to develop policies for the creation, keeping, management and destruction of their records. This can include the development of a generic policy for the retention of local government documentation. PRONI would advise local government in the development of the policies and quality assure them.

Lung Cancer

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many lung cancer specialists are working in Northern Ireland; and what steps are being taken to increase the number of specialists. [80955]

Paul Goggins: Information on the number of lung cancer specialists is set out as follows:

Lung cancer specialists working within the NI HPSS by board area as at June 2006

	Medical staff		*Nursing staff*		*Other staff*		*Total*	
	Headcount	*WTE*	*Headcount*	*WTE*	*Headcount*	*WTE*	*Headcount*	*WTE*
Northern board	2	2.00	1	1.00	0	0.00	3	3.00
Eastern board	28	21.50	4	3.30	5	3.60	37	28.40
Southern board	5	2.70	1	1.00	1	0.50	7	4.20
Western board	9	8.00	2	1.50	3	3.00	14	12.50
Total	44	34.20	8	6.80	9	7.10	61	48.10

Notes:
1. This information was obtained directly from the NI HPSS trusts.
2. WTE = whole-time equivalent.
3. Medical staff include consultant physicians, thoracic surgeons, cardiothoracic surgeons, radiologists and oncologists, and specialist registrars.
4. Nursing staff include grade F, G and H clinical specialists.
5. Other staff include physiotherapists, speech therapists, occupational therapist and other palliative care staff.
6. Altnagelvin reported that the lung cancer specialists do not work exclusively in lung cancer but are all active members of the lung cancer multidisciplinary team.
7. Belfast City Hospital stated that all respiratory physicians within Belfast City Hospital Trust investigate lung cancer, and that lung cancer is just one of the specialties within the consultant oncologists' job, therefore it is difficult to provide the exact time spent working on lung cancer.
8. Newry and Mourne HSS Trust stated that they have one respiratory physician who spends 5 per cent. of his time on early diagnosis of patients with lung cancer, before referring them to cancer specialists in Craigavon Area Hospital or Belfast.
9. Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust stated that the medical staff detailed in their reply deal with the surgical element of the lung cancer specialism only.
10. United Hospitals Group HSS Trust stated that the two physicians employed there treat lung cancer patients as part of their work, but are not solely employed as lung cancer specialists. They were unable to determine how much of their time was spent specifically on lung cancer patients.
11. Western board area figures exclude Sperrin Lakeland Trust who were unable to provide an answer to this PQ within the specified time.

Source:
NI HPSS Trusts

While local staffing arrangements are the responsibility of relevant trusts the Department has a role in ensuring that sufficient suitably qualified staff are available to meet the needs of the health and personal social services and provide modern cancer services. For example, in medicine, numbers in training in the relevant specialty areas will accommodate an increase in specialist numbers in future years.

MRI Scans

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are being taken to reduce waiting times for MRI scans at the Royal Victoria Hospital. [81617]

Paul Goggins: A range of service improvements have been implemented by the Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust to reduce waiting times for MRI scans at the Royal Victoria Hospital. The current MRI scanner is operated for 49 hours each week; nine of these are evening sessions funded by the Eastern Health and Social Services Board as part of a waiting list initiative. Since April 2006 an additional eight hours have been resourced to facilitate access to emergency scanning at weekends.

A computerised information system has been introduced to optimise management of the waiting list. This includes patient validation, data cleansing and regular monitoring. A partial booking system has also been implemented with an associated reduction in 'Did Not Attend' rates to 1 per cent.

A second MRI scanner has been procured for the new Imaging Centre at the Royal and is likely to become operational in spring 2007. This will have the potential to double current activity.

Northern Ireland Police Fund

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of staff at the Northern Ireland Police Fund are employed by his Department. [80979]

Paul Goggins: Three members of staff at the Northern Ireland Police Fund are employed by the NIO.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the names are of each *(a)* director and *(b)* former director of the Northern Ireland Police Fund. [80983]

Paul Goggins: I have been advised by the Northern Ireland Police Fund that the names of *(a)* the current directors of the Northern Ireland Police Fund are Mr. D. McClurg, Mrs. C. Carlisle, Mr. I. Clarke, Dr. J. Galway, Mr. C. Jenkins, Mr. R. Miller, ACC McCausland, Ms G. Rice, Mr. T. Spence and *(b)* the former directors of the Northern Ireland Police Fund are Ms A. Paisley, Mrs. F. Reid, Lord Rogan, Mr. R. Wilson and Sir John Semple.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what meetings have been held at which the alleged 2003 security breach in the Northern Ireland Police Fund was discussed. [80984]

Paul Goggins: One meeting has been held at which the alleged security breach in the Northern Ireland Police Fund was discussed.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether Mr. Colin Ashe is an employee of the Northern Ireland Office. [80987]

Paul Goggins: Mr. Colin Ashe is an employee of the Northern Ireland Office.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* serving and *(b)* former members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland have been forced to move house as a result of the 2003 alleged security breach at the Northern Ireland Police Fund. [80988]

Paul Goggins: I have been advised by PSNI that no serving or former officers of the PSNI have been forced to move house as a result of the 2003 alleged security breach at the Northern Ireland Police Fund.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to whom the directors of the Northern Ireland Police Fund report; by whom they were appointed; what the appointment process was; how often the directors meet; and how many have resigned since July 2003. [80992]

Paul Goggins: The directors of the Northern Ireland Police Fund are accountable to the Secretary of State. To facilitate the setting-up of the Fund, the Secretary of State put in place the first Board of Directors; subsequent appointments of directors, the associated processes and the frequency of meetings have all been matters for the Fund. A total of five directors have resigned since July 2003.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland from what budget the Northern Ireland Police Fund is funded. [81007]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Police Fund is funded by the Northern Ireland Office.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the appointment of *(a)* Mr. Desmond Clayton and *(b)* Mr. Thomas Hale to the Northern Ireland Police Fund was conducted under the auspices of the Northern Ireland Office. [81008]

Paul Goggins: The appointment of staff to the Northern Ireland Police Fund is a matter for the Fund.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what date Mr. Colin Ashe was appointed as acting Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Police Fund. [81009]

Paul Goggins: Mr. Colin Ashe was appointed as acting Chief Executive on 5 July 2004.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* serving and *(b)* former members of the Police Service of Northern Ireland have written to ask about their personal details being handed over to the Provisional IRA following the 2003 alleged security breach at the Northern Ireland Police Fund. [81010]

Paul Goggins: Representations have been made to Ministers on behalf of three members of the PSNI to inquire if their personal details have been compromised following the alleged security breach at the Northern Ireland Police Fund. It has not been possible to ascertain if they were serving or former members.

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been paid out in grants by the Northern Ireland Police Fund in each year since its foundation. [82380]

Paul Goggins: I have been advised by the Northern Ireland Police Fund that the following amount has been paid out in grants.

	Grants amount (£000)
2002-03	1,546
2003-04	1,162
2004-05	899
2005-06	1,618

This excludes the additional payments allocated by NIO to the pre-1982 widows.

Spend in the current year on grants up to 30 June is £326,000.

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding has been allocated to the Northern Ireland Police Fund in each year since its foundation. [82381]

Paul Goggins: The budget allocation for the Northern Ireland Police Fund was as follows:

	Budget allocation (£000)
2002-03	2,300
2003-04	1,500
2004-05	1,800
2005-06	[1]2,080
2006-07	1,800

[1] The budget allocation for 2005-06 included a carryover of £250,000 from the previous year

Nurses and Midwives

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many redundancies of *(a)* nurses and *(b)* midwives there have been in each health board area in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [80942]

Paul Goggins: In the last five years no nurses or midwives have been made redundant in the HPSS.

Olympics

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which officials in his Department *(a)* are responsible for Olympics-related activity and *(b)* sit on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group for the Olympics. [81570]

Maria Eagle: Paul Sweeney, permanent secretary in the Department for Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) has responsibility for Olympics-related activity and Edgar Jardine, DCAL deputy secretary, sits on the Olympics Inter-Departmental Steering Group (IDG) for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

Pensions

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what advice he has received on future public expenditure implications arising from possible shortfalls in public service pension funds. [79972]

Mr. Hanson: The main public sector pension schemes are unfunded or 'pay as you go'. This is the case for the principal civil service pension scheme (Northern Ireland); the health service superannuation scheme; the fire service superannuation scheme; the police pension scheme and the teachers' superannuation scheme.

The local government officers' pension scheme (NI) is a fully funded scheme and any deficit would be met by an increase in contributions from scheme employers.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent assessments have been made of the ability of Northern Ireland's public service pension funds to meet their liabilities. [79973]

Mr. Hanson: All public sector pension schemes are subject to regular actuarial valuation.

The main purposes of the actuarial valuation are:

to assess the value of the liabilities accrued under the scheme up to the valuation date;

to compare the value of the liabilities with the value of the assets deemed to be applicable for assessing funding levels, and

to make a recommendation on the contributions to be paid to scheme participants.

The resource accounts for the schemes are produced in accordance with Treasury guidelines on resource accounting, and contain a report on the scheme liabilities, with the exception of NILGOS, whose accounts are incorporated into their annual report. Copies of the accounts are published and placed in the Library. Library References are included in the following table.

The table shows the date at which the last full actuarial valuation for each of the Northern Ireland public sector pension schemes was carried out and the date at which the next valuation is due.

Pension scheme	*Date at which last actuarial valuation was carried out*	*Date at which next actuarial valuation is due*	*House of Commons Library Reference for Accounts/Annual Report*
Principal civil service pension scheme (Northern Ireland)	31 March 2003	31 March 2007	HC504
Northern Ireland teachers' superannuation scheme	31 March 2004	31 March 2008	HC499
NI local government officers' superannuation scheme	31 March 2004	31 March 2007	HC583
Police superannuation scheme	31 March 2006	31 March 2007	HC676
Health service superannuation Scheme	31 March 1999	Currently under way	HC492
Fire service superannuation scheme	31 March 2004	31 March 2007	HC600

Police Officers

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on the advertising campaign for part-time police officers in *(a)* Moyle, *(b)* Ballymoney, *(c)* Foyle, *(d)* Newry and Mourn and *(e)* South Belfast. [81857]

Paul Goggins: I have been advised by PSNI that the total amount spent on the advertising campaign for the

current police officer part-time recruitment campaign is £104,000. This spend cannot be broken down by region/district.

Positive Parenting

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Department for Education spent on the promotion of positive parenting in the last period for which figures are available; and what this figure represents per child in Northern Ireland. [82017]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education's earmarked budget for parenting initiatives is currently £250,000 per annum and is allocated entirely to the education and library boards. It is primarily a matter for each board to determine how these earmarked resources should be used and they are also free to supplement this funding by allocating further resources from within their overall block grant.

Funding has recently been made available to 471 schools from the Children and Young People Funding Package for the Extended Schools Programme. This will enable schools to develop initiatives some of which may involve parents. In addition, a further £10 million has recently been issued directly to all schools and it is open to schools to determine whether some of this additional funding should be used to support parenting initiatives.

Based specifically on the earmarked funding allocated by the Department to the boards for parenting initiatives the figure represents £0.78 per pupil attending grant-aided schools in Northern Ireland. However, this figure is clearly not a true reflection of the actual resources spent on promoting positive parenting within the education sector.

Public Pensions (Transferability)

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures the Department has put in place to assist pension transferability of public pensions for personnel working in Northern Ireland departments and agencies. [79769]

Mr. Hanson: The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) [PCSPS(NI)] provides pensions for all personnel working in Northern Ireland departments and agencies. The PCSPS(NI), in parity with GB public service schemes, pays cash-equivalent transfer values to other pension schemes in compliance with pension law. Members of public service schemes can transfer accrued pension rights by way of the Public Sector Transfer Club. The Club is a network of public and private sector occupational pension schemes which makes it easier for employees who move between employers covered by separate participating schemes to transfer their accrued pension rights. There is also a requirement under the Fair Deal for Staff Pensions to transfer pension rights when employments are transferred to the public sector under Public Private Partnerships/Public Finance Initiatives or under Machinery of Government movements and subsequent transfers for former public servants.

Racial Equality

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what resources have been put in place by each Northern Ireland Department to implement the Racial Equality Action Plan. [82379]

Mr. Hanson: Northern Ireland Departments, the Northern Ireland Office and the Police Service for Northern Ireland will spend at least £7.5 million per annum (£6 million in programme expenditure) in support of the key aims of the Racial Equality Strategy for Northern Ireland.

Some of the key actions from the Racial Equality Strategy Implementation Action Plan include: £3.2 million towards supporting English as an additional language; almost £1.1 million across all Departments to support Irish Travellers; and £0.7 million per annum to encourage capacity building within minority ethnic communities and to assist integration.

This remaining costs figure includes where Departments have allocated staff resource to implementing the strategy. The staff estimate includes those staff processing migrant worker national insurance applications and where each Department has appointed a "Racial Equality Champion" from within their senior managers to direct the implementation of the strategy within their respective Departments including actions contained in the Racial Equality Implementation Action Plan.

Recycling

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what controls are in place to ensure that waste intended for recycling is not deposited in landfill sites. [80944]

David Cairns: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave the hon. Member for North Down (Lady Hermon) on 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 367W.

Ritalin

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many young children and young adults in the Province are on Ritalin; and what alternative treatments are being offered. [82102]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety does not hold age specific data on the prescribing of Ritalin. A young person should have a full assessment and ideally, prior to prescription of medication, should have tried some behavioural management techniques, parental support and advice and possibly dietary advice. This would be provided through community paediatrics or child psychiatry.

School Trips

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many post-primary school

children from the *(a)* Catholic and *(b)* Protestant communities have participated in trips to America funded by the (i) Government and (ii) EU in the last five years, broken down by education and library board area; and if he will make a statement. [80116]

Maria Eagle: No post-primary school children have participated in trips to America funded by the EU. The following have had a small Government contribution, about £60 per child, through the Youth Service Community Relations Support Scheme for cross-community trips.

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
BELB					
Catholic	177	172	126	124	115
Protestant	183	164	125	119	114
WELB					
Catholic	112	103	98	88	90
Protestant	113	103	98	88	90
NEELB					
Catholic	0	0	6	6	0
Protestant	0	0	6	6	0
SEELB					
Catholic	0	0	0	9	0
Protestant	0	0	0	8	0
SELB					
Catholic	41	57	32	34	44
Protestant	39	55	32	34	29

Senior Citizens

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps are being taken to offer senior citizens in Northern Ireland more security in their homes. [53075]

Mr. Hanson: Statistically older people in Northern Ireland are still the least likely group of citizens to become a victim of crime. However over the past couple of years there has been a disproportional increase in domestic burglaries committed against those aged 65 years and over as a proportion of the population. It is also recognised that the fear of crime among older people is significant.

The Community Safety Unit of the Northern Ireland Office has developed and funds the Lock Out Crime Scheme (LOCs) which supplies and installs free of charge additional home security in the form of door and window locks, door chains and viewers, and external front and rear door lighting to the homes of all those aged 65 and over who are in receipt of housing benefit or a rate rebate.

Since the launch in May 2004 up until 3 June 2006, 52,688 letters have been issued and 16,087 individuals have so far returned forms and have been admitted to the scheme. Since that date a further 4,361 letters of offer have been issued for which registration is on-going.

In addition on 27 March 2006 I launched a mobile pilot handy van service in the Greater Belfast area. This service, which is being managed by Help the Aged, fits free additional home security measures for those older people who do not qualify for the LOC Scheme. There is also the Unknown Callers TV Advertising campaign aimed at providing information to older people about answering the door to bogus callers. This advert was screened for a total of six weeks during 2005.

The police offer free advice about home security and personal attack alarms to older people and several of the Community Safety Partnerships (there is a partnership in each district council area) have included the safety of older people as a priority issue in their action plans for tackling crime. These plans have now been agreed with the Community Safety Unit and the Partnerships are currently in the process of setting up their projects.

Finally, the police have established a special team to co-ordinate the investigations of attacks upon older people across the Downpatrick, Newry and Mourne, Craigavon, Banbridge, Armagh, Dungannon and South Tyrone, Fermanagh, Cookstown, Omagh, Strabane and Magherafelt districts. I understand that this initiative has identified a number of persons who have been charged and are remanded in custody awaiting trail in relation to burglary offences against older people.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 701-02W, on teenage births, how many under 16 year olds from Northern Ireland had a pregnancy terminated in each of the last five years. [81864]

Paul Goggins: The Abortion Act 1967 does not extend to Northern Ireland. Consequently the termination of a pregnancy is not permitted except where necessary to save the life of the mother or where continuation of the pregnancy would involve risk of serious injury to her physical or mental health.

While the information required is available, the numbers involved are very small and individual patients could potentially be identified. It is felt inappropriate therefore, to disclose information on the number of terminations performed on those aged 16 years or younger.

Under-age Drinking

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Police Service of Northern Ireland is taking to combat the delivery of alcohol by taxi firms to under-age drinkers; and if he will make a statement. [80118]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland has advised me that there have been a number of specific incidents in several District Command Units. Police in these DCUs have been in contact with local taxi firms/associations advising them of the implications should taxi drivers be found delivering alcohol.

Victims' March (Dublin)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the Answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 508W, on Victims' March (Dublin), whether he has had discussions with Republic of Ireland authorities on the attacks upon citizens of Northern Ireland while in Dublin. [69237]

Mr. Hain: I raised this issue with Irish Ministers at the time. The Taoiseach stated in the Dáil on 22 March that the rioting in Dublin on the day of the Love Ulster parade was in no way representative of the views of the vast majority of the people there. He further added that he did not believe that it would have any lasting impact on the peace process or on relations generally and that the rioting was organised by a small group of agitators and had been rightly condemned on all sides.

Violent Crime

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are being taken to tackle violent crime against the elderly in Northern Ireland. [48279]

Mr. Hanson: Older people in Northern Ireland are still the least likely group of citizens to become a victim of crime. However the recorded crime statistics for 2004-05 and 2005-06 to date would indicate that those persons aged 65 years and over are disproportionably affected by domestic burglary as a proportion of the population. It is also recognised that the fear of crime among older people is significant. To address these issues the Community Safety Unit of the Northern Ireland Office is currently leading on the development of a strategy for the safety of older people. It is planned to publish the draft strategy document for consultation in the autumn of 2006.

On a practical level the Unit has developed and funds a number of ongoing initiatives to tackle the problems of crime and the fear of crime amongst older people. These include the Unknown Callers TV advertising campaign which provides information to older people about answering the door to bogus callers and the Lock Out Crime Scheme that supplies and installs free of charge additional home security, in the form of door and window locks, door chains and viewers and external lighting to the homes of all those aged 65 and over who are in receipt of housing benefit or rate rebate. A mobile pilot Handy Van service was also launched on 27 March 2006 in the Greater Belfast area to fit free home security devices for the elderly who do not qualify for the LOC Scheme.

The police, in addition to offering free advice about personal security and personal attack alarms, have introduced Operation Bullent in the Downpatrick, Newry and Mourne, Craigavon, Banbridge, Armagh, Dungannon and South Tyrone, Fermanagh, Cookstown, Omagh, Strabane and Magherafelt districts. This project deals with the problem of travelling criminals who commit burglary offences, including those that involve violence, predominantly against persons over 65 years in these districts by co-ordinating their intelligence, investigations of crimes and delivery of preventative measures. I understand that this initiative has identified a number of persons who have been charged and are remanded in custody awaiting trial in relation to burglary offences against older people.

At community level, several of the Community Safety Partnerships (there is a partnership in each council area) after conducting a community audit, have included the safety of older people as a priority issue in their respective action plans to tackle crime. These plans have now been agreed with the Community Safety Unit and the partnerships are currently in the process of setting up their initiatives.

Waste Incineration

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the incineration of *(a)* municipal and *(b)* industrial waste is eligible for funding under the Environment and Renewable Energy Funding package. [80877]

Maria Eagle: The Environment and Renewable Energy Fund has an £18 million allocation for Energy from Waste projects, and those which could utilise either municipal or industrial waste may be eligible for support. The Department of the Environment's Waste Management Strategy and its guidance on Best Practicable Environmental Option will be strictly adhered to for all assisted projects and this could include incineration as a suitable technology.

Water Service

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what debt recovery powers the new Government-owned water company in Northern Ireland will have. [81615]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Mrs. Katharine Bryan of 5 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a parliamentary Question about what debt recovery powers the New Government-owned water company in Northern Ireland will have (81615). I have been asked t reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

There are no special measures in the water reform legislation to assist Northern Ireland Water Ltd in recovering debt and the new company is unable to disconnect domestic customers if they fall into debt. Northern Ireland Water Ltd will rely o the normal law relating to civil debt, which involves enforcement through the courts and via the Enforcements of Judgments Office, under the Judgments Enforcement (Northern Ireland) Rules 1981. Consideration is currently being given as to whether the

company will require any of the additional debt recovery measures that are available to other utility companies.

The implementation plan for the introduction of the new customer charging and billing arrangements includes an intensive communications campaign covering the domestic and non-domestic sectors. It will reflect input from the Consumer Council, Citizen's Advice Bureau and Advice NI on payment plans and avenues for advice on debt.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent on water and sewage infrastructural improvements in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; and how much is expected to be spent over the next five years. [81616]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Mrs. Katharine Bryan dated 5 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a parliamentary Question about how much has been spent on water and sewerage infrastructural improvements in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years; and how much is expected to be spent over the next five years (81616). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

In the 10 year period from 1996-97 to 2005-06, Water Service's capital expenditure on improvements to the water and wastewater infrastructure amounted to £556 million and £614 million respectively. The following table sets out the annual investment for each of these years.

£ million

	Water	*Wastewater*
1996-97	40	31
1997-98	43	26
1998-99	44	31
1999-2000	44	22
2000-01	47	25
2001-02	60	49
2002-03	73	55
2003-04	62	75
2004-05	72	140
2005-06	71	160

Over the next five years, Water Service plans to invest a further £185 million on water infrastructure and £340 million on wastewater infrastructure. This will be augmented, during the first two years, by a programme of infrastructure improvements. The Alpha Project will provide water supply projects valued at around £110 million and the Omega project will provide wastewater and sludge disposal management projects valued at around £122 million

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the pension rights of those employed with Water Service will be protected when they transfer to the new government-owned company in April 2007; and whether any changes to the pension scheme require the agreement of the Minister with responsibility for regional development. [85647]

David Cairns: Those employees transferring to Northern Ireland Water Limited will become members of a pension scheme which mirrors as closely as possible the terms of the civil service pension scheme. The new scheme will be required to have a certificate of broad comparability from the Government Actuary's Department in line with the 'Fair Deal' policy. The scheme's members will have protections through the running of the scheme by the trustees who will be drawn on a 50:50 basis from management and member nominees; from the pension regulator under whose remit the scheme will fall; and through the scheme's membership of the pension protection fund.

The precise terms of the trust deed and rules have yet to be finalised.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by the Department for regional development from 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2006 on water infrastructure improvements; and to what projects the funding has been allocated. [85649]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Mrs. Katharine Bryan, dated 5 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about how much was spent by the Department for Regional Development from 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2006 on water infrastructure improvements; and to what projects the funding was allocated (85649). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

During the period from 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2006, Water Service invested some £428 million on improvements to the water infrastructure throughout Northern Ireland. Almost 950 major capital projects, together with many minor works projects, were carried out to improve a number of water treatment works, including Drumaroad, Lough Bradan, Fofanny and Derg. Improvements to the watermain network system were also carried out. The scale and extent of this work varied from small watermain extensions to serve individual housing developments, to large-scale projects such as the replacement of part of the Mourne Conduit which transfers water from the Silent Valley to supply Belfast and surrounding areas.

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what European Union funding was spent on the upgrade of water infrastructure in Northern Ireland between 1 April 1990 and 31 March 2006; and to what projects the funding was allocated. [85650]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has been asked to write to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Mrs. Katharine Bryan, dated 5 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about how much European Union funding was spent on the upgrade of water infrastructure in Northern Ireland between 1st April 1990 and 31st March 2006; and to what projects the funding was allocated (85650). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

During the period from 1st April 1990 to 31st March 2006 Water Service, received £44.822 million of European Union funds for improvements to water treatment works. The funding was allocated to projects benefiting the following works:

	£ million
Ballinrees Water Treatment Works WTW	4.107
Derg WTW	3.877
Dungonnell WTW	2.589
Glenhordial WTW	1.652
Killyhevlin WTW	10.200
Killylane WTW	3.021
West Tyrone WTW	2.693
Clonavaddy WTW	0.504
Belleek WTW	1.331
Lough Fea WTW	3.894
Lough Bradan WTW	2.870
Lough Macrory WTW	8.084

Working Days Lost (Public Sector)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days were lost per staff year in each *(a)* core department of the Northern Ireland administration and *(b)* associated public body in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06; what the total number of days lost was in each case; and what the cost was to each such (A) department and (B) public body in each year. [76895]

Mr. Hanson: For the purpose of answering this question, it has been assumed that the information requested relates to the level of sickness absence in each of the 11 Departments of the Northern Ireland administration, the Northern Ireland Office, departmental executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs).

The table at Annex A reflects both the position for 2004-05 in respect of non-industrial staff and industrial staff in NI Departments and their executive agencies. It should be noted that there are differing methods in place across Departments for recording industrial sickness absence, and information such as the average days lost per staff year is not available in all cases. The information on sickness absence levels for 2005-06 is not yet available but will be published in September 2006.

Information relating to all NDPBs is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, where the information is available, this is reflected in the tables at Annex B.

Annex A: Absence information 2004-05

Department/agency	*Total number of days lost*	*Average days lost per staff year*	*Cost (£)*
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)-Overall	40,273.3	11.5	3,033,434
Forest service	1,282.8	10.1	94,328
Rivers agency	2,520.2	14.5	214,731
DARD industrial staff	12,635.0	20.6	707,468
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL)-Overall	4,653.7	11.0	434,989
Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)	1,548.3	16.9	127,476
Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI)	1,283.5	8.1	126,956
DCAL industrial staff	392	n/a	14,780
Department of Education (DE)	8,274.7	12.8	716,665
Department for Employment and Learning (DEL)	24,610.1	14.7	1,760,015
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI)	7,090.8	9.9	570,762
DETI industrial staff	29	n/a	1,802
Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP)-Overall	39,831.3	13.7	2,990,330
Business Development Service (BDS)	3,814.7	17.3	291,929
Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA)	3,081.4	9.0	236,663
Valuation and Lands Agency (VLA)	3,453.2	11.2	253,701
Land Registers of Northern Ireland	3,971.2	17.9	238,229
Rate Collection Agency	5,995.3	21.8	341,892
DFP industrial staff	351	n/a	12,199
Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS)-Overall	9,584.9	9.5	948,547
Health Estates Agency	1,183.4	8.9	145,488
Department of the Environment (DOE)-Overall	29,241.7	12.0	2,470,560
Planning Service	8,592.4	11.9	800,443
Environment and Heritage Service	5,204.8	9.8	461,967
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland (DVLNI)	8,373.3	17.3	576,398
Driver Vehicle Testing Agency (DVTA)	5,068.0	10.5	418,805
DOE Industrial Staff	1,125	n/a	52,525
Department for Regional Development (DRD)-Overall	32,285.3	10.2	2,877,604
Roads service	15,143.4	9.6	1,238,456
Roads service industrial staff	11,329	n/a	494,958
Water service	10,503.2	9.9	1,025,134
Water service industrial staff	12,258.0	12.6	710,725
Department for Social Development (BSD)-Overall	152,260.4	19.4	9,212,062
Child Support Agency (CSA)	38,789	24.5	2,088,822

Annex A: Absence information 2004-05

Department/agency	Total number of days lost	Average days lost per staff year	Cost (£)
Social Security Agency (SSA)	103,481.0	18.5	6,358,803
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM)	3,314.9	8.6	326,737
Northern Ireland Office (NIO)	18,364.5	12.6	1,485,044
NI Prison Service	33,272.0	15.9	3.76 million

Notes:
1. Staff from the parliamentary Commissioner for Complaints and the Planning Appeals Commission are included in the DFP figures.
2. Staff from HSENI and OFREG are included in the DETI figures.
3. The NIO figures include staff in both the NICS and HCS.
4. It is important to remember that information should not be added together to give an overall total as the information for the Agencies is also counted in the information for the Department to which they belong.
5. Note that unless specifically stated staff are non-industrial.

Annex B: Non-departmental public bodies 2004-05

NDPB	Total number of days lost	Cost (£)
DARD		
AFBI[1]	647	33,220
NIFHA[2]	264	15,730
LMC[3]	290	13,996
DSD		
Housing executive	47,770	2,915,612
Laganside	38	2,395
DCAL		
Core (industrial staff)	392	14,780
Arts council	322	31,972
Sports council	788	39,484
Fishery conservancy board	416	13,383
National Museums NI	4,984	n/a
NI Museums Council	6	550
DEL		
Labour Relations Agency	924	91,082
Enterprise Ulster	2,077	103,133
USEL[4]	213	21,480
CITB[5]	581	53,169
DETI		
Invest NI	6,553	538,469
NI Tourist Board	1,522	124,804
General Consumer Council	242	23,072
DOE		
NILGOSC[6]	599	31,716
LGSC[7]	72	8,199
DE		
Northern Ireland Council for the curriculum, examinations and assessment	1,648	145,000
Youth Council for Northern Ireland	33	4,500
Council for Catholic maintained schools	651	67,000
Staff commission for education and library boards	10	n/a
Belfast education and library board	9,402	n/a
Southern education and library board	8,129	n/a
North Eastern education and library board	5,604	n/a
South Eastern education and library board	4,612	n/a
Western Education and library board	4,959	n/a

Annex B: Non-departmental public bodies 2004-05

2005-06

NDPB	Total number of days lost	Cost (£)
DARD		
AFBI[1]	661	42,127
NIFHA[2]	203	12,030
LMC[3]	429	38,429
DSD		
Housing executive	46,476	2,967,366
Laganside	121	5,579
DETI		
Invest NI	5,309	558,114
NI Tourist Board	2,233	183,106
General Consumer Council	165	13,096
DOE		
NILGOSC[6]	326	24,468
LGSC[7]	40	3,453
DE		
Northern Ireland Council for the curriculum, examinations and assessment	1,816	160,000
Youth Council for Northern Ireland	98	14,000
Council for Catholic maintained schools	840	86,000
Staff commission for education and library boards	33	n/a
Belfast education and library board	10,918	n/a
Southern education and library board	6756	n/a
North Eastern education and library board	4,971.5	n/a
South Eastern education and library board	5,594	n/a
Western education and library board	6,798.5	n/a

n/a = Information not readily available.
[1] AFBI—Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (formerly Agricultural Research Institute NI).
[2] NIFHA—Fishery Harbour Authority (NI).
[3] LMC—Livestock and Meat Commission for NI.
[4] USEL—Ulster Supported Employment Ltd.
[5] CITB—Construction Industry Training Board
[6] NILGOSC—Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee.
[7] LGSC—Loc al Government Staff Commission.

TREASURY

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advertising campaigns his Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81920]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1075W.

Child Trust Fund

John Barrett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the administration costs of the Child Trust Fund in each year since it was introduced. [82708]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer given to the hon. Member for Leeds, North-West (Greg Mulholland) on 25 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 2214W.

Consignment Relief

Jim Dowd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will *(a)* reduce the minimum transaction value on low value consignment relief and *(b)* apply for complete derogation for the UK. [83069]

Dawn Primarolo: Import VAT is not chargeable on commercial consignments of goods with a value below £18 that are imported into the UK from outside the EU. The Government are aware that this relief is currently being exploited, and it now costs the Exchequer around £85 million per year. If the relief continues to be exploited by businesses using offshore locations, the Government will consider changes to prevent this type of behaviour.

Drug-related Deaths

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many drug-related deaths were recorded in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [82110]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many drug-related deaths have been recorded in Suffolk in each of the last five years. (82110)

Available figures relate to the number of deaths from drug-related poisoning, not the total number that were drug-related. The most recent year for which figures are now available is 2004. The table below shows the number of deaths for which the underlying cause was drug poisoning, for the years 2000 to 2004.

Deaths from drug-related poisoning[1] Suffolk[2] 2000-04[3]

	Number of deaths
2000	23
2001	37
2002	24
2003	29
2004	34

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 292, 304, 305.2-305.9, E850-E858, E950.0-E950.5, E962.0 and E980.0-E980.5 for the year 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14from 2001 onwards.
[2] Usual residents of the county of Suffolk.
[3] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

EU Labour Market

Helen Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the impact of EU labour market liberalisation on the UK economy; and if he will make a statement. [82097]

John Healey: A more dynamic and open Europe would be a Europe of increased employment, confidence and growth, a Europe which would both promote and facilitate the UK's efforts to boost its own productivity and raise its own economic performance.

The Government place great importance on economic reform in Europe, and on encouraging greater use of policies that promote flexible labour markets.

The Treasury keeps EU labour market developments under review, and continues to argue the case for reform in Europe. In a recent joint paper with the Swedish Ministry of Finance,—"Social Bridges—Meeting the Challenges of Globalisation" (http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./documents/international_issues/European_economic_reform/social_bridges_paper_cfm) the Government again made the case for reforming labour markets and for policies that protect people's employability rather than specific jobs or sectors.

Households

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* single parent households with children under the age of 16 years and *(b)* single parent households there were in Yeovil constituency in each of the last 15 years; and what estimate he has made of the number of cohabiting couples living in Yeovil constituency in each year. [82137]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your requests for the following figures for the Yeovil constituency in each of the last 15 years: the number of single parent households with children under the age of 16 years, the number of single-person households and the number of cohabiting couples. (82137)

Estimates of these figures are not produced on an annual basis for local areas. Available figures are from the censuses of 1991 and 2001. These are shown in the table below.

Numbers of (1) lone parent households with dependent children aged under 16 (2) one person households and (3) cohabiting couples in households: Yeovil, 1991 and 2001

		1991	2001
1.	Lone-parent households with dependent children aged under 16	1,035	1,810
2.	One-person households	9,378	12,023
3.	Cohabiting couple households	[1]1,118	3,807

[1] In 1991 responses to relationship questions were only processed for approximately 10 per cent. of the population. The figures in this table have been grossed up by a factor of 10.16 to account for this.

Sources:

1. 1991 Census Local Base Statistics Table 32 and 2001 Census data
2. Table F in the Census 1991 New Parliamentary Constituency Monitor South West and Table KS20 in the Census 2001 Report for Parliamentary Constituencies
3. 1991 and 2001 Census data

Late Tax Returns

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been liable for the £100 fine imposed by the Treasury for late declaration of their annual income in each of the last three years; and how much was raised in total as a result. [81862]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answers I gave the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) on 12 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 776W. The detail for last year is in the following table.

	Return year 2004-05
Year issued: 2005-06	
Total number issued	876,000
Year to end October 2005	
Penalties paid (£ million)	39.40

Minimum Wage

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged *(a)* 22 years and over, *(b)* 18 to 21 years and *(c)* under 18 years are receiving the minimum wage in (i) Yeovil constituency and (ii) Somerset. [82146]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to ask how many people aged (a) 22 years and over, (b) 18 to 21 years and (c) under 18 years are receiving the minimum wage in i) Yeovil constituency and ii) Somerset. (82146)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the minimum wage for Parliamentary Constituencies and Local Authorities are not available. However the Office for National Statistics (ONS) calculates estimates of the number of jobs paid less than national minimum wage rates for the United Kingdom and Government Office Regions. A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles and data can be found on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Pension Rights (Bankruptcy)

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 864-65W, on pension rights (bankruptcy), what estimate he has made of the revenue foregone as a result of his Department relinquishing its preferred creditor status in insolvency cases. [82499]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 17 September 2003, *Official Report*, column 868W. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs confirm that the estimate given then has not changed.

Population Estimates

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which local authorities have had a reduction in population according to the *(a)* 2001 Census and *(b)* 2004 mid-term population estimates. [81984]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 July 2006

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about which local authorities according to the 2001 Census and the mid-2004 population estimates had a reduction in their populations. (81984)

The best comparison between 2001 and 2004 is based on the mid-year population estimates for those years, as the mid-2001 population estimates take account of adjustments to a number of areas as a result of the studies conducted after the Census. The attached table shows population estimates for those local authorities whose population decreased between mid-2001 and mid-2004.

Estimated population: mid-2001 and mid-2004 population estimates, local authorities in England and Wales whose population has reduced

	Mid-2001	Mid-2004	Difference
England			
North East			
Hartlepool UA	90,200	90,100	0
Middlesbrough UA	141,200	137,900	-3,300
Redcar and Cleveland UA	139,200	139,100	-100
Chester-le-Street	53,700	53,200	-500

Estimated population: mid-2001 and mid-2004 population estimates, local authorities in England and Wales whose population has reduced

	Mid-2001	Mid-2004	Difference
Easington	94,000	92,900	-1,100
North Tyneside	192,000	190,700	-1,300
South Tyneside	152,800	151,500	-1,300
Sunderland	284,600	282,700	-1,900
North West			
Ellesmere Port and Neston	81,600	80,900	-700
Barrow-in-Furness	72,000	70,500	-1,500
Oldham	218,500	218,300	-200
Salford	217,000	216,400	-600
Stockport	284,600	282,200	-2,400
Burnley	89,500	88,100	-1,400
Knowsley	151,200	149,800	-1,400
St. Helens	176,800	176,700	-100
Sefton	282,900	281,800	-1,100
Wirral	315,000	313,100	-2,000
Yorkshire and the Humber			
Kingston upon Hull, City of UA	249,900	248,500	-1,400
North East Lincolnshire UA	158,000	157,700	-200
Erewash	110,100	110,000	-100
Corby	53,400	53,200	-200
Gedling	111,800	111,300	-600
West Midlands			
Stoke-on-Trent UA	240,400	238,000	-2,400
Shrewsbury and Atcham	95,900	95,800	-100
South Staffordshire	105,900	105,300	-700
Staffordshire Moorlands	94,600	94,300	-200
Tamworth	74,600	73,900	-700
Dudley	305,100	304,500	-600
Walsall	253,300	252,800	-500
East			
Luton UA	185,900	184,000	-1,900
Southend-on-Sea UA	160,400	159,600	-800
Harlow	78,800	77,500	-1,300
Broxbourne	87,200	86,100	-1,100
Hertsmere	94,500	93,300	-1,200
Stevenage	79,800	79,000	800
Watford	80,400	79,300	-1,100
London			
Hackney	207,200	207,000	-200
Lambeth	273,400	268,100	-5,300
Lewisham	254,300	247,000	-7,300
Newham	249,400	247,700	-1,700
Southwark	256,700	254,700	-2,100
Barking and Dagenham	165,700	164,600	-1,100
Brent	269,600	267,700	-1,900
Ealing	307,300	303,200	-4,100
Hounslow	216,000	212,300	-3,600
Sutton	181,500	177,600	-3,900
Waltham Forest	222,000	221,800	-200

Estimated population: mid-2001 and mid-2004 population estimates, local authorities in England and Wales whose population has reduced

	Mid-2001	Mid-2004	Difference
South East			
Reading UA	144,700	144,000	-700
Slough UA	120,600	117,600	-3,000
Chiltern	89,200	89,100	-100
Wycombe	162,100	159,600	-2,400
Hastings	85,400	84,600	-800
Eastleigh	116,300	116,000	-300
Havant	116,900	115,700	-1,200
Rushmoor	90,900	88,800	-2,100
Gravesham	95,800	94,900	-900
South Oxfordshire	128,300	127,900	-400
Spelthorne	90,400	88,400	-2,000
Tandridge	79,300	79,300	-100
Woking	89,900	89,600	-300
Adur	59,700	59,300	-500
Crawley	100,400	98,700	-1,800
South West			
Bournemouth UA	163,600	163,500	0
Poole UA	138,400	137,000	-1,400
Wales			
Unitary Authorities			
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	231,900	231,800	-100
Merthyr Tydfil	56,200	55,100	-1,100
Blaenau Gwent	70,000	68,800	-1,200
Torfaen	90,900	90,400	-500

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 and therefore may not 'add'.
2. Where a difference of 0 is shown, the authority has reduced in size—but by an amount that rounds to zero.

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the methods of collecting local authority population statistics; and if he will make a statement. [81985]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about what assessment has been made of the methods of collecting local authority population statistics. (81985)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) liaises with users of population statistics across Government including the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The ONS provides advice to DCLG on the use of population statistics and on any issues raised by individual local authorities concerning the data and methodology used. Nevertheless, as an ONS product, any assessment of methods used in calculating population statistics remains a matter for the ONS. It is for this reason I have been asked to reply to your question originally addressed to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

The detailed methodology for population estimates is published here: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=575

This methodology has been developed over a large number of years. Development of the methodology, together with the methodology for other population statistics, is done in conjunction with the Central Local information Partnership (CLiP) subgroup on population estimates.

The usually resident definition which formed the basis of the 2001 Census enumeration, and hence the mid-year estimates, was the result of extensive consultation with users and was reported in Census Advisory Group paper AG(99) 04 'Population Definitions for the 2001 Census'. A similar process is currently underway for the 2011 Census. For international migration, the population estimates use the United Nations definition of an international migrant (someone who migrates for a period of at least twelve months.)

The Cohort Component Method, which is the method used in the UK, is an internationally respected method used for estimating population estimates in a large number of countries. ONS is undertaking a study of the Cohort Component Method for the national population estimates, comparing the method used with those used in other countries. This is part of a larger project, Improving Migration and Population Statistics, about which I have written in more detail in other replies to you.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to improve the collection of statistics on *(a)* internal and *(b)* international migration. [81986]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what steps are being taken to improve the collection of statistics on (a) internal and (b) international migration. (81986)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) are currently carrying out an extensive programme of work titled Improving Migration and Population Statistics Project which is designed to investigate improvements to the population and migration statistics produced by ONS. Further information on this work can be found at: www.statistics.gov.uk/IMPS.

As part of this work, ONS is investigating how improvements may be made to estimates of internal migration which are currently produced using health records. In particular, the movement of students and young men are being considered and research is being carried out so that we have a better understanding of the movement of these and other mobile groups. We are also investigating other data sources that may inform our estimates of internal migration.

The programme of research described above is also taking forward recommendations from the National Statistics Quality Review (NSQR) into International Migration. The quality review made recommendations for improving the estimation of total migration flows to and from the UK and the allocation of international migration to local areas. This work includes investigating administrative sources that may be used in producing or quality assuring the international migration estimates, investigating potential sources of information about short-term migrants and making improvements to the current source of information on international migrants, the International Passenger Survey (IPS). The latest Progress Report on taking forward the recommendations of the NSQR on International Migration can be found at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/population.asp

ONS are also conducting Local Authority case studies as part of the IMPS programme of work. These aim to get a better understanding, from a local perspective, of the administrative data sources that are currently used in the population estimation procedure. They will also investigate any other high quality sources that the local areas use themselves for population purposes.

The local areas selected for these studies are ones that are known to have reasons which make their population difficult to estimate, e.g. those with a high volume of migratory moves. It is intended that these studies will contribute towards the improvement of both internal and international migration statistics.

In May ONS set up a Task Force on Migration Statistics with other Government Departments, to identify improvements that could realistically be made over the next couple of years.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the accuracy of the mid-term population estimates; and if he will make a statement. [81990]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about what assessment has been made of the accuracy of the mid-year population estimates. (81990)

Population estimates are calculated using an internationally respected methodology. Further information can be found in the detailed methodology guide 'Making a population estimate in England and Wales'. This is published here:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=575

It is becoming increasingly difficult to estimate the size of the population because of changes in society, which include increased mobility and different living arrangements. Nevertheless, the mid-year population estimates remain the best available estimates of the population on a national basis. The decennial Census provides a benchmark against which national and sub-national population estimates can be assessed. Substantial work has been done on the difference between mid-year population estimates and the 2001 Census. This work is summarised in the final report of the 2004 Local Authority Population Studies, which can be found here:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/LAStudy_FullReport.pdf

Migration is acknowledged as the most difficult component of population change to estimate. My answer to your question about the steps being taken to ensure population estimates more closely reflect the effects of migration provides more detail.

In addition, extensive annual quality assurance is undertaken in order to ensure the accuracy of the annual mid-year estimates. Quality assurance starts with detailed checking of the source data used in the components of change (birth, deaths, etc.). Procedures are then in place to ensure that these data sources are correctly processed when deriving the estimates. the calculated national and sub-national estimates, for all 376 local authorities in England and Wales, are then subject to a further set of quality assurance procedures before they are published. These procedures include reviews of sex ratios and age profiles, comparisons of change over time, and comparisons of fertility and mortality rates. Substantial effort has already been undertaken, in recent years, to improve the quality assurance of population estimates.

The Office for National Statistics is also now investing substantially in a project to Improve Migration and Population Statistics (IMPS). (More information on this project can be found at: www.statistics.gov.uk/IMPS) The key aims of this project are to reduce the size of the difference between the 2011 Census results and the mid-year estimates and to better understand any difference that does remain.

As part of this project, we are developing a data comparator tool to enable us to compare the annual mid-year estimates against a range of administrative sources. This work is ongoing and the results will inform our understanding of the accuracy of the mid-year population estimates. The tool was trialled in the mid-2004 population estimates, which were published in August 2005.

Another strand of the IMPS project is a review of the quality assurance procedures that are currently in place for population estimates. One of the aims of this review is to assess what improvements can be made to existing procedures, and determine whether additional quality assurance is required.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what criteria were used to decide which local authorities would be involved in the improving migration and population statistics project; [81991]

(2) when he will decide which further local authorities will join the improving migration and population statistics project. [81992]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking what criteria have been used to decide which local authorities were involved in the Improving Migration and Population Statistics (IMPS) project and when the Chancellor will decide which further local authorities will join the IMPS project (81991,81992).

Information was published on the method used for selecting local authorities for case studies on the NS website in March 2006. For more information see http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/updates/default.asp

Work is currently progressing on four local authorities. We are expected to report on the findings during the autumn. The outcome of the four case studies areas will then be evaluated. The selection and approach of any further case studies will be considered following the outcome of the review.

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that the mid-year population estimates more closely reflect the effects of internal and external migration; and if he will make a statement. [81993]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding what steps are being taken to ensure that the mid-year population estimates more closely reflect the effects of internal and international migration; and if the Chancellor will make a statement. (81993)

Migration is particularly difficult to estimate due to a rapidly changing population structure, which includes an increase in mobility and complex changes in living arrangements. ONS recognised this was a particular issue before the 2001 Census was undertaken.

The sources used to estimate internal migration were changed before the 2001 Census. Up to 1998 the National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) was used in conjunction with data from electoral rolls. There were known limitations with the electoral roll data source. For example there were variations in the registers caused by the procedures used to maintain them. It was also possible for people to be registered in two different areas, such as students, and those under 18 were not included. Research was carried out that identified a higher quality data source in GP registers. From 1999 onwards, the internal migration component of the population estimates was based on a combination of NHSCR and GP register data.

Population estimates use the United Nations definition of an international migrant, which is somebody who migrates for a period of at least 12 months. Mid-year population estimates therefore estimate those that are 'usually resident' at that time. Following the 2001 Census a number of improvements were made to the methodology of international migration. Improvements were made to allow for those who stayed in their destination country for longer or shorter than they had originally intended, and therefore either became or were no longer considered a migrant (migrant and visitor switchers). Improvements were also made to fully allow for the migration of dependants of asylum seekers and to fully estimate outflows of failed asylum seekers and their dependants. Along with more minor technical adjustments to migration estimates, these changes have been incorporated into the revised 1991 to 2001 estimates.

The National Statistics Quality Review (NSQR) on International Migration was commissioned before the 2001 Census results were published. Please see the following link for further details of the NSQR:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/quality/reviews/population.asp

Following publication of the 2001 Census the 'Improving Migration and Population Estimates' (IMPS) project was set up and incorporated recommendations of the NSQR. The IMPS project is primarily research based and concentrates on aspects of improving both internal and international migration and population statistics through methodology improvements and the identification of the most relevant and reliable data sources. The project is currently involved in liasing with a number of local authorities (LAs). ONS is working in partnership with these LAs to investigate whether local knowledge can help improve migration and population estimates. Any findings can potentially be applied to LAs with similar characteristics.

More specifically the IMPS project will consider how further improvements can be made to the internal migration methodology and data sources, one example of this is the issues around students registration with GPs. Research involving international migration will consider improvements in how to distribute International Passenger Survey (IPS) flows within England and Wales. In addition to this, other possible data sources will be considered, as will improvements to the estimations of IPS flows by altering and adding to existing questions in the IPS. In addition, ONS set up a Task Force on Migration Statistics in May. This aims to identify improvements that could realistically be made over the next couple of years.

We are also researching the feasibility of producing estimates of short-term migrants. The population estimates measure those that are usually resident and therefore do not measure those that are temporarily living in England or Wales. It is hoped that estimates of short-term migrants will be able to be used in conjunction with the existing population estimates.

Please find further details of the IMPS project here:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/data/methodology/specific/population/future/imps/default.asp

Retirement Age

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1695-96W, on retirement age, whether the conclusion set out in the answer depends upon the assumption of changes in current practice with regard to continued eligibility following career breaks. [82512]

Mr. Timms: The probability of a 20-year-old public sector worker leaving employment before age 60 was based on analysis of recent experience. No change was assumed in eligibility for pension scheme membership following career breaks.

Road Pricing Pilots

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether motorists participating in the proposed road pricing pilot will be entitled to lower rates of fuel duty when driving outside the area covered by the pricing scheme; [82204]

(2) whether motorists participating in the proposed road pricing pilot will be entitled to a fuel duty rebate. [82257]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Minister of State, Department for Transport, (Dr. Ladyman) on 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1954W.

Tax Credits

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which local authorities had an increase in the number of people claiming tax credits between 2001 and 2005. [81985]

Dawn Primarolo: A comparison of the number of recipients of working families tax credits and disabled person tax credits as at May 2001, and in-work families with children receiving more than the family element of child and working tax credits in 2004-05, shows that all local authorities have had an increase in the number of recipients.

Geographical breakdown of children's tax credits is not available.

Estimates for the number of recipients of working families tax credits and disabled persons tax credits, from May 2001 to November 2002, are published in "Working Families and Disabled Persons Tax Credit Statistics, Geographical Analyses", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/wftc/wfdptc_geog.htm

Estimates for 2003-04 and 2004-05 of the numbers of in-work families with tax credits awards, by local authority, based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are published in "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards 2003-04 Geographical Analysis" and the "Child and Working Tax Credits. Finalised Awards 2004-05 Geographical Analysis". These publications and provisional estimates for the number of in-work families by local authority with tax credit awards as at selected dates in 2005-06 are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm.

Unemployment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the change in *(a)* male and *(b)* female unemployment in Yeovil constituency has been in each of the last five years. [82252]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about unemployment.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey following International Labour Organisation definitions. However, sample sizes are insufficient to provide estimates of change in male and female unemployment in the Yeovil Parliamentary Constituency.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 1, attached, shows the annual changes in levels and proportions of working-age resident population for male claimants of JSA, resident in the Yeovil constituency, for May of each year from 2001 to 2006. Table 2 shows corresponding data for female claimants of JSA.

Table 1: Changes in levels and proportions for male claimants of jobseeker's allowance resident in the Yeovil parliamentary constituency, May 2001 to May 2006

	Level		Proportion of working-age population[1]	
May of each year	Number	Change on year	Proportion (percentage)	Change on year (percentage points)
2001	590	—	2.0	—
2002	465	-125	1.6	-0.4
2003	519	54	1.8	0.2
2004	442	-77	1.5	-0.3
2005	509	67	1.7	0.2
2006	596	87	2.0	0.3

[1] Aged 16 to 64.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative system.

Table 2: Changes in levels and proportions for female claimants of jobseeker's allowance resident in the Yeovil parliamentary constituency, May 2001 to May 2006

	Level		Proportion of working-age population[1]	
May of each year	Number	Change on year	Proportion (percentage)	Change on year (percentage points)
2001	205	—	0.8	—
2002	185	-20	0.7	-0.1
2003	191	6	0.7	0.0
2004	171	-20	0.6	-0.1
2005	190	19	0.7	0.1
2006	219	29	0.8	0.1

[1] Aged 16 to 59.

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative system.

HEALTH

Alcohol-related Hospital Admissions

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* under and *(b)* over the age of 18 years were admitted to hospital for alcohol-related problems in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by region. [81693]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the table, by Government Office Region. It provides data on finished admission episodes for people under and over 18 years admitted to hospital for alcohol related problems in 2004-05.

Counts of finished admission episodes for selected[1] alcohol related diseases by regional office of residence and age grouping in national health service hospitals 2004-05.

[1] Alcohol related diseases defined as following ICD-10 codes recorded in primary diagnosis.

F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
K70 Alcoholic liver disease
T51 Toxic effect of alcohol

Regional office of residence	*Aged under 18*	*Aged 18 and over*	*Age not known*
Northern and Yorkshire	742	6,013	*
Trent	453	4,542	—
West Midlands	573	4,976	—
North West	949	8,693	*
Eastern	356	3,557	*
London	410	6,906	15
South East	799	5,990	*
South West	429	3,690	7
Northern Ireland	—	18	—
Scotland	*	48	—
Wales	20	138	—
England-not otherwise specified	28	1,017	31
Foreign (including Isle of Man and Channel Islands)	14	97	*
Unknown	33	614	33
England	4,809	46,299	95

Notes:
Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital. *Primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) data quality*
PCT and SHA data was added to historic data-years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.
Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data; that is the data are ungrossed.
Low numbers
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with an asterisk.
Source:
Hospital episode statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Breast Milk Substitutes

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what surveys she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into (i) the perception of pregnant women and women with young children of advertising of breast milk substitute and (ii) the ability of consumers to distinguish between infant and follow-on breast milk substitutes. [81528]

Caroline Flint: The Department commissioned a survey of pregnant women and women with young children in August 2005 to establish whether there was any confusion among consumers relating to advertising of follow-on formula milks.

The results of the survey suggest that there is some confusion among consumers. Of the total respondents surveyed, 39 per cent. stated they had seen infant formula advertising, rather than follow-on formula, which is not allowed under European Union law.

Cadbury Schweppes (Chocolate Contamination)

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when Cadbury Schweppes plc first became aware of the risk of contamination of its chocolate at its plant near Leominster; when tests first confirmed the existence of salmonella in its production; when the company first notified *(a)* the Food Standards Agency and *(b)* her Department of the (i) risk and (ii) tests results; what requirements are placed on food companies to report such potential contamination; what penalties may be imposed on them for failing to do so in a timely manner; and if she will make a statement. [81092]

Caroline Flint: Cadbury's Schweppes plc first informed the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on 19 June 2006 that, in relation to the current incident, they had detected Salmonella contamination of products from their Marlbrook plant in January 2006. The FSA relayed the information to my Department.

Information subsequently provided by the company indicated that contamination of its products with Salmonella Montevideo had been identified in April 2002, but these products were destroyed.

Since 1 January 2005, food businesses operators have been required to inform the competent authorities if they consider, or have reason to believe, that a food which they have imported, produced, processed, manufactured or distributed, is not in compliance with the food safety requirements as set out in article 14 of EC regulation 178/2002.

Under the General Food Regulations 2004, the maximum penalties for not informing the competent authorities as above are two years' imprisonment, an unlimited fine, or both.

Care Costs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost was of delivering an episode of care in *(a)* 1979, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* the most recent period for which figures are available, at constant prices. [76948]

Caroline Flint: The average cost of delivering an episode of care allowing for health pay and price inflation is shown in the table:

	Cost per episode (£)
1997-98	1,159
2003-04	1,200

A patient admitted to hospital is assigned to a practitioner responsible for their treatment. This period of care is termed an episode.

There are no data available for 1979.

Information is not available on a comparable basis after 2003-04.

Care Homes

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* nursing and *(b)* residential care homes there were in the London borough of Bexley in (i) 1997, (ii) 2001 and (iii) 2005. [78067]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of homes was collected by the Department for the years 1997 and 2001. The table shows the number of residential and nursing care homes in Bexley, as at 31 March, in 1997 and 2001.

Number of residential and nursing care homes in Bexley, as at 31 March, 1997 and 2001

	1997	Rounded data 2001
Residential homes[1]	60	60
Nursing homes[2,3]	20	25
Total homes[2,4]	75	80

[1] Residential data are for Bexley authority.
[2] Nursing data in 1997 are for Bexley health authority, whereas nursing data for 2001 are for the Bexley and Greenwich health authority. This followed a merger of the two Health authorities Bexley and Greenwich health authority; the number of nursing homes in Greenwich was not recorded in 1997.
[3] Nursing data include places in general nursing homes, mental nursing homes and private hospitals and clinics.
[4] Totals may not equal the sum of parts due to rounding
Sources:
Department of Health RA and RH(N) returns.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) produces data on the number of care homes and places registered as at 31 March each year, beginning with 2003. There are some definitional differences between these data and those for years up to 2001.

I understand from the chair of CSCI that, as at 31 March 2005, there were four nursing and 29 residential care homes in Bexley local authority. I am informed by CSCI that the reduction in numbers is due to several factors:

Since 2001, 20 homes in Bexley have de-registered.

Data collected up until 2001 by the Department included private hospitals and clinics, which were counted as nursing homes. These are now registered by the Healthcare Commission and are not included in data on care and nursing home numbers produced by CSCI.

Bexley local authority covers a smaller area than the Bexley and Greenwich health authority.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations *(a)* inspect and *(b)* regulate the care home sector. [79673]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), as the independent inspectorate for all social care services in England, is the statutory body which inspects and regulates the care home sector. CSCI took over the regulation and inspection of care homes in England from the National Care Standards Commission (NCSC) on 1 April 2004, under powers given to it under the Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003.

Independent healthcare providers in England, including independent nursing homes where care is provided by medical practitioners, must be registered with the Healthcare Commission. To register, they need to demonstrate compliance with the Care Standards Act 2000 and associated regulations.

Care homes are also subject to inspection and regulation by bodies such as local authority environmental health departments, the fire services and the Health and Safety Executive.

Carers

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the financial cost saving to her Department of voluntary carers in the last year for which figures are available. [82159]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This Government recognise the valuable and vital role played by the estimated 6 million carers in the United Kingdom. The Government have made no estimate of the savings to public funds resulting from the activities of people who provide care on a voluntary basis.

Carers Champion

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions she has had with carers' organisations on their proposal for a carers champion within Government; and if she will make a statement; [82642]

(2) what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the implementation of the Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004 in Wales; and if she will make a statement; [82643]

(3) what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on its decision to appoint a carers champion within government and the implications of that decision in England; and if she will make a statement; [82644]

(4) whether she has made an assessment of the policy towards carers in other EU countries; and if she will make a statement. [82645]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This Government have noted the call for the establishment of such a post but we believe that existing national directors, for example in relation to social care, older people and disease-specific groups such as cancer and diabetes, should already be taking the needs of carers into account.

In addition, we believe it is more appropriate that local health and social care professionals work together to support carers locally. This is why, in the White Paper, we encourage councils and primary care trusts to nominate leads for carers' services.

We have not made an assessment of the policy towards carers in other European Union countries neither have we had any discussions with the Welsh Assembly Government on the implementation of the Carers Equal Opportunities Act 2004 in Wales.

Children (Medical Procedures)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which types of medical procedure may be provided to children under 16 years of age by a medical practitioner *(a)* without the consent of their parent or guardian and *(b)* where such consent can be waived by the medical practitioner; and if she will make a statement. [80195]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Valid consent to treatment is central to all forms of healthcare, from providing personal care to undertaking major surgery. If a young person has the capacity to give consent for themselves then health professionals should seek consent directly from them. If a young person does not have capacity then consent should be sought from someone with parental responsibility.

In cases of life-threatening emergency where consultation with a person with parental responsibility is impossible, the courts have stated that doubt should be resolved in favour of the preservation of life. In such cases a health professional could undertake treatment to preserve life or prevent serious damage to health without consent.

Community Hospitals

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Government have to make extra funding available to NHS trusts to prevent the closure of community hospitals. [58921]

Andy Burnham: Revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs) and not to national health service trusts. The allocations are determined on the basis of the relative needs of PCTs' populations. On 9 February 2005, PCTs were informed of their revenue allocations up to 2007-08. The 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations represent £135 billion investment in the NHS, £64 billion to PCTs in 2006-07 and £70 billion in 2007-08. The Department has no plans to make extra funding available to PCTs.

As outlined in the recently published White Paper "Our health, our care, our say": a new direction for community services, the Department aims to provide more care in more local and convenient settings. This will partially be achieved by introducing a new generation of community hospitals and the Department published "Our health, our care, our community: investing in the future of community hospitals and services" on 5 July which describes how the Department intends to invest up to £750 million over the next five years in a new generation of community hospitals.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 31 May, about the NHS dental contract. [81450]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The letter was replied to on 26 June 2006.

Dentistry

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what dental research projects are supported from public funds; at which research establishments such research is being conducted; how much has been allocated to each project in each year; and which researchers are in charge of each project. [81280]

Andy Burnham: The main agency through which the Government support medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Innovation. Details of current and recent MRC dental and oral health projects are shown in the table.

Principal investigator	*Organisation/host institution*	*Project title*	*Total amount awarded (£)*
Dr. L. F. Donaldson	University of Bristol	Periodontal disease and the relationship between chronic inflammation and pain	471,556
Professor P. Sharpe	King's College, London—GKT Schools	NFkB/Rel—TNF interactions controlling tooth development	407,219
Professor M. A. Curtis	Queen Mary and Westfield College	Mechanisms of susceptibility to periodontal disease	101,344
Dr. L. M. C. Hall	Queen Mary and Westfield College	The rag locus of Porphyromonas gingivalis—horizontal gene transfer and virulence in a periodontal pathogen	274,510
Dr. S. H. Kilcoyne	University of Leeds	Novel Aesthetic Dental Restorative Materials	44,754
Professor J. C. Elliott	Queen Mary and Westfield College	Geochemical expertise to improve understanding of physical chemistry of dental caries and biological calcium phosphates	48,224
Professor R. Cywinski	University of Leeds	Optimisation of restorative materials via 3-D strain/texture analysis of dental enamel	59,725

Principal investigator	Organisation/host institution	Project title	Total amount awarded (£)
Professor M. A. Curits	Queen Mary and Westfield College	Pathogenesis of Periodontal Disease: Generation of Molecular Diversity in the Proteases of P. gingivlis	746,449
Professor M. A. Curtis	The Royal London Hospital Medical College	Pathogenesis of Periodontal Disease: Generation of Molecular Diversity in the Proteases of P. gingivlis	1,597,210
Professor J. C. Elliott	Queen Mary and Westfield College	Mechanisms of de-and remineralisation in dental enamel	493,289
Professor P. Sharpe	King's College, London—KCL	Molecular and cellular mechanisms of dental patterning	846,053
Professor I. Chapple	University of Birmingham	Differential neutrophil gene expression in chronic adult periodontal disease	114,224
Dr. H. Peters	University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	Functional analysis of genetic interactions affected in non-syndromic cleft lip/palate formation	325,752
Professor M. A. Curtis	Queen Mary and Westfield College	Characterisation of the common steps in the glycosylation of Arg—gingipains and synthesis of LPS and APS of P. gingivalis	585,132
Professor M. Wilson	Eastman Dental Institute	Detection and characterisation of genes encoding antibiotic resistance in the cultivable and non-cultivable oral mircofl	282,010
Professor K. O'Brien	University of Manchester	The long-term effects of orthodontic growth modification for severe class II growth anomalies	374,464
Professor J. C. Elliott	Queen Mary and Westfield College	Mechanisms of de-and remineralisation in dental enamel	493,289
Mr. V. Lopes	University of Birmingham	Gene expression profiling in normal, premalignant and malignant oral mucosa	144,356

The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service. Current and recently completed research related to dental health and forming part of the NHS national programmes includes:

A systematic review of the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of HealOzone for the treatment of occlusal pit/fissure caries and root caries.

Chief investigator: Aberdeen health technology assessment (HTA) group, University of Aberdeen

Cost: circa £50,000[1]

The cost-effectiveness of screening for oral cancer in primary care.

Chief investigator: Professor Paul Speight, University of Sheffield

Cost: £67,331 over five years

High performance bioactive structures for bone replacement and tissue growth.

Principal investigator: Dr. Russell Harris, Loughborough University, Leicester.

Cost: £237,943 over three years

Refinement and in-vivo performance of implanted composite structures.

Principal investigator: Dr. Colin Anthony Scotchford, University of Nottingham

Cost: £156,300 over three years

A new and emerging applications technologies programme feasibility study of advanced material/bone interface analysis using four computerised tomography.

Mrs. Sheila Fisher, University of Leeds

Cost: £34,351 for one year

The Department also supports the oral health research and development support unit based at university of Manchester. The unit's research director is Professor Martin Tickle. It receives an annual grant from the Department of £100,000. Its purpose is to:

expand research capacity in dentistry;

develop the research infrastructure in primary dental care; and

increase research outputs to improve dental services for patients.

More information about the work of the unit, including details of current and completed research, can be found at www.ohu.ac.uk

Over 75 per cent. of the Department's total expenditure on health research is devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of individual projects including a large number concerned with dental health are available on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research

[1] This project was commissioned by the HTA programme on behalf of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on a call-off contract basis so an exact figure is not available.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the response by the Durham and Chester-le-Street primary care trust to the withdrawal of dentists from NHS service in Durham City. [78950]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The responsibility for the performance management of primary care trusts (PCTs) rests with strategic health authorities (SHAs). The Chester-le-Street PCT and the County Durham and Tees Valley SHA continue to receive support from the NHS dentistry support team in developing a commissioning plan for NHS dentistry provision in the PCT area.

The support team will work with the PCT to develop a robust commissioning strategy, along with providing advice on recommisioning and tendering. This exercise

will be conducted in discussion with the four neighbouring PCTs which will merge with the Durham and Chester-le-Street PCT to form the new County Durham PCT from October 2006.

Approximately £1 million remains in the PCT's dental allocation to recommission additional dental services for its population, with the potential to provide an additional seven fully committed NHS dentists.

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written statement of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 63-64WS, on NHS dentistry, what assistance she expects to be made available to the Durham and Chester-le-Street primary care trust to provide salaried dentist services. [79026]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Resources are allocated directly to primary care trusts (PCTs) to be used according to the healthcare needs of their local populations. Funding for salaried dental services forms part of their unified budget. It is the responsibility of PCTs to commission salaried dentist services, using funding from this budget according to the needs of their local populations and against national priorities.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the written statement of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 63WS, on NHS dentistry, how much of the capital investment for dentists is ringfenced for IT in dentistry. [79643]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It will be for strategic health authorities and primary care trusts to make decisions locally on priorities for deploying the £100 million capital investment for NHS primary dental care services announced on 18 May. We intend to publish guidance shortly on potential ways in which this funding could be used most effectively to support dental practices and improve patient services, but we do not intend to ring-fence any element of the funding for specific types of investment.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there are plans to extend the provision of training for dental technicians at the new dental schools. [79791]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As part of a major investment programme for the expansion of dental education, we announced in January the establishment of a new Peninsula dental school with bases in Plymouth, Devonport and Truro and the development of outreach dental education in Central Lancashire and Hull. It is for higher and further education institutions to determine the provision they make for the training of dental technicians. I understand a number of dental schools are considering whether provision for the training of dental technicians could be incorporated into the expansion programme, but no specific proposals have yet emerged.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the Department will measure the merits of the new General Dental Services contract against the previous fee per item system, with particular reference to complex treatments. [79792]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has established an implementation review group comprising dentistry, patient and national health service representatives to review the impact of the recent dental reforms. The group will shortly be considering how most effectively to assess outcomes under the new arrangements. It will take time for sufficient treatments to have been completed to allow a meaningful assessment, particularly in relation to complex treatments.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to *(a)* dental technology and *(b)* dental laboratories in each of the last five years; and what allocations have been made over the next three years. [79797]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not allocate funds to dental technology or dental laboratories. The costs involved in having dental appliances manufactured for national health service patients are met by general dental practitioners from within the overall remuneration they receive for providing NHS services.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1539W, on dentistry, what proportion of all payments due to dentists since 1 April *(a)* have not been paid correctly, *(b)* have not been paid on the due date and *(c)* have been paid neither correctly nor on the due date. [80305]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The NHS Business Services Authority (BSA) reports that 2 per cent. of the payments due to dentists since 1 April have been found to have been incorrect, 4 per cent. were not paid on the due date and 1 per cent. were both paid after the due date and later found to be incorrect. The BSA, in liaison with the relevant primary care trusts, has already corrected or is in the process of correcting these payments.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were in Shrewsbury in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1997 and *(c)* 2005. [80338]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data for 1980 are not held centrally by parliamentary constituency.

As at 31 March 1997, there were 35 national health service dentists in the Shrewsbury and Atcham parliamentary constituency. At the same point in 2005 there were 80 NHS dentists.

The England figure as at 30 September 1980 was 13,591. The number of NHS dentists in England as at 31 March 2005 was 20,088.

Notes:

1. A dentist with a general dental service or personal dental service contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses or has agreed with the primary care trust. Information concerning the amount of time dedicated to NHS work by individual dentists is not centrally available.

2. Data on dentists who work only in private practice are not held centrally.

3. Dentists consist of principals, assistants and trainees. Prison contracts have been excluded.

4. The postcode of the dental practice was used to allocate dentists to specific geographic areas.

Sources:

The Information Centre for health and social care

NHS Business Services Authority

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the index of orthodontic treatment need is used in the allocation of resources. [80683]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Resources for primary dental services, including orthodontic services, have been allocated to primary care trusts for 2006-07 on the basis of expenditure on general dental services and personal dental services during the reference period October 2004 to September 2005, adjusted for pay uplifts and with some allowance for subsequent growth in services.

The index of orthodontic treatment need is not designed as a basis for resource allocation, but as a way of ensuring that needs assessment is carried out more fairly and that resources are targeted on those with the greatest needs.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the *(a)* demand for and *(b)* supply of orthodontic specialists in the United Kingdom for each of the next 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [80684]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is now the responsibility of the strategic health authorities to assess future work force needs and make decisions on number of training places. In 2005, the work force review team, which works on behalf of the national health service to co-ordinate and synthesise information about the health work force in England, made estimates for the requirement for the numbers of whole time equivalent hospital based orthodontic consultants and projections for staff in post as follows:

	Requirement	*Orthodontic consultants*
2005	264	184
2006	264	192
2007	264	199
2008	264	199
2009	264	202
2010	264	203
2011	264	203
2012	264	207
2013	264	204
2014	264	201

Orthodontic specialists work in both hospitals and primary care settings including high street dental practices. The new commissioning arrangements introduced in April 2006 will in the future enable primary care trusts (PCTs) to plan and commission services across primary and secondary care trusts. We are looking to develop services outside hospital by encouraging PCTs to contract with specialists working in the community and, where appropriate, general dental practitioners with a special interest in orthodontics.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from orthodontists regarding the impact of running costs on practices under the new dental contract; and if she will make a statement. [80685]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The representations that the Department has received from orthodontists have focused largely on new or growing orthodontic practices, where the value of their most recent national health service caseload (prior to the implementation of the recent dental reforms) exceeds their NHS earnings during the October 2004 to September 2005 reference period used for calculating minimum guaranteed contract values under the new arrangements. It is for primary care trusts to decide locally whether and, if so, how far to adjust contract values in these circumstances, based on assessment of local needs and taking into account local priorities.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the new dental contract arrangements on access to orthodontic treatment; and if she will make a statement. [80686]

Ms Rosie Winterton: New arrangements are designed to provide a more consistent method of assessing orthodontic needs and enable primary care trusts (PCTs) to target resources more accurately on children with the greatest needs.

PCTs will need to form a local view on whether to reduce, maintain or increase the level of orthodontic activity commissioned from dentists in line with the local population's needs and local priorities. It is too early to make any assessment of changes in levels of access to orthodontic treatment.

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of people were registered with an NHS dentist on 29 June in each constituency in England. [81211]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected in the form requested.

Information will be available in due course via the NHS business services authority on the numbers of patients who receive care or treatment from national health service primary care dentists on one or more occasions within a given period of time. This will provide a measure that is broadly similar to that of patient registration under the former system of general dental services. We expect the first information to be available in the autumn.

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why the UK Government have objected to the European Medical Devices Expert Group's recommendation that a statement of conformity be given to the patient from his or her dentist on supply of a custom-made dental appliance. [82152]

Andy Burnham: This proposal, which was made by the European Commission as part of their recommendations to amend the medical devices directive 93/42/EC, is still under negotiation between member states in the Council of Ministers working group and no final decision has been reached. The United Kingdom Government will implement whatever amendment is made to the directive in this respect once it has been ratified by the European Parliament.

Departmental Annual Reports

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in her Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years; and what percentage this represented of the total number of staff in each case. [75113]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As part of the annual staff appraisal process, the performance of individuals is classified against one of the four performance-related pay categories, where box one is the highest category marking, box four being the lowest. The number of staff who received a box marking of three and four is shown in the table.

	Number unacceptable	*Percentage*
2002-03	24	1.6
2003-04	18	1.0
2004-05	31	1.6

Notes:
Box three—most but not all objectives have been met, meaning that performance is stronger in some parts of the job than in others and further development needs can be identified and performance improvements made to reach good all-round standards. These needs must have been communicated to the individual during the appraisal year. Box four—overall performance is weak and objectives are not being met. Development opportunities have not had a significant effect. By this stage, the individual concerned should have been counselled and been must have been aware that their work is unsatisfactory in both discussion and in writing.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of staff in her Department are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension. [72992]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Members of the principal civil service pension scheme (PCSPS) can pay additional contributions to top up their pension either through the civil service additional voluntary contributions scheme (CSAVCS), a money purchase arrangement, or by buying added years of service in the PCSPS. As an alternative to membership of the PCSPS recruits from 1 October 2002 have been able to join a stakeholder arrangement, the partnership pension account.

The number and percentage of staff in the Department who are making additional voluntary contributions to their pension as at 30 April 2006 is shown in the table.

	Number	*Percentage*
CSAVCS	91	4.05
Added years	161	7.17
Partnership	18	0.01

Diabetes

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people with diabetes in England have been provided with structured patient education in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; [79374]

(2) how many primary care trusts are delivering National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for structured education for people with diabetes. [79375]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally. However, from January 2006, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) health technology appraisal No 60—"Guidance on the use of patient education models for diabetes" requires all primary care trusts to implement NICE recommendations by providing all people with diabetes with high-quality, structured education. Compliance with NICE health technology appraisals is a core standard and is assessed by the Healthcare Commission as part of its annual health check.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings her Department's Commercial Directorate held with her Department's diabetes policy team about the potential impact on patient care of the Drug Tariff Part IX consultation before 24 October 2005; and how many such meetings have been held since that date. [81109]

Andy Burnham: A formal meeting was held between Dr. Sue Roberts, national clinical director for diabetes, on 21 June 2006 with representatives from the Department's commercial directorate and the pricing and supply directorate.

Digital Hearing Aids

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to introduce a minimum waiting time of 18 weeks for patients in need of a hearing aid. [82194]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 604W.

Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received on the decision not to renew the contract for the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin. [76552]

Andy Burnham: At 27 June, the Department has received 1,282 letters regarding the decision not to renew its contract for the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin.

Hon. Members and peers have also tabled 14 and 10 parliamentary questions respectively to the Houses on this issue.

Gender Dysphoria

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what choices of provider are available for those referred for assessment, counselling and treatment, including surgery for gender dysphoria and related gender role

anxieties and conditions; whether the achievement of national waiting list targets apply to such referrals; and if she will make a statement. [78616]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The care and treatment pathway for people with gender dysphoria and related conditions usually begins with the patient's referral by their general practitioner to a psychiatrist or psychologist for assessment. If the referral is to a consultant psychiatrist, national waiting targets will apply.

Mental health services are not currently required to offer a choice of provider at the point of referral. If, following an appropriate period of assessment, gender reassignment surgery is recommended, that is usually the subject of a consultant to consultant referral which is also outside the scope of the requirement to offer a choice of provider.

The Department recognises that transsexualism is a medical condition and that the availability of gender reassignment surgery should be dependent on the clinical need of the individual patient. Primary care trusts commission gender dysphoria and surgery services on the basis of their assessment of the needs of their populations and available service capacity.

Health Services (Stoke-on-Trent)

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evaluation has been made of dental health for under-five-year-olds in *(a)* Stoke-on-Trent, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England. [80599]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information available centrally shows that average number of decayed, missing or filled teeth (DMFT) among five-year-olds in the area of South and North Stoke on Trent primary care trust (PCT) is 2.01, compared to 0.97 for West Midlands and 1.49 in England as a whole.

We have also taken note of the fact that Oldbury and Smethwick PCT, which has similar social profile to North Stoke, but receives fluoridated water, has a DMFT of 0.93. Changes we have made in the legislative framework governing fluoridation give communities with high levels of dental decay a real option of having their water fluoridated.

Independent Sector Treatment Centres

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the potential percentage increase is in the capacity for elective procedures in each relevant area for each independent sector treatment centre that has reached invitation to negotiate stage or beyond. [79280]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Invitations to negotiate have been issued for 14 schemes which are proceeding on current indicative figures which are approximate and subject to commercial negotiation.

Total elective activity in England in 2004-05 was 5,577,523 finished consultant episodes. In total, the phase two procurement is expected to provide 250,000 elective procedures per annum, which would be an increase in capacity of approximately 5 per cent. This is in addition to the capacity from the first wave of independent sector treatment centres.

Influenza

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1940W, on influenza, whether the invitation to tender indicated a preference for UK rather than overseas manufacture. [80824]

Ms Rosie Winterton: European Union procurement regulations do not allow us to specify a preference for United Kingdom rather than overseas manufacture in our invitation to tender.

Insulin Inhalers

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will estimate *(a)* the extra number of NHS psychiatrists that would be needed and *(b)* the extra cost that would be incurred to implement the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's proposals for psychiatric testing for the prescription of insulin inhalers. [81108]

Andy Burnham: A second appraisal committee decision on inhaled insulin from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) was published on 21 June for consultation. This does not constitute the NICE'S formal guidance on this technology. The recommendations made are preliminary and may change after consultation.

Leftover Prescription Drugs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* advertising and *(b)* information campaigns her Department has conducted on how to return (i) unused, (ii) unopened and (iii) leftover prescription drugs in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [81431]

Andy Burnham: The Department actively promotes safe use, storage and return of unused, unopened and unwanted medicines to pharmacies for safe disposal. Since the introduction of the new community pharmacy contractual framework from 1 April 2005, the collection and disposal of unwanted medicines has been an essential service provided by all community pharmacies.

Information on the safe use, storage and return of unused and left over medicines has been included on the NHS Direct website. The NHS Direct self-help guide in the Thompson local directory, which has been distributed to 17 million households across England from April 2006, has a full-page advert encouraging people to return old and unwanted medicines to pharmacies for safe disposal. Messages about safe use, storage and disposal of medicines were also included in the "Ask About Medicines Week" campaign in November 2005.

Macmillan Nurses

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice she has offered primary care trusts on

whether they should fund Macmillan nurses after the initial period of funding provided by the Macmillan Cancer Support organisation. [81077]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No central guidance has been issued to primary care trusts (PCTs) on whether they should fund Macmillan nurses after the initial period of funding from Macmillan Cancer Support.

It is for trusts to decide how many nurses, including palliative care nurse specialists, are employed in each specialty within hospitals. It is for local cancer networks, working in partnership with PCTs, strategic health authorities and their workforce development directorates, to assess, plan and review their workforce, education and training needs for all staff linked to the delivery of local and national priorities for cancer.

Mental Health Act

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what parts of the Mental Health Act 1983 she expects to be repealed by the forthcoming Mental Health Bill. [80843]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In amending the Mental Health Act 1983 to deliver our policy objectives, our intention is to repeal some elements of that Act. In particular, our plans are to introduce:

a new and simplified definition of mental disorder, which would involve amending those provisions that refer to different categories of mental disorder;

an appropriate treatment test, which would involve repealing provisions which relate to the so-called treatability test; and

supervised community treatment, which would involve the abolition of aftercare under supervision.

Motor Neurone Disease

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to appraise the use of non-invasive ventilation in motor neurone disease treatment. [82419]

Andy Burnham: The Department has no plans to ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to issue guidance on the use of non-invasive ventilation in motor neurone disease treatment.

Members of the public and professionals are free to make suggestions on possible topics for interventional procedure guidance via NICE's website at www.nice.org.uk.

NHS Banks

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many regional NHS banks have been established since 1990. [79669]

Andy Burnham: There is only one NHS Bank, which covers all areas of the NHS in England. The Government's commitment to establish an NHS Bank was included in "Delivering the NHS Plan" published in July 2000. The NHS Bank existed in shadow form in 2002-03, and from 2003-04 it has continued as an advisory body.

NHS Complaints

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints against the NHS brought to the attention of the Healthcare Commission and closed by April took longer than *(a)* eight weeks, *(b)* six months and *(c)* one year from receipt of the complaint to closure. [82586]

Andy Burnham: The Chairman of the Healthcare Commission has confirmed that the Commission has faced higher than expected numbers of cases referred to it for independent consideration of national health service complaints since taking on the role in July 2004. From launch to the end of June 2006, 15,460 requests for independent review were received by the Healthcare Commission. Some 2,321 complaints are waiting to be investigated by a case manager. The average age of these queuing cases is 6.5 months. Of these, 2,021 have been waiting longer than eight weeks, 1,198 have been waiting over six months and no complaints have been waiting one year or longer for the start of a case manager review. In addition, there are some 2,907 cases under active review by case managers.

The Department and Healthcare Commission are working together to see how the NHS complaints process might be improved and how better local resolution of complaints can be achieved.

NHS Direct

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the pay reform agenda at NHS Direct; how many sites are waiting for payment of back pay; and when she expects this process to be completed. [82008]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS Direct has advised the Department that they are making good progress on pay reform and are working in partnership with unions locally.

Information is not held centrally on how many sites are waiting for payment of back pay but I understand that NHS Direct is currently working on the cost of arrears of pay and expect to have evaluated all relevant timesheets by July/August so that staff can receive their back pay as soon as possible thereafter.

NHS Finances

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the likely impact on services in trusts which have approved budgets which do not take into account interest and other payments on loans. [80923]

Andy Burnham: In 2006-07, the informal and untransparent system of cash brokerage and planned support that had previously operated across the

national health service has been replaced by a formal system of interest-bearing loans and deposits.

NHS trusts that require additional cash will take out interest-bearing loans with the Department that will be disclosed in the balance sheet. This transparent reporting of financial performance will encourage organisations to address financial problems earlier.

Strategic health authorities are responsible for performance-managing both cash management and financial planning and should ensure that interest accruing on loans with the Department is included in the financial plans for 2006-07.

NHS Managers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria she uses when deciding to increase the number of NHS managers. [78444]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of managers employed in each national health service organisation is a matter for local determination.

NHS Treatment

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many British taxpayers were charged for NHS treatment due to residency outside the UK for more than 6 months of the year in each year since 2000; how much revenue was raised from such charges; what criteria were used in deciding to apply such charges; and if she will make a statement. [80421]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Entitlement to access free national health service hospital treatment is based on whether someone is ordinarily resident in this country, not on British nationality or the past or present payment of National Insurance contributions or United Kingdom taxes. Anyone who is not ordinarily resident is subject to the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended. These regulations place a responsibility on NHS hospitals to establish whether a person is ordinarily resident, or exempt from charges under one of a number of exemption categories, or liable for charges.

Anyone who lives outside this country for more than 6 months is no longer automatically entitled to free NHS hospital treatment as they will not be considered ordinarily resident here. They will therefore be liable to charges unless they return to the UK to resume their permanent residency, or if they are exempt under another exemption category.

Successive Governments have not required the NHS to provide statistics on the number of overseas visitors seen or treated under the provisions of these regulations or on the costs of treatment. It is therefore not possible to provide the information requested.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated by the NHS for wounds caused by *(a)* a knife, *(b)* a dagger, *(c)* a sword, *(d)* other types of bladed article and *(e)* a firearm in each year since 1997; what proportion of the victims were (i) male and (ii) female in each category in each year; and how many in each category in each year were admitted as emergency cases. [79600]

Andy Burnham: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Nurses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost is to the public purse of training a nurse. [79666]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest year for which figures are available show that in 2004-05 the national average cost of tuition to train a nurse over the three years of their course was £19,740. Diploma students would also be entitled to a non-means tested bursary, which in 2004-05 averaged £6,547 per annum.

Obesity

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets have been set for healthcare professionals for assisting patients to manage their weight. [80187]

Caroline Flint: National targets are set out in "National Standards Local Action: Health and Social Care Standards and Planning Framework 2005-06-2007-08". For obesity, the current target is to tackle the underlying determinants of ill health and health inequalities by halting the year on year rise in obesity in children under 11 by 2010 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole. Any local targets are set and performance-managed at a local level.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guideline daily amounts of *(a)* salt, *(b)* energy, *(c)* fat and *(d)* saturates are recommended by the (i) Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition and (ii) Food Standards Agency. [80190]

Caroline Flint: The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) supports the dietary recommendations set out by the committee on medical aspects of food policy (COMA). Dietary reference values for nutrients form the basis of nutrient recommendations on dietary intakes and are used for assessing the adequacy of diets. For adults the recommendations are:

a reference nutrient intake of four grams of salt per day, and a target reduction in the average population intake of salt to six grams per day for adults. Lower targets have been set for children according to age;

energy intake recommendations are set according to age, body weight and physical activity levels;

total fat intake should average 35 per cent., of energy derived from food; and

saturated fats— an average for the population of 10 per cent. total dietary energy.

All the above recommendations of SACN and its predecessor, COMA, are endorsed by the Department and the Food Standards Agency.

Overseas Visitors (NHS Care)

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the outcome of

her Department's consultation in 2004 on proposals to exclude overseas visitors from eligibility to free NHS primary medical services. [79296]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's public consultation on proposals to exclude overseas visitors from eligibility to free national health service primary medical services concluded on 13 August 2004. The response to the consultation has raised some complex issues, which we have been working across Government to resolve.

Palliative Care

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to palliative care in *(a)* England and *(b)* the West Midlands in each of the past 10 years. [80123]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not routinely collect the data requested.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including palliative care. The NHS is currently receiving the largest sustained increase in funding in its history, but growth money is not identified for specific purposes. PCTs will be able to use these extra resources to deliver on both national and local priorities, including palliative care.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the financial impact on acute trusts of doubling funding for palliative care, as set out in the Labour Party's 2005 election manifesto. [80609]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Ministers have asked the National Cancer Director, Professor Mike Richards, supported by Professor Ian Philp, National Director for Older People, to prepare a comprehensive strategy to develop and progress end of life care. The strategy will establish the means whereby the Government's manifesto commitment on palliative care and also the end of life care strategy outlined in the White Paper "Our health, our care, our say" will be delivered.

The strategy will set out in more detail the rationale for the new developments on end of life care that were heralded in "Our health, our care, our say" and provide guidance to commissioners and providers on how to bring about improvements in end of life care at a local level and will need to take account of:

- funding issues for hospices and specialist palliative care issues;
- the various issues around choice at the end of life;
- the need to improve the quality of end of life care in hospitals and care homes; and
- the need for more improved co-ordination of services across organisational boundaries.

Professor Richards has been asked to report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Parkinson's Disease

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research her Department has commissioned into possible links between Parkinson's disease and use of pesticides. [81122]

Caroline Flint: The independent advisory committee on pesticides (ACP) provides authoritative advice to Government on all aspects of pesticides. At its meeting in November 2004, the ACP considered a report produced by its medical and toxicology panel on the possible links between pesticides and Parkinson's disease. At that meeting, the committee concluded that although this review indicated a correlation between recalled pesticide exposure and Parkinson's disease it did not point to a particular toxic mechanism or a hazard from a specific compound or group of compounds.

However, the committee did advise that further mechanistic and epidemiological research be carried out on the association between pesticide exposure and Parkinson's disease. The tender process has been organised by the pesticides safety directorate and has now finished. Two research proposals have now been funded by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, one is an epidemiology study, the other a mechanistic study.

The issue was briefly discussed at the ACP meeting of 27 June 2006 and a full evaluation is expected soon. A new study by the Harvard School of Public Health has recently been widely reported in the press and ACP shall review this as soon as it becomes available.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the reorganisation of primary care trusts will necessitate a change in the way resources are allocated in the NHS. [80791]

Andy Burnham: Revenue allocations are made to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. The weighted capitation formula is used to determine PCTs' target shares of available resources to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need.

The method used to allocate the 2006-08 revenue allocations to PCTs will not change as a result of the reconfiguration of PCTs. The advisory committee on resource allocation will continue to oversee the development of the allocations formula and will make recommendations to Ministers on any future changes to the weighted capitation formula for PCT revenue allocations post 2007-08.

Practice-based Commissioning

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1083W, on practice-based commissioning, what her latest estimate is of the number of GP practices engaged in practice-based commissioning in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority; and if she will make a statement. [79044]

Caroline Flint: Information on the number of practices taking up an incentive payment to participate in practice-based commissioning is shown in the following table.

Strategic health authority (SHA) name	*Number of practices in SHA*	*Number of practices taking up an incentive payment*	*Percentage of practices taking up an incentive payment*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	224	81	36
Essex	288	57	20
North Central London	285	43	15
North East London	344	218	63
South East London	284	225	79
South West London	230	172	75
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	233	127	55
County Durham and Tees Valley	172	42	24
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	251	76	30
Cumbria and Lancashire	347	194	56
Greater Manchester	545	286	52
Cheshire and Merseyside	418	113	27
Thames Valley	280	75	27
Surrey and Sussex	363	147	40
South West Peninsula	249	127	51
Somerset and Dorset	177	—	—
South Yorkshire	222	85	38
Trent	407	154	38
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	230	—	—
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	285	203	71
Kent and Medway	287	—	—
Birmingham and the Black Country	500	335	67
West Yorkshire	349	141	40
West Midlands South	229	53	23
North West London	437	194	44
Shropshire and Staffordshire	257	90	35
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	314	75	24
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	226	141	62
Total—England	8,433	3,454	41

Notes:
The information is correct as of 31 May 2006.
Engagement in practice-based commissioning is measured through take up of an incentive payment. This may be the national directed enhanced service for practice-based commissioning or a local alternative.
The Department is planning to publish information on the take-up of practice-based commissioning for future months. This will be available on the Department's website.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* timetable is and *(b)* arrangements are for the (i) submission of applications and (ii) consideration of the appointment of the (A) chairperson and (B) members of the board of the new primary care trust covering Thurrock. [79295]

Andy Burnham: The NHS Appointments Commission is the body responsible for the appointment of chairs and non executives (NEDs) to all new primary care trusts—both non-reconfiguring primary care trusts (PCTs) and reconfiguring PCTs.

The final candidate who is being considered for the post of Chair of South West Essex Teaching PCT, which will be the new PCT covering the Thurrock area, will be interviewed on 24 July and the Appointments Commission anticipate that the chair-designate will be appointed at the end of July at a special board meeting of the Commission.

The non-executive director posts have been advertised and applications received. Once the chair-designate is known, the dates for shortlisting and interviewing these candidates can be arranged. The Appointments Commission aim to make the first NED appointments in September.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1782-83W, on primary care trusts, what the figures for revenue allocation for primary care trusts in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 represent per head of population across each (i) strategic health authority and (ii) Government region. [80254]

Andy Burnham: Revenue allocations for primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2006-07 and 2007-08 aggregated to strategic health authorities (SHAs) and Government regions and presented per person are shown in the tables.

Table 1: PCT revenue allocations aggregated to SHAs and presented per person

£

SHA	2006-07	2007-08
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	1,160	1,262
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	1,134	1,239
Birmingham and the Black Country	1,355	1,484
Cheshire and Merseyside	1,406	1,536
County Durham and Tees Valley	1,403	1,542
Cumbria and Lancashire	1,320	1,436
Dorset and Somerset	1,213	1,324
Essex	1,185	1,300
Greater Manchester	1,396	1,524
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	1,163	1,265
Kent and Medway	1,198	1,312
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	1,136	1,252
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	1,153	1,266
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	1,206	1,311
North Central London	1,468	1,579
North East London	1,478	1,608
North West London	1,398	1,499
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	1,431	1,559
Shropshire and Staffordshire	1,206	1,319
South East London	1,478	1,594
South West London	1,276	1,370
South West Peninsula	1,237	1,350
South Yorkshire	1,382	1,507
Surrey and Sussex	1,240	1,339
Thames Valley	1,083	1,182
Trent	1,225	1,341
West Midlands South	1,175	1,290
West Yorkshire	1,312	1,422
England average	1,274	1,388

Table 2: PCT revenue allocations per person aggregated to Government regions and presented per person

£

Government region	2006-07	2007-08
East	1,157	1,268
East Midlands	1,193	1,309
London	1,421	1,531
North East	1,419	1,551
North West	1,378	1,503
South East	1,173	1,275
South West	1,198	1,305
West Midlands	1,261	1,382
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,295	1,407
England average	1,274	1,388

Public Consultations

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which public consultation exercises have resulted in the closure of *(a)* beds, *(b)* services and *(c)* other NHS facilities in each of the last three years; [80729]

(2) how many public consultations the NHS carried out in each of the last 3 years; and what the outcome was in each case. [80730]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally.

National health service organisations have a duty to involve and consult patients, the public and their representatives in the planning and development of, and any changes to, the operation of services. NHS bodies are also under a duty to consult overview and scrutiny committees on any plans to make substantial variation to NHS services. Those committees have the powers to refer any proposal to the Secretary of State if they believe the plans are not in the interests of the health service. Currently there are four referrals being considered by the Secretary of State.

Redundancy Arrangements

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether redundancy arrangements for chief executives of primary care NHS trusts and strategic health authorities are published. [79680]

Andy Burnham: There are two documents covering these arrangements:

"Strategic health authority reorganisation: chief executive transitions, ensuring good human resource practice and value for money" is specifically aimed at strategic health authority (SHA) chief executives affected by "Commissioning A Patient-Led NHS" changes and was circulated by the Department to SHAs on 8 May 2006; and

"Standards for implementing good human resource practice and value for money when staff are affected by organisational change" covers all other staff including primary care trust chief executives. This guidance was published on the NHS Employers website on 15 June 2006.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether *(a)* primary care trusts, *(b)* NHS trusts and *(c)* strategic health authorities which make senior managers redundant are able to reclaim some of this cost from central resources. [79681]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no central fund to finance the cost of redundancy. National health service organisations have been asked to minimise the cost of severance, and where possible these should be financed from in-year management cost savings. The recurring savings will exceed one-off redundancy costs.

Reproductive Health

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many morning-after pills were sold over the counter in pharmacies in each primary care trust area in each year since 2001, broken down by age of user. [81278]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Brent East (Sarah Teather) by the then Minister of State, Department of Health, the right hon. Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy) on 11 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 731W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on how she is carrying out her duty under section 5 of the National Health Service Act 1977 with regard to family planning services. [81283]

Caroline Flint: It is a matter for local primary care trusts (PCTs) to determine what level of contraceptive service it provides, and whom it commissions the services from, in order to meet the needs of its local population.

Improving access to, and persuading people of the benefits of using contraceptive methods to avoid the risk of unplanned pregnancies or sexually transmitted infections is one of the key aims of the Government's White Paper, "Choosing Health: making healthy choices easier".

Earlier this year, all PCT sexual health leads were asked to complete a baseline review of contraceptive services to inform locally and nationally gaps in service provision. The Department has so far received responses covering 245 PCTs.

Departmental officials are currently collating these data and will publish best practice guidance for reproductive health services later this year. This will link into the White Paper and highlight findings from the review, share good practice and draw out guidance to support at local and national level the provision of contraceptive services.

To support modernisation of contraceptive services we are investing £40 million (£20 million in each 2006-07 and 2007-08). We have also reduced the rate of value added tax on condoms and emergency hormonal contraception from 1 July to the lowest level of 5 per cent., making the costs of these items more affordable and are working with the industry to increase the supply of free condoms to high-risk groups.

Seasonal Influenza Vaccine

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure sufficient supply of seasonal influenza vaccine for the 2006-07 winter. [80787]

Caroline Flint: Departmental officials meet with the United Kingdom (UK) vaccine industry group each year to discuss flu vaccine requirements for the UK. Information on the supply of vaccine for the forthcoming flu season is detailed in the letter from the Chief Medical Officer to the profession dated 29 June, a copy of which is available on the Department's website at: www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/embroadcast.nsf/vwDiscussionAll/1268E83B317864A28025719C002E5973.

Copies have been placed in the Library.

Sir David Henshaw

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints the NHS Appointments Commission has received about the appointment of Sir David Henshaw as chair of the North West strategic health authority; and whether they have been forwarded to the Commissioner of Public Appointments. [79007]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The NHS Appointments Commission received four complaints regarding the appointment of Sir David Henshaw, chair of the North West strategic health authority.

The NHS Appointments Commission is not required to refer complaints to the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Smoking

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of women aged under 30 years who are smokers; what the figure was *(a)* five years and *(b)* 10 years ago; and if she will make a statement. [80196]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available in the format requested. However, data on the most recently available estimates of the prevalence of smoking among women in 2004, 1998 and 1994 in each of the age groups 16 to 19, 20 to 24 and 25 to 34 is shown in the table. The figures demonstrate the success of the tobacco control policies the Department has introduced since the White Paper "Smoking Kills" was published in 1998.

Prevalence of smoking among women by selected age group, Great Britain 1994, 1998 and 2004

Percentage

	Unweighted		*Weighted*	*Weighted based 2004 (thousand)*	*Unweighted Sample 2004*
Age	*1994*	*1998*	*2004*		
16-19	27	31	25	1,084	367
20-24	38	39	29	1,665	542
25-34	30	33	28	3,563	1,291

Note:
1998 weighted equivalents are: 16 to 19 (32 per cent.); 20 to 24 (39 per cent.); 25 to 34 (33 per cent.)
Source:
General Household Survey 2004, Office for National Statistics.

Speech and Language Therapy

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many speech and language therapists were employed by each primary care trust in 2005-06; and what the ratio of speech and language therapists to the population was. [76672]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data on the number of many speech and language therapists employed by each primary care trust PCT and the ratio of speech and language therapists to the population has been placed in the Library.

In some larger areas, which cover a number of PCTs, one PCT will take on the responsibility of providing speech and language therapists for the others. This normally happens where the local authority boundary is coterminous with the boundaries of the PCTs involved.

Mr. Blizzard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to increase the number of speech and language therapists employed by the NHS. [76673]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities, local authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services. This process provides the means for addressing needs within the local community including the provision of speech and language therapy.

The number of qualified speech and language therapists employed in the national health service has increased by 1,329 (24 per cent.) since 2000 to 6,759 in 2005. The number of speech and language therapy undergraduate commissions has increased by 149 (27 per cent.) since 2000 to 707 in 2005.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria are used to decide on the proportion of funding for speech and language therapy coming from *(a)* central Government and *(b)* local government. [81437]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities, local authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of speech and language therapy.

St. Ann's Hospital, Haringey

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect of closing down the x-ray department at St. Ann's hospital in Haringey. [81577]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for the local national health service to make assessments and decisions on how local services are delivered. However, I understand that North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust has held a consultation, on a proposal to transfer x-ray facilities from St. Anne's hospital to the North Middlesex University hospital site. The consultation ended on 13 June 2006 and proposals will be put before a meeting of the local overview and scrutiny committee, before any final decisions are taken.

Tourists (Health Care Funding)

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account her Department takes of increased summer populations in coastal areas and other holiday destinations when allocating funds to primary care trusts; and if she will make a statement. [80718]

Andy Burnham: Primary care trust (PCT) populations are defined for resource allocation as the patients registered with general practitioner (GP) practices forming the PCT and unregistered patients within their geographical boundaries.

The prescribing component of the weighted capitation formula includes a weighting for temporary residents on GP practice lists which advantages PCTs in coastal areas and other holiday destinations.

The advisory committee on resource allocation is reviewing the population base for the next round of allocations.

There are separate funding arrangements for patients who need emergency treatment away from home where the treating trust invoices the patient's home PCT.

Treatment Abroad

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health following the ruling of the European Court of Justice of 16 May 2006 on the reimbursement by the NHS of a patient who receives treatment in another member state under the E112 scheme, whether patients seeking infertility treatment would be eligible for treatment under this scheme. [78585]

Ms Rosie Winterton: From 1992 to date, 11 applications have been approved for in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment abroad under the E112 scheme.

The Court of Justice's judgment in the Watts case confirmed that it is justifiable for patients seeking hospital treatment abroad, at national health service expense, to be required to obtain prior authorisation from their healthcare commissioner before being treated. The judgment also confirmed that the conditions that apply to service availability within the United Kingdom can also apply to requests for treatment elsewhere in the European Union: primary care trusts will consider requests on a case by case basis.

General guidance on the implications of the Watts case will be issued to the NHS shortly.

Turnaround Teams

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts in turnaround have had their *(a)* management team, *(b)* budgetary controls and *(c)* reporting systems rated good or better by her Department and external auditors. [80717]

Andy Burnham: The turnaround teams were announced by the Secretary of State in a written ministerial statement on 1 December.

The first stage was a baseline assessment which aimed to ensure there is an agreed understanding of the local financial problem and that actions are in hand to address this. The contract for the baseline assessment was awarded to consultants KPMG. The results of the assessment were published in the report from Richard Douglas on 25 January 2006.

The assessment was not "good or better" but has four categories (1-4) which gives an overall assessment:

(1) Immediate priority. Need for urgent intervention to drive turnaround;

(2) Additional expertise/resource needed to support the turnaround;

(3) Drive/focus. Maintain high priority of actions; and

(4) Regular challenge of management. Encourage to share what works and deliver easy wins.

The numbers of PCTs in the turnaround cohort by overall category are listed in the following table.

	Number
Category 1	11
Category 2	20
Category 3	18
Category 4	3

KPMG also provided a management ranking (1-4) which represents an assessment of management's capacity to deliver the turnaround:

(1) Management are unlikely to have the capability to deliver the turnaround;

(2) The management team will likely require additional resource to deliver turnaround;

(3) The management team will require careful monitoring to ensure they are delivering the turnaround but do not require any intervention; and

(4) The management team have the capability to deliver the turnaround.

The numbers of PCTs in the turnaround cohort by management category are listed in the following table.

	Number
Management ranking 1	11
Management ranking 2	20
Management ranking 3	18
Management ranking 4	3

There was no quantifiable assessment of budgetary controls or reporting systems.

Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1818W, on waiting times, in what detail data were collected in 1979; whether her Department has previously attempted to calculate the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median waiting time in 1979; and what the (i) mean and (ii) median waiting time was in each year for which figures are available since they were first collected. [80825]

Andy Burnham: The following information on waiting times was collected in 1979.

In-patients

Total list size of patients waiting for ordinary admission.

Out-patients

No waiting time information collected.

Due to the lack of detailed data available, mean and median waits have not been calculated for 1979. The mean and median waiting times are available on a commissioner basis back to 1993-94 for in-patients, and 1997-98 for out-patients. However, figures are available on a provider basis back to 1987-88 for in-patients and 1993-94 for out-patients.

The figures are shown in the following tables.

In-patient mean and medians in weeks from 1988

	Median		Mean	
Quarter ending	*Provider*	*Commissioner*	*Provider*	*Commissioner*
March 1988	21.7	—	28.9	—
March 1989	22.2	—	29.2	—
March 1990	20.5	—	27.7	—
March 1991	19.2	—	25.8	—
March 1992	13.9	—	20.4	—
March 1993	13.8	—	19.6	—
March 1994	—	14.4	—	20.2
March 1995	—	12.5	—	17.8
March 1996	—	11.8	—	15.9
March 1997	—	13.2	—	18.1
March 1998	—	14.9	—	20.0
March 1999	—	12.9	—	18.6
March 2000	—	12.9	—	18.7
March 2001	—	12.6	—	18.1
March 2002	—	12.7	—	17.4
March 2003	—	11.9	—	15.6
March 2004	—	10.2	—	12.4
March 2005	—	8.5	—	10.6
March 2006	—	7.3	—	8.7

Note:
Provider based data only available prior to 1994 *Source:* KH07/QF01

Out-patient mean and medians in weeks from 1994

	Median		Mean	
Quarter ending	*Provider*	*Commissioner*	*Provider*	*Commissioner*
March 1994	5.4	—	9.3	—
March 1995	6.0	—	9.3	—
March 1996	6.0	—	8.7	—
March 1997	6.0	—	8.7	—
March 1998	—	6.4	—	9.5
March 1999	—	7.0	—	10.5

Out-patient mean and medians in weeks from 1994

	Median		Mean	
Quarter ending	*Provider*	*Commissioner*	*Provider*	*Commissioner*
March 2000	—	7.7	—	11.7
March 2001	—	7.5	—	10.9
March 2002	—	7.6	—	11.1
March 2003	—	7.4	—	9.0
March 2004	—	7.1	—	8.5
March 2005	—	7.0	—	7.5
March 2006	—	6.1	—	6.5

Note:
Provider based data only available prior to 1998 *Source*: QM08/QM08r

West Cheshire Primary Care Trust

Christine Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been allocated to the West Cheshire primary care trust for the provision of sexual health services in each of the next three financial years. [82672]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Funding is allocated to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services, including sexual health services, to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations. Allocations made to the Cheshire West PCT from 2005-06 to 2007-08 are shown in the following table.

	Allocations (£ million)
2005-06	164.1
2006-07	196.6
2007-08	215.3

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 6 July 2006

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Leader of the House which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* the Deputy Leader of the House attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contribution from third party organisations. [83597]

Nigel Griffiths: None.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women are known to have died within one month of operations for termination of pregnancy notified under the Abortion Regulations in each year since 1997; and what cause of death was recorded on the death certificate in each case. [81176]

Caroline Flint: The confidential inquiry into maternal and child health reports information on deaths following termination of pregnancy up to one year after the event. In the period 1997 to 2002 there were only seven such deaths known to the inquiry. Further information is contained within the two triennial reports on confidential inquiries into maternal deaths in the United Kingdom for the periods 1997-99 and 2000-02, which are available at www.cemach.org.uk.

Arun Community Hospital

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to be in a position to decide on the future of the Arun community hospital in Littlehampton. [82483]

Caroline Flint: Responsibility for decisions on the future of Arun community hospital rests with the local national health service.

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in her Department's press office. [74362]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of staff employed in the Department's press office is 48. The number who have disclosed their ethnicity status cannot be given under grounds of confidentiality.

Breast Milk Substitutes

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the adequacy of regulations to protect against the promotion of products inferior to breast milk. [81530]

Caroline Flint: The Department is working with the Food Standards Agency to continue to press for changes to the recast European Union directive on infant formula and follow-on formula advertising.

The Department also intends to review, later this year, the United Kingdom regulations on infant formula and follow-on formula advertising, a commitment set out in the "Choosing Health—Making healthy choices easier" White Paper.

Childhood Immunisation Services

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP practices have opted out of providing childhood immunisation services following the introduction of the new GP contract in 2003; and where each is located. [79773]

Caroline Flint: In 2004, 6.3 per cent. of general medical services (GMS) partnerships had opted out of providing childhood immunisation services. In 2005, the proportion of GMS partnerships opting out was reported to be 36.7 per cent.

Comparison between 2004 and 2005 childhood immunisation services opt-out data should be undertaken with caution. Data as at 30 September 2004 was the first year in which opt-out data was collected on a partnership basis following the change in the general practitioner (GP) contract in April 2004. The figures published as at 30 September 2005 (a revision of earlier collected data) shows a great increase in the number of partnerships opting-out of childhood immunisation services, with no corresponding explanation of the increase.

The 2004 and 2005 data is published in full by The Information Centre for health and social care and can be found at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/10/73/41/04107341.xls. A copy has been placed in the Library.

However, as part of its statutory duties, each primary care trust, under section 16CC of the National Health Services Act 1977(a), must provide a childhood immunisation scheme. If a GP opts out, then one per cent. is removed from the GPs global sum payment. This allows the primary care trust to re-provide the service with another contractor or to self-provide.

Connecting for Health

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her latest estimate is of the total implementation costs of Connecting for Health, including the cost of local implementation. [76973]

Caroline Flint: The value of contracts let for the core components of the national programme for

information technology, which is being delivered by the department's NHS Connecting for Health Agency, amounts to £6.2 billion over 10 years and this has not increased. Information about local national health service expenditure on implementing the programme, separate from the totality of NHS spending on information technology, is not collected centrally.

However, the National Audit Office (NAO) have calculated that the full gross cost of the programme including national contracts and legitimately approved additions, other central expenditure, and local implementation costs is approximately £12.4 billion at 2004-05 prices. But this figure does not take into account anticipated savings in the price paid by the NHS for information technology goods and services due to the central buying power of NHS Connecting for Health, or in NHS staff time saved through using the programme's systems and services. The NAO report acknowledges an independent evaluation that confirms that £4.5 billion has been saved by central rather than local procurement and also acknowledges a further £860 million of savings achieved through centrally negotiated enterprise wide arrangements.

Consultants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many consultants per capita there were in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* England in each year since 1997. [77827]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The number of consultants per 100,000 weighted population and per 100,000 unweighted population in England and Gloucestershire in each year since 1997 is shown in the table.

Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS): Medical and dental consultants within England and Gloucestershire[1] and numbers per 100,000 population[2,3,4] As at 30 September each year

						Numbers (headcount) and numbers (headcount) per population			
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Consultants									
England	21,474	22,324	23,321	24,401	25,782	27,070	28,750	30,650	31,993
Gloucestershire[1]	188	191	192	210	234	242	257	277	297
Consultants per 100,000 weighted population[2]									
England[3]	43.6	45.2	47.0	49.1	51.4	53.8	58.5	62.3	65.1
Gloucestershire[4]	35.7	36.9	37.1	40.5	45.1	46.4	50.6	54.5	58.5
Consultants per 100,000 population									
England[3]	43.6	45.2	47.0	49.1	51.4	53.8	57.7	61.2	63.7
Gloucestershire	33.6	34.1	34.1	37.2	41.4	42.7	45.3	48.6	51.8

[1] In obtaining the consultant numbers, Gloucestershire is defined as the Gloucestershire HA area for 1997 to 2001 and the following organisations for 2002 to 2005: South Gloucestershire PCT, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT, West Gloucestershire PCT, Cotswold and Vale PCT, Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust.

[2] The population data used in these calculations is weighted for HCHS age and need.

[3] The England weighted population is normalised or scaled back to, and therefore equals, the England unweighted population. The exceptions; the years 2003-04 to 2005-06 where we updated PCT unweighted populations using the 2004 ADS constrained to 2003 based ONS population. It is not possible to update the weighted populations and they are still based on the 2002 ADS constrained to 2001 ONS estimates.

[4] In obtaining the population data, Gloucestershire is defined as the Gloucestershire HA area for 1997-98 to 2002-03 and Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, Cotswold Vale and West Gloucestershire PCT areas from 2003-04

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Departmental Documents

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations received an embargoed copy of each (i) consultation document and (ii) White Paper produced by her Department in 2006; and if she will make a statement. [77567]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information sought by the hon. Member with respect to all consultation documents could only be supplied at disproportionate cost.

Embargoed copies of the "Our health, our care, our say" White Paper were provided on the day of publication to Parliament under the usual conventions, to journalists and to seven members of the citizen's panel who advised on the development of the White Paper.

Digital Hearing Aids

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding has been made available for the introduction of digital hearing aids; and if she will make a statement on the progress of their introduction. [82193]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The modernising hearing aids service programme (MHAS) was managed by the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID), on behalf of the Department from 2000 to 2005. Through this programme, the Government have invested £125 million to ensure that by 2005 all national health service hearing aid services could routinely fit modern digital hearing aids.

There have been other significant improvements:

working with the RNID we have ensured that high quality digital hearing aids are now available throughout the NHS with an estimated 750,000 people fitted with digital hearing aids by the NHS;

the current public private partnership is also proving very successful; by February 2006 approximately 68,600 patients had been fitted with a hearing aid; and

RNID and NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency working together have negotiated a reduction in the cost to the NHS of digital hearing aids.

Direct Payments

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will set a timetable for the extension of direct payments made in lieu of social services provision to people who are currently ineligible. [82251]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are exploring ways to extend direct payments to those currently excluded, by using an agent for those without capacity to consent, or unable to manage even with assistance. There will need to be legislative changes to enable this to happen and we will make these as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Drug Rehabilitation

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average expenditure per patient was for drug rehabilitation in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Stoke-on-Trent in the last period for which figures are available; and what plans there are to provide additional funding. [80257]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment has been made of the cost-effectiveness of drug rehabilitation funding. [80258]

Caroline Flint: There has been no recent assessment of the cost-effectiveness of drug rehabilitation funding.

GP Referrals

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research she has commissioned on the clinical effectiveness of adopting a maximum 18-week waiting time target for all GP referrals. [78012]

Andy Burnham: Research specifically into the clinical effectiveness of introducing a maximum 18-week waiting time was not commissioned. However, there was extensive clinical input to the plans for delivering the 18-weeks commitment, which was published in "Tackling hospital waiting: the 18-week patient pathway" on 10 May 2006. The vision is to provide patients with fast and convenient access to hospital care, enhancing clinical outcomes wherever appropriate. As now, those with conditions requiring urgent attention will be treated much faster than the average and most waiting times from referral to treatment will be much shorter than 18 weeks.

Herceptin

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Herceptin will be available on the NHS in Gloucestershire in 2006. [80774]

Caroline Flint: There is no restriction on the national health service to prescribe drugs, within their licensed indications, while the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is developing guidance.

On 9 June, NICE published its draft guidance on Herceptin. These recommendations are subject to an appeal period which closed on 28 June 2006. The final guidance is expected to be issued at the beginning of July 2006, assuming there are no appeals.

Once finalised, the recommendations will mean that all eligible patients with early stage HER2-positive breast cancer should receive Herceptin on the NHS within three months of NICE issuing final guidance. Although the recommendations are subject to appeal, there are no national restrictions on the NHS using Herceptin.

Health Care (Shropshire)

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* Down's syndrome birth rate and *(b)* birth defect rate was for each electoral ward in Shropshire, in each year from 2000 to 2005. [82401]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) Down's Syndrome birth rate and (b) birth defect rate was for each electoral ward in Shropshire in each year from 2000 to 2005. (82401)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for maintaining the National Congenital Anomaly System (NCAS) notifications in England and Wales. These notifications are collected only for live and stillbirths (e.g. terminations are excluded) and are provided by NHS Trusts on a voluntary basis either directly to ONS on form SD56 or via local congenital anomaly registers that exchange data with ONS. Information on congenital anomalies is routinely published for strategic health authorities. Figures cannot be provided by electoral ward because of the risk of disclosing individual's information due to very small number of events.

Notifications of congenital anomalies, numbers and rates, in Shropshire County from 2000 to 2004 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are given in the table below.

Congenital anomaly notifications - Down Syndrome, All babies: number and rates for Shropshire county, 2000-04

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2000-04
Babies notified with Down syndrome	*	*	*	*	*	5
Rates per 10,000 live and stillbirths	*	*	*	*	*	0.4
Babies notified with a congenital anomaly	13	16	14	16	13	72
Rates per 10,000 live and stillbirths	4.7	6.1	5.1	5.6	4.7	5.2

* Numbers smaller than 5 and rates based on these numbers have been suppressed to protect confidentiality of individuals.

Information Technology

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on information technology by *(a)* NHS trusts and *(b)* primary care trusts in (i) 2002-03, (ii) 2003-04, (iii) 2004-05 and (iv) 2005-06. [74060]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the table.

	2002-03	2003-04	£ millions 2004-05
NHS trusts	653	741	768
Primary care trusts	257	350	428
Total	910	1,091	1,196

These figures, rounded to the nearest whole million pounds, comprise revenue expenditure reported through a national survey of information technology investment by national health service organisations; and capital expenditure, including information technology additions and software licences, identified in NHS accounts. They do not include expenditure by strategic health authorities, special health authorities, or central expenditure funded by the Department.

For each year in the table, revenue expenditure is understated because a small percentage of NHS organisations, averaging four per cent. per year, failed to complete returns.

Information for 2005-06 is not yet available.

Malnutrition

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of people *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* discharged from hospital were malnourished in the last year in which figures are available, broken down by age; and if she will make a statement. [81699]

Caroline Flint: Information on the numbers admitted and discharged is shown in the following table.

Count of finished in-year admission episodes and in-year discharges where the patient's main diagnosis was malnutrition, national health service hospitals in England, 2004-05

Age	Malnutrition admissions	All admissions	Malnutrition admissions per 100,000	Malnutrition discharges	All discharges	Malnutrition discharges per 100,000
0 to 4	11	1,143,564	1.0	12	1,153,098	1.0
5 to 14	1	498,026	0.2	1	500,749	0.2
15 to 44	54	3,829,687	1.4	51	3,876,699	1.3
45 to 64	83	2,624,028	3.2	82	2,664,605	3.1
65 to 74	36	1,649,737	2.2	39	1,680,332	2.3
75 to 84	36	1,581,687	2.3	40	1,621,794	2.5
85 and over	31	635,257	4.9	35	656,778	5.3
Not known	—	26,458	—	—	26,619	—
Total	252	11,988,444	2.1	260	12,180,674	2.1

Mental Health

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will seek to amend the rules governing confidentiality of personal information for those with severe mental health problems to ensure that specified family members may be given full disclosure of medication and treatment. [77114]

Caroline Flint: The rules governing confidentiality of personal information distinguish between individuals who lack the capacity to meaningfully consent to, or dissent from, information being shared, and those who have this capacity. Where capacity is judged to be absent, a health professional is expected to share information with those who need to know, including family members where appropriate, where this is in the patient's best interest or where the public interest in sharing outweighs the obligation of confidentiality.

Where an individual has the capacity to consent but refuses to do so, a health professional may still disclose information where the public interest served by doing so outweighs the obligation of confidentiality. This may include, where the risk is sufficient to warrant it, the protection of the individual's health or to safeguard others.

Where a patient is being cared for under the provisions of the Mental Health Act 1983, their nearest relative has certain statutory rights in relation to their detention and guardianship.

The Department will be revising its confidentiality guidelines during the course of this year and the importance of keeping family members informed will be given appropriate emphasis.

NHS Care Records Service

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons she has delayed the introduction of the NHS Care Records Service (CRS); where she expects the pilot sites to test the NHS CRS will be established; and what information will be uploaded onto the national system *(a)* under the NHS CRS pilots and *(b)* when the NHS CRS is fully enabled. [75440]

Caroline Flint: The NHS Care Records Service (NHS CRS) is the key component of the new systems and services being delivered through the national programme for information technology. It has a number of applications, including:

personal demographics service (PDS), which holds nationally demographic information for every patient covered by the national health service in England, accessible through local systems, and is currently processing message transactions at a rate of over 9 million per month;

spine directory services, which holds reference data such as users and locations. Over 260,000 users are now registered, around 50,000 currently access the system on any given day;

access control framework, which registers and authenticates users, including patients, and provides a single log-in and a record of each professional accessing a NHS care record; and

transaction messaging system, which processes and routes data messages, for example from a GP to a hospital or from one general practitioner to another.

Introduction of the NHS CRS has not been delayed. These four elements went live on time and to budget in July 2004 to support choose and book. Among other planned applications, the first stage of the secondary uses service went live in June 2005 to support payment by results. Other core modules are scheduled for release over the course of 2006 and 2007. However, ambitious initial targets were set to drive the programme, and some individual components have been delayed.

In general implementation is being achieved in carefully managed stages, via incremental roll out both geographically, and by increasing functionality over time to build the care record. The programme is about patient and clinician benefit and improved safety. We believe it is best to get things right in the long term rather than to push on regardless against a rigid timetable and risk getting things wrong in the short term. In the context of a 10-year programme the impact of this is limited.

When fully deployed, the NHS CRS will be made up of records of individual clinicians recording episodes of care, key aspects of which will be placed in the detailed care record for sharing with others as their roles allow within local health communities, and a summary care record. The national programme's national clinical leads, working with NHS Connecting for Health, have undertaken work with a wide range of groups including the British Medical Association and the royal colleges to consider the best way of populating and launching the summary care record.

As a result, a limited amount of clinical information will be automatically uploaded, such as prescriptions and allergies. More detailed information would then be added on a case by case basis. This approach is supported by the BMA on the basis that as it takes full account of the views of patients.

NHS Direct

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will ask the chief executive of NHS Direct to explain to the hon. Member for Chorley the reasons for the delay in replying to his letter dated 16 May. [81463]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have asked the chief executive of NHS Direct to write to the hon. Member for Chorley to explain the reasons for the delay in replying to his letter dated 16 May 2006 and understand a reply has been sent. I know that the chief executive of NHS Direct has also offered to meet the hon. Member and he may wish to consider whether he accepts that offer.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many calls to NHS Direct were *(a)* received, *(b)* handled and *(c)* abandoned in each year since 1999-2000; and how many and what percentage of calls that were handled were redirected to other services. [62596]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 30 March 2006]:* The available information requested is shown in the table.

NHS Direct data: calls offered, calls answered, calls abandoned and the percentage of calls redirected by NHS Direct to other parts of the national health service, including 999, accident and emergency, general practitioners, walk-in centres, dental and other professionals.

	Calls offered	*Calls answered*	*Calls abandoned after 30 seconds*	*Percentage of calls abandoned after 30 seconds*	*Proportion of calls redirected as a percentage of calls answered*
January 2003 to March 2003	2,075,764	1,633,282	158,564	9	49
April 2003 to March 2004	8,176,571	6,404,478	759,858	11	49
April 2004 to March 2005	8,807,994	6,585,578	1,100,151	14	52
April 2005 to March 2006	7,919,118	6,811,751	743,733	10	52

Notes:
1. Clinical sorting data was not collected at a national level prior to January 2003.
2. Data are shown for the periods January 2003 to March 2003 and for financial years April 2003 to March 2006.
3. Data includes combined calls = 0845, out-of-hours and other.
4. Definitions of data:
Calls offered—number of calls offered/made, including wrong numbers and people hanging up within 30 seconds.
Calls answered—number of calls answered/handled after the introductory message.
Calls abandoned—number of calls abandoned after the introductory message.

Source:
NHS Direct

NHS Information Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she has taken to achieve adoption and acceptance of the NHS IT programme by trust executives since 2002; and what estimate she has made of future levels of adoption. [76387]

Caroline Flint: Following publication of the strategy 'Delivering 21st Century IT support for the NHS', the NHS chief executive wrote to the chief executives of all national health service bodies in September 2003 explaining their responsibilities for implementing the national programme for information technology (NPfIT) and for using programme contracts.

Local programmes, led by trust executives and supported from the Department, have always been at the heart of implementation, taking responsibility for planning the pace and sequence of deployments. In addition, the Department has routinely used its planning and performance management regime to support local implementation of the national programme. For example, during 2004 annual planning round, the NHS were provided with targets relating to the planning and implementation of the programme. Similarly, in June 2005, the Department wrote to all strategic health authority (SHA) chief executives requiring the establishment of integrated service improvement programmes as a vehicle for bringing together benefits and improvements from current NHS initiatives and programmes, including NPfIT. In November 2005 the Department's delivery director reiterated the importance of giving close attention to issues relating to delivery of the programme, and that implementation and use of NPfIT systems and services should be one of the key priorities of all NHS organisations.

The new SHA and primary care trust chief executives will in future be the senior responsible owners for implementation of the national programme in their areas.

We remain on track to complete the national programme, as planned, by 2010.

NHS IT Support

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the contracting timetable in paragraph 4.4.1 of Delivering 21st century IT support for the NHS, how many of those procurements have been made; when they were made; from whom; and what the value is of the contract in each case. [75129]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the tables. Contract values are for the whole life of the contract.

Procurement	*When*	*Contractor*	*Value (£ million)*
E-mail and directory services[1]	September 2002	EDS	120
Privacy-enhancing technologies	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—
Networking services	February 2004	BT	530
National electronic Library for Health (NeLH)	April-August 2003	See separate table	4.6
NHS Wide Clearing Service	December 2003	BT	[3]—
Ambulance radio procurement	July 2005	Airwave 02 Ltd.	390

[1] Contract subsequently terminated in March 2004 and re-let to Cable and Wireless in July 2004 at a contract value of between £50 million and £90 million depending on take-up.
[2] No separate procurement. Functionality specified in all core National Programme for Information Technology system contracts.
[3] Procured as the Secondary Uses Service as part of the Spine contract.

NeLH components

Section/lot	*Contractor*
Health Information Environment	
Web hosting	Eduserv
Access management	Eduserv
Specialist consultancy	Not awarded
Search metadata	TRIP Ltd.
Content	
Current news analysis service	University of York
Clinical guidelines database	University of Sheffield
Specialist libraries	
Cancer	Oxford Radcliffe
Child health	Sheffield Childrens Hospital
Communicable diseases	City University
Emergency care	University of Warwick
Ear, nose and throat	Oxford Radcliffe
Eyes and vision	Moorfields Eye Hospital
Genetics	Genepool
Health management	Kings Fund
Old age	Oxford Radcliffe
Learning disabilities	Oxford Radcliffe
Patients and public involvement	College of Health
Mental health	Oxford Radcliffe
Nutrition	University of Warwick

NeLH components

Section/list	*Contractor*
Oral health	University College Hospital Wales
Respiratory medicine	Sheffield University
Skin conditions	Nottingham
Women's health	Oxford Radcliffe

NHS Staff

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average earnings were of a *(a)* doctor, *(b)* dentist and *(c)* nurse in (i) 1979, (ii) 1997 and (iii) the most recent period for which figures are available, in (A) nominal and (B) real terms. [76970]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The available information is shown in the following tables. Table one shows the average earnings of doctors in the hospital and community health services and of qualified nurses and midwives in 1998 and 2004 based on the national health service staff earnings survey. This data is not available prior to 1998. Table two shows the intended average net income for general medical practitioners in 1979-80 and 1997-98 and their estimated average net income in 2004-05. Table three shows average general dental service (CDS) income for dentists with a reasonable CDS commitment in 1997-98 and 2004-05. Figures are not available on a comparable basis for previous years.

Table 1: Average estimated total earnings for all doctors in the hospital and community health services and qualified nurses and midwives, England

	Estimated annualised average total earnings (£)			
	1998		*2004*	
	Nominal	*Real terms*	*Nominal*	*Real terms*
All hospital and community health services doctors	44,700	53,500	67,700	70,800
Qualified nurses and midwives	19,600	23,500	26,400	27,600

Notes:
1. The NHS earnings survey is based on a sample of payroll data from approximately 50 per cent. of NHS trusts.
2. Earnings figures are based on monthly payments in August, multiplied by 12 to give annual equivalent amounts.
3. Averages are calculated by dividing total payments by total full time equivalents.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest £100.
5. Real term figures are calculated using the HM Treasury GDP Deflator Index using 2006-07 as the base year.

Source:
Information Centre for health and social care NHS staff earnings survey.

Table 2: Intended average net income (IANI)[1] for general practitioners (GPs), 1979-80 and 1997-98, and estimated average net income (ANI), 2004-05, Great Britain

	IANI (Nominal) (£)	*IANI (in 2004-05 prices) (£)*
1979-80	14,284	45,353
1997-98	46,031	54,094
	Estimated ANI £	*Estimated ANI in 2004-05 prices £*
2004-05[2]	87,076	87,076

[1] The concept of IANI (which related to all principal general medical service (GMS) GP's, full-time and part-time) disappeared for 2004-05 onwards, when new contractual arrangements came into place.
[2] The 2004-05 average net income figure for GMS/primary medical service GPs was estimated by the joint DH/BMA/NHS Employers Technical Steering Committee (TSC). It is not directly comparable with the earlier IANI series.

Source:
The Information Centre for heath and social care.

Table 3: Estimated average general dental service (CDS) net income for dentists with a reasonable CDS commitment[1], 1997-98 to 2004-05, England and Wales

	Estimated average net income (Nominal) (£)	*Estimated average net income (in 2004-05 prices) (£)*
1997-98	51,200	60,168
2004-05	70,000	70,000

[1] Dentists with a reasonable commitment to the GDS are defined as dentists with GDS earnings equivalent to at least £40,000 in 1993-94 in fees for treatments and patient capitation. This equivalent is calculated each year by adjusting figures to take into account the effect of fee increases. The equivalent figure for 2004-05 is £59,100.

Notes:
1. Commitment payments started in 2001.
2. Figures since 2000-01 use a different methodology to calculate the contribution from other non-fee/capitation payments.
3. Figures prior to 1997-98 are not available on a comparable basis.
4. The income figures cover both estimated fees for treatments and patient capitation as well as other estimated payments such as seniority payments and commitment payments and payments for maternity and sickness. They exclude dentists' income from private sources.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS posts have been vacant for more than three months since January, broken down by strategic health authority. [78359]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest information available on the three month vacancy rate and number for non-medical and medical staff by strategic health authority has been placed in the Library.

Nursing Staff

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* community matrons, *(b)* health visitors and *(c)* school nurses have been appointed in each primary care trust area in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [67421]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of community matrons, health visitors and school nurses in post in primary care trusts (PCTs) at September 2005 is shown in the table.

	Headcount
	Health visitors (England)
1997	10,025
1998	12,572
1999	12,800
2000	12,827
2001	13,053
2002	12,774
2003	12,984
2004	13,303
2005	12,818

The number of health visitors has increased by 2,793 (28 per cent.) since 1997.

School nurses were collected for the first time in the 2003 census. However, the data was incomplete as only 27 per cent. of PCTs coded staff using the new school nursing codes.

The table shows the increase in school nurses since 2004.

England	Headcount		Full time equivalent		
	Total qualified school nursing nurses	of which qualified school nurses	of which full-time	Total qualified school nursing nurses	of which qualified school nurses
2005	2,887	943	182	1,913	665
2004	2,409	856	151	1,619	607

There were 943 (665 full-time equivalent) nurses who held a school nursing qualification in 2005 an increase of 87 (10 per cent.) since 2004.

Obesity

Dr. Desmond Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to reduce childhood obesity; and if she will make a statement. [67832]

Caroline Flint: Reducing obesity is one of the six overarching priorities of the "Choosing Health" White Paper, published in November 2004. In July 2004, the Government set a public service agreement (PSA) target to halt the year-on-year increase in obesity among children under 11 by 2010 in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole.

Specific actions to reduce childhood obesity include:

requirements to meet healthy eating and physical activity criteria to achieve Healthy School status;

new school food-based standards from September 2006, followed by more stringent nutrient-based standards in primary schools by September 2008, and secondary schools by September 2009;

ensuring the school sports strategy and sports partnerships are making the maximum impact on child obesity;

looking at ways of restricting the marketing of unhealthy foods to children;

working with the food industry to reduce levels of fat, salt and sugar in products, and to provide front-of-pack labelling to enable consumers to make informed choices;

development of a healthy living social marketing campaign; and

providing an activity toolkit for schools to support physical activity across the school day, including the journey to school and after school clubs.

In addition, we have published a self-help guide to assist parents in managing their children's weight, a care pathway for treating and managing childhood obesity and an obesity bulletin to give practitioners and managers new tools to handle obesity. We are strengthening our actions in early years through schemes like Sure Start and through health visitors' targeted interventions. The data on height and weight that primary care trusts (PCTs) will be collecting in primary schools from this summer will help them identify which areas, schools or children's centres need particular help. Comprehensive National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on the prevention and treatment of obesity will also support PCTs' and practitioners' contribution to tackling obesity locally.

Olympics

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which officials in her Department *(a)* are responsible for Olympics-related activity and *(b)* sit on the inter-departmental steering group for the Olympics. [81563]

Caroline Flint: Professor Sue Atkinson, regional director of public health - London, is responsible for Olympics and paralympics-related activity within the Department and represents the Department on the inter-departmental steering group. Hilary Ross, public health manager in the regional public health group—London, is the Olympic co-ordinator in the Department.

Osteoporosis

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by her Department following the announcement in April 2005 of funding for DXA bone density scanners; and if she will make a statement. [81623]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department allocated £3 million revenue (£214,000 each), on a non-recurrent basis in 2005-06, to 14 strategic health authorities (SHAs) for the purchase of dual X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) scanners on the basis of their lack of scanning capacity, according to evidence provided to us by the Office for National Statistics. Capital provision of £17 million has been made available in 2006-07 and

2007-08 to improve national health service capacity through investment in new Dexa scanning equipment. Responsibility of delivery for spend rests with SHAs.

Our Health, Our Say

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what task groups have been established to take forward the "Our Health, Our Say" White Paper implementation plan; and who has been appointed to each such group. [79448]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Papilloma Virus Vaccine

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what preparations her Department has made for a human papilloma virus vaccination programme. [81620]

Caroline Flint: A sub-group of the joint committee on vaccination and immunisation (JCVI) met in May 2006 to review all the available information on human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines and will hold further meetings during 2006. Implementation plans will be based on the advice of JCVI as to the most effective immunisation schedule should HPV vaccine be judged to be beneficial.

Sexual Health

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1567W, on sexual health, which sexually transmitted disease clinics have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [81439]

Caroline Flint: There are a number of different kinds of services that provide testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, which primary care trusts use to meet the needs of their population. Information on these services is not collected centrally.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the ability of genito-urinary medicine clinics to cope with the possible additional demand for their services arising from the sexual health education campaign; and what representations she has received on this; [83035]

(2) what date she originally expected her Department to launch its latest sexual health education campaign; and when it will be launched. [83036]

Caroline Flint: In developing the campaign, the Department is consulting with stakeholders, and the possible impact of the campaign on the demand for sexual health services is being carefully considered.

The campaign planning process takes account of the fact that many areas will need time to make use of the major new investment, provided through the 'Choosing Health' White Paper, to improve capacity.

The campaign will particularly target 16 to 24-year-olds, the group at highest risk, and links closely to the joint Department and Department for Education and Skills media campaign that supports the teenage pregnancy strategy. It will initially focus on strong prevention messages to minimise the immediate pressure on services until such time as the number of new infections begins to stabilise or decline. Only then will the campaign start to signpost people to screening and treatment. And this will happen gradually through local mechanisms to help ensure clinics will be able to meet demand, as progress is made in modernising sexual health services through the chlamydia screening programme, improved access to genito-urinary medicine and reproductive health services.

The Department has not set a firm date for the campaign launch but current plans are being developed for later this year. We are committed to the most effective action possible and ensuring that we work closely with stakeholders. The overall aim of the campaign will be to drive greater personal responsibility for sexual health.

Wheelchairs

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect of NHS trust deficits on the provision of wheelchairs for disabled children. [82042]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No assessment has been made of the effect of national health service trust deficits on the provision of wheelchairs for disabled children.

Funding for all NHS wheelchair services comes out of revenue funding to primary care trusts (PCTs). This funding is not ring-fenced and it is for each PCT to assess local need and allocate funds accordingly.

TREASURY

Advance Pricing Agreements

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many advance pricing agreements *(a)* have been made and *(b)* were in force with multinational companies in each year since 2001; and in how many cases in each year (i) enforcement action was taken and (ii) penalties made in transfer pricing disputes. [82680]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is as follows.

(a) and *(b)* The number of advance pricing agreements within s85 FA99 made in each year (and in force at the end of each year) was:

	Number	*In force at end of each year*
2000-01	6	5
2001-02	9	14
2002-03	6	16
2003-04	10	22

	Number	In force at end of each year
2004-05	10	22
2005-06	7	18

All agreements relate to multinational companies.

(i) The number of occasions where an Inland Revenue/HMRC intervention has resulted in a transfer pricing adjustment to a tax computation are:

	Number
2001-02	1,022
2002-03	1,172
2003-04	1,671
2004-05	1,588
2005-06	1,724

(ii) Penalties following transfer pricing inquiries have been agreed on five cases. These all fall in 2005-06.

AIDS

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with G8 Finance Ministers on establishing a funding plan to achieve AIDS treatment for all by 2010. [83211]

Ed Balls: The UK has continued discussions with G8 partners on how to take forward the Gleneagles commitment to achieve universal access to HIV treatment for all those who need it by 2010. On 2 June 2006, the UN General Assembly agreed a political declaration on AIDS which commits to providing additional resources from donor countries and from national budgets. This follows the UNAIDS estimate that $20-23 billion dollars will be needed annually by 2010 to provide universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment care and support. The political declaration commits to ensure that costed, credible national HIV/AIDS plans are developed and funded, and include ambitious national targets for achieving universal access by 2010. The UK has also sought G8 commitment to ensure that the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and malaria has sufficient resources.

The UK has committed to spend £1.5 billion to tackle the spread of HIV and AIDS between 2005-06 and 2007-08. We are working with UNAIDS who are leading the global effort of other donors, multilateral agencies, civil society and the private sector to ensure that additional resources are committed to support our efforts to achieve universal access.

BDO Stoy Hayward

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met BDO Stoy Hayward; and what matters were discussed. [70827]

John Healey *[holding answer 15 May 2006]*: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Biodiesel

Mark Hunter: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken through the taxation system to encourage the production and availability to the motorist of biodiesel. [82322]

John Healey: The Government are committed to supporting biofuels as part of a long-term strategy to promote low carbon transport. The Budget announced the extension of the 20 pence per litre duty differential for biofuels until 2008-09, and set out a range of announcements about the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation, which will begin in 2008-09 and will ensure biofuels comprise 5 per cent. of the road fuels market by 2010-11. Furthermore, we are awaiting state aid clearance to introduce an enhanced capital allowance (ECA) for the cleanest biofuels production plant, to support innovation and help develop the lowest-carbon biofuels production methods.

Birth/Death Statistics

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* age-standardised mortality rates, *(b)* still-birth rate and *(c)* pregnancy (i) termination and (ii) miscarriage rate was for each electoral ward in Shropshire, in each year from 2000 to 2005. [82402]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 6 July 2006

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the (a) age-standardised mortality rates, (b) stillbirth rate and (c) pregnancy (i) termination and (ii) miscarriage rates for each electoral ward in Shropshire, in each year from 2000 to 2005. (82402)

Information on stillbirths and on conceptions leading to terminations is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. Figures cannot be provided by electoral ward because of the risk of disclosing individual's information due to very small number of events.

(a) Age-Standardised mortality rates for electoral ward are not available. However, Standardised Mortality Ratios (SMRs) and life expectancy at birth for wards in England and Wales for the period 1999-2003 are available on the National Statistics website at the addresses below.

SMRs:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14359

Life expectancy:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14466

(b) Stillbirth rates for Shropshire County and county districts within Shropshire for each year from 2000 to 2004 are shown in the table below.

(c)(i) Conceptions leading to termination rates for all ages for Shropshire County and county districts within Shropshire for each year from 2000 to 2004 (latest year for which figures are available) are shown in the table below. Figures for 2004 are provisional.

(c)(ii) Figures on conceptions leading to miscarriages are not available because

(b) Stillbirth rate[1], 2000-04

Area	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Shropshire County	6.9	5.7	3.3	5.3	4.0
Bridgnorth	12.9	2.4	2.2	2.0	6.8
North Shropshire	5.2	7.1	1.7	8.5	5.1
Oswestry	5.6	3.2	5.6	10.4	5.2
Shrewsbury and Atcham	7.8	7.9	5.1	3.9	3.1
South Shropshire	—	3.0	—	2.7	—

[1] per 1,000 total births
Source:
VS Tables

(c)(i) Conceptions leading to termination: All age rate[1], 2000-04

Area	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004[2]
Shropshire County	12	12	12	11	11
Bridgnorth	11	12	12	11	13
North Shropshire	12	11	11	11	11
Oswestry	9	10	10	10	9
Shrewsbury and Atcham	15	13	13	12	13
South Shropshire	13	10	10	10	10

[1] per 1,000 women aged 15-44
[2] Provisional

Competitiveness

David Tredinnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the principal factors affecting the competitiveness of UK businesses. [82823]

John Healey: The Budget Report provided an assessment of all areas of the UK economy, and action needed by Government to provide the right environment for businesses competing in the global environment.

The Government's strategy for advancing productivity growth is based on two pillars: providing macroeconomic stability to allow firms and individuals to invest in the future, and making microeconomic reforms to ensure that markets function efficiently and that barriers to productivity growth are tackled.

Contributions Agency

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on failures by the Contributions Agency to collect and credit national insurance contributions in 2004-05; and what action is being taken *(a)* to avoid the issue of incorrect notices of deficient contributions and *(b)* to restore contribution records to individuals affected by such failures. [82928]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been well publicised delays in processing 2004-05 Employer's Annual Returns. HM Revenue and Customs has now processed all error free returns.

HMRC has posted 99 per cent. of the 42.7 million relevant individual national insurance records for employment to its National Insurance Recording System (NIRS) by June 2006. The number of records yet to be processed is in line with what HMRC would normally expect to have at this point in the year.

HMRC is working hard to get the remaining data through to NIRS prior to the commencement of the Deficiency Notice (DN) exercise which is planned for September. It is anticipated that there will not be any increase in the amount of DNs issued than in any other normal year.

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Paymaster General will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 15 May 2006, on the tax credit system (PO Ref: 4/25865/2006). [81932]

Dawn Primarolo: I expect to be in a position to write to the hon. Member very shortly.

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chief Secretary to the Treasury will reply to the letter of 22 May from the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan regarding civil service pay and conditions. [82683]

Mr. Timms: I have done so.

Council Tax/Regional Rate

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of *(a)* council tax in England and *(b)* the regional rate in Northern Ireland was returned to central Government in each of the last three years. [82597]

Mr. Timms: Council tax is collected and retained by English local authorities and contributes towards their expenditure.

The Northern Ireland regional rate is collected by the Rates Collection Agency and is paid into the Northern Ireland Consolidated Fund. This income contributes towards the funding of public services in Northern Ireland.

ECOFIN Meeting

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he agreed to attend the ECOFIN meeting on 7 June 2006; and if he will make a statement. [76944]

John Healey: It is the Chancellor who holds the UK seat at the European Council of Finance Ministers.

Engagements

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he next plans to visit Coventry. [71276]

John Healey *[holding answer 18 May 2006]*: As part of his official duties the Chancellor of the Exchequer visits the regions and nations of the United Kingdom and will be continuing to do so over the coming months.

EU Nationals

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many nationals from the EU accession states have applied for *(a)* child benefit and *(b)* tax credits since May 2004; and how many such applications have been (i) approved, (ii) rejected and (iii) terminated in each case. [82905]

Dawn Primarolo: These figures are included in the joint Accession Monitoring Report produced by the Home Office, Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs and Department for Communities and Local Government on 23 May 2006 and published on the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate's website (http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report)

Families (Father Involvement)

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans the Government have to include consideration of ways to encourage fathers' involvement within the family in the cross-cutting review of support for children and young people being conducted as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review. [82785]

Ed Balls: Budget 2006 launched a policy review of children and young people to inform the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review. Copies of the review's terms of reference have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

In "Support for parents: the best start for children", published at the pre-Budget report, HM Treasury and the Department for Education and Skills recognised the contributions that mothers and fathers make and their potentially different needs for support as parents. As part of wider examination of the role of and support for parents in improving outcomes for children and young people, the review will consider the contribution of fathers and other male carers.

Life Expectancy

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the long-term trend for life expectancy in Stoke-on-Trent; and if he will make a statement. [80603]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 6 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the long-term trend for life expectancy is in Stoke-on-Trent. I am replying in her absence. (80603)'

Figures for life expectancy at birth for English regions and local authorities are published annually by ONS based on three-year rolling averages. Results are available from 1991-1993 to 2002-2004 and are included in the table below.

Life expectancy at birth (years) by sex in Stoke-on-Trent, 1991-93 to 2002-04[1]

	Males	*Females*
1991-1993	71.5	77.1
1992-1994	71.9	77.5
1993-1995	72.1	77.8
1994-1996	72.2	78.6
1995-1997	72.5	78.6
1996-1998	72.7	78.7
1997-1999	72.6	78.6
1998-2000	72.8	78.7
1999-2001	73.1	78.8
2000-2002	73.5	78.9
2001-2003	73.3	78.9
2002-2004	73.2	78.7

[1] Results are based on death registrations and mid-year population estimates for each three year period.

Pension Rights

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanism is in place to ensure staff transferring from public to private sector under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) terms have their pension rights protected; and whether he has made an assessment of the compliance of existing arrangements with the Government's guidance on, Staff Transfers in the Public Sector: A Statement of Practice. [82876]

Mr. Timms: HM Treasury guidance: (Staff Transfers from Central Government: A Fair Deal for Staff Pensions) supplemented by further guidance issued in 2004 and Cabinet Office guidance: (Staff Transfers in the Public Sector Statement of Practice) remain in force. It is incumbent upon bodies or organisations transferring staff from the public sector to the private sector to be familiar with the guidance.

Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to pages 58 and 59 of the White Paper Security in Retirement; Towards a New Pensions System, what the evidential basis is for the statement that *(a)* 75 is the appropriate upper age limit for annuities and *(b)* annuities offer good value for money. [82527]

Ed Balls: Latest Government Actuary Department (GAD) analysis shows that the guaranteed rates of return available on annuities by around age 75 become so large relative to other investments that increasingly unrealistic investment returns need to be achieved in order to match or do better than the income that could be achieved through an annuity. Any investment vehicle with an expected yield greater than an annuity after 75 would inevitably be both expensive and carry a significant degree of risk, which people in the later stages of life may be ill-equipped to bear. Of course the optimal age for individuals to annuitise before 75 will depend on a range of individual circumstances.

A comprehensive academic survey on annuity pricing was published in March 2006. The authors conclude that after looking at the most recent analysis, "The mark-up paid to life insurers—measured by the so-called money's worth ratio—is relatively small and fairly constant, thus suggesting that annuities are fairly priced".

These findings are in line with previous annuity pricing studies covering different countries and time periods. The full paper can be found at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2005-2006/rrep318.pdf, DWP research paper 318 'Annuities—A Pricing Survey', Edmund Cannon and Ian Tonks.

The Government are committed to publishing a technical paper setting out the evidence base for policy in this area later this year.

Retirement Age

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1695-6W, on retirement age, if he will break down the estimated percentage probability by *(a)* female and *(b)* male workers; what assumptions have been used by the Government Actuary's Department in relation to the impact of the announced changes in early retirement rights on staff turnover levels; and if he will place in the Library the supporting data for the answer produced by the Government Actuary's Department. [82511]

Mr. Timms: Estimated probabilities that new entrants aged 20 will not remain in the scheme at normal retirement are in the following table.

	Percentage of workers	
Scheme	*Male*	*Female*
IPS (E and W)[1]	82	93
NHSPS (E and W)	93	95

[1] Includes all members who leave the scheme before normal retirement age, even those who subsequently rejoin and are members at normal retirement age.

These figures are based on the analysis of staff turnover in the Government Actuary's Department's latest actuarial valuations of the teachers' pension scheme (England and Wales) and the national health service pension scheme (England and Wales), which are available in the Library.

The assumed rates of turnover are derived from an analysis of the actual turnover experienced in the past. Allowance has been made for the strong link between resignation rates and duration of employment. Levels of staff turnover may be different in the future. The introduction of new pension schemes for new entrants is one of many factors that will influence staff turnover; others include future economic conditions and the ease of mobility in the labour market. Given these uncertainties and the link between employment length and resignation no explicit allowance for the effect of introducing new public sector pension schemes was made in calculating the figures.

Tallow

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the value is of support through the tax system for the use of tallow in the production of biodiesel; [82874]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of decisions of other European Governments to lower or remove subsidies for the burning of tallow for power or in the production of biodiesel. [82875]

John Healey: The use of tallow in the production of biodiesel used as road fuel is supported through a duty incentive. Fuel produced from tallow is eligible for the rate of duty for biodiesel (currently 27.10p per litre) if it meets the legal definition of biodiesel for tax purposes set out in section 2AA of the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979. In other cases it is liable to duty at 47.10p per litre.

In addition, tallow used in power generation is not liable to any duty, while fuel oil (which is mainly used for this purpose) is liable to duty at the rate of 6.04p per litre.

We have not carried out any assessment of the impact of decisions of other European Governments to lower or remove subsidies for the burning of tallow for power or in the production of biodiesel.

Tax Credits

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his ministerial responsibilities are in relation to tax credits. [77906]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary on 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 862W.

TRANSPORT

Airspace (Northern Home Counties)

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the terms of reference are for the review of the management of the airspace over northern home counties of England being undertaken by the National Air Traffic Services. [82536]

Gillian Merron: This is an operational matter for NATS. I suggest the hon. Member writes to the chief executive of NATS, Paul Barren, for information on the matter.

Antisocial Behaviour (Trains)

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* passengers on the rail network were assaulted in the last 12 months, broken down by region. [77782]

Derek Twigg: The British Transport Police (BTP) have provided the following data in relation to the number of assaults of *(a)* staff and *(b)* passengers on the rail network from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006.

BTP area	*Number of staff assaults*
London North	523
London South	745
London Underground	805
North Eastern	108
North Western	191
Wales and Western	275
Scottish	139
Total	2,786

BTP area	*Number of passenger assaults*
London North	865
London South	1,541
London Underground	1,548
North Eastern	482
North Western	471
Wales and Western	491
Scottish	259
Total	5,657

Buses

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus compliance officers there are in each region of England; how many orders restricting operators from running services in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06 were issued by traffic commissioners; and how many non-compliant bus operators were called to inquiry by traffic commissioners in the last 12 months. [82126]

Gillian Merron: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1325-6W for the number of bus compliance officers there are in each traffic area of the UK.

In 2004-05 there were 10 orders restricting operators from running services issued by traffic commissioners, in 2005-06 there were eight.

There were 21 non-compliant bus operators called to public inquiry in 2005-06 and in 2006-07 there have been three to 1 June. The number of non-compliant bus operators called to inquiry by traffic commissioners in the last 12 months can only be provided at disproportionate cost due to the way in which VOSA's figures have been recorded.

Detrunking

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what total length of roads has been detrunked in each *(a)* county council and *(b)* unitary authority area since 2001. [82317]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Eddington Review

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Eddington review has cost; and how much has been budgeted for the review. [79921]

Gillian Merron: Rod Eddington has been asked to provide advice to the Chancellor and Secretary of State for Transport, and is not being remunerated for his work. He is supported by a team of 10 civil servants drawn from the Department for Transport and HM Treasury. Other admin and programme costs to date total approximately £190,000.

Costs are shared between the Department for Transport and HM Treasury and are being met from the existing budgets for those two Departments.

Freight Containers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of freight containers in use in England and Wales that will become illegal as a result of the new European regulations on container dimensions. [82314]

Dr. Ladyman: There are no new European regulations on general freight container dimensions. However, the carriage of certain types of container may be prohibited by Directive 96/53/EC which sets out, amongst other things, the maximum dimensions for goods vehicles when carrying freight containers.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of heavy goods vehicles on roads in England which were registered abroad in each of the last three years. [83045]

Dr. Ladyman: Estimates of the number and proportion of foreign registered heavy goods vehicles on roads in England are not available. However, estimated numbers leaving the UK are published in table 1 of the quarterly bulletin "Road Goods Vehicles Travelling to Mainland Europe". A copy of this bulletin is available on the DfT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_transstats/documents/page/dft_transstats_611744.hcsp.

Based on DfT's "Survey of Foreign Vehicle Activity in GB: 2003" it is estimated that foreign heavy goods vehicles account for about 3 per cent. of all heavy goods vehicle kilometres on GB roads.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether foreign-registered heavy goods vehicles are required to have insurance cover comparable to that required of domestic-registered heavy goods vehicles. [83082]

Dr. Ladyman: Yes; all motor vehicles when in use in the UK, including heavy goods vehicles registered abroad, must have insurance cover for third party liabilities meeting the minimum levels of cover required by Section 145 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Liverpool Lime Street Station

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he expects the improvements to Liverpool Lime Street Station to be completed in time for the 2008 European Capital of Culture celebrations. [81581]

Derek Twigg: The timetable for completion of any improvements to Liverpool Lime Street Station is a matter for members of the partnership that has been formed to progress the project.

M56

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the problems with the bridge on the slip road between the M56 and the A556 near Altrincham in Cheshire were first identified; how long the exploratory work has taken; and what estimate he has made of the likely date for the full reopening of the slip road. [82309]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency first became aware of deficiencies in the bridge carrying the westbound exit sliproad at Junction 7 of the M56 motorway, following an assessment in 2001. This resulted in the installation of temporary supports and loading restrictions. Since 2001, the Agency has undertaken further detailed investigatory works to confirm the problem and determine the remedial solution required.

The latest phase in the investigatory work, undertaken between late February and mid June 2006, was to confirm the true extent of the defects and to refine the methods of working, in advance of the planned main refurbishment scheme. During these additional investigations, unexpected structural defects in the bridge were identified. As a result, traffic using the sliproad will continue to be restricted to a single lane, with a 40mph speed limit, for safety reasons. Short-term measures, and options for a permanent solution, are under consideration, and the timing of the resulting works will be subject to the scale of the work required and the availability of funding.

Motorcycles

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research has been undertaken by his Department regarding the safety of children of primary school age or below travelling as passengers on motorcycles. [83285]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has not commissioned any research on this topic.

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which regulations govern the transport of children of primary school age or below as passengers on motorcycles. [83286]

Dr. Ladyman: There is no minimum age limit in respect of pillion passengers on motorcycles but there are a number of regulations with which a motorcycle rider must comply, including that: pillion passengers must be able to sit securely astride properly fixed seats with their feet reaching suitable supports or rests; they must wear a safety helmet that is securely fastened to the head—an adult helmet may not be suitable for children; only motorcyclists who have passed a motorcycle test may carry passengers; and any passenger must be carried in a manner so that no danger is caused, or likely to be caused, to any person either on the vehicle or on the road.

National Motorcycling Strategy

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much it cost to *(a)* research, *(b)* write and *(c)* publish the National Motorcycling Strategy. [82212]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government's Motorcycling Strategy was published in February 2005. This built on the work of the Advisory Group on Motorcycling, which was established in 1999 and produced its final report in August 2004. The work involved in the Advisory Group on Motorcycling and in producing the Government's Motorcycling Strategy formed part of normal civil service duties.

Three documents were published as part of this process.

Information on the design and printing costs for the Advisory Group on Motorcycling—interim report, April 2001 could only be provided at disproportionate cost. The costs of the other two documents are as follows:—

Advisory Group on Motorcycling—final report to Government, August 2004, printing and typesetting, total cost £1,371.60 plus VAT

The Government's Motorcycling Strategy, February 2005, printing and typesetting, total cost £4,260.00 plus VAT

Various motorcycle research projects have been undertaken, as part of the Department for Transport's road safety research programme, which informed the work of the Advisory Group on Motorcycling and the Government's Motorcycling Strategy. The total costs for completed research is £1,295,650 plus VAT and includes the following projects:

'Police fatal road accident reports—Analysis';

'Multivariate Analysis of Motorcyclist's Accident Risk Factors';

'Scoping Study on Motorcycling Training';

'The Older Motorcyclist';

'SUNFLOWER+6 Extension';

'In-depth Study of Motorcycle Accidents'.

There are also several ongoing motorcycle research projects arising from this work. The total cost for these projects is £487,304 plus VAT which are:

'In-depth Study of Motorcycle Training';

'Car Drivers' Skills and Attitudes in Relation to Motorcycle Safety';

'Rider Fatigue and Accident Risk';

'Analysis of OTS Data to Supplement Maids Motorcycle Study'.

Railways

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received from passenger train operating companies regarding fare increases on recently awarded franchises. [82502]

Derek Twigg: The Department for Transport has received no representations from train operating companies regarding fares increases on recently awarded franchises.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether additional premium payments made to the Government by rail franchises under agreements reached since 2005 will be *(a)* returned to the Consolidated Fund and *(b)* made available to his Department for spending on transport. [82318]

Derek Twigg: All premium payments received from rail franchises are appropriated in aid by the Department and the funds are made available for spending on transport.

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to introduce high-speed rail links between Edinburgh and London. [82010]

Derek Twigg: The Government have a manifesto commitment to look at the feasibility and affordability of a new north-south high-speed link. The Government have committed to take this forward in the development of a long-term strategy for the railways, drawing on Sir Rod Eddington's advice on the long-term impact of transport decisions on the UK's productivity, stability and growth.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when his Department first learned of First train operator's plans to stop recognising cheap day returns between 4.30 pm and 7.00 pm on Mondays to Fridays; and if he will make a statement. [82304]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* First Group's bid for the Thameslink/Great Northern franchise included a proposal to restrict the use of day return fares during the evening peak on certain routes. They did not give the Department any advance notification of the date they intended to implement the proposal. However, day returns are unregulated fares and it is for operators to decide whether to offer them and, if so at what price and with what restrictions.

Regional Planning Assessments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much it has cost to research, write and publish each of the Regional Planning Assessments for the railways. [79920]

Derek Twigg: Two Regional Planning Assessments for the railway (RPAs) have been published: the North East and Eastern RPAs. The total costs were £231,900 and £257,266 respectively (including VAT).

Speed Cameras

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many speed cameras have been vandalised in the Lancashire police authority area in each of the last five years. [83542]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer on 15 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2054W, to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans).

Staff Absenteeism

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many working days were lost to his Department and its executive agencies in each year since 1997 due to staff absenteeism, expressed as the average annual number of absent days per employee; and what the estimated total cost to the Department and its agencies of absenteeism was in each year. [78081]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The Department for Transport was only established following machinery of Government changes in May 2002. Each year the Cabinet Office publish an annual report 'Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service' that contains reported sick absence data across Government Departments.

Figures from the Cabinet Office report for the Department and its Agencies for days lost due to sick absence are available for 2003 and 2004 as follows:

	Average annual number of absent days per employee	*Estimated cost (£)*
2003	10.1	12,242,168
2004	7.5	11,532,057

Figures for 2005 are not available but will be published later this year. Copies of reports are available on the civil service website.

Tonnage Tax Scheme

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the annual cost was to the Exchequer of the SMarT 1 funding scheme for participants in the tonnage tax scheme in each of the last five years. [82083]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available. Some tonnage tax companies and groups contract out training to independent training providers. The SMarT 1 claims made by these training providers are in respect of the training they provide for all of their clients, and disaggregated figures are not available for those within tonnage tax only.

However, the total cost to the Exchequer of SMarT 1 funding for the last five years, and the amounts paid to tonnage tax companies and groups who are also SMarT training providers was as follows:

£

	Total SMarT 1 funding	Total SMarT 1 funding paid to tonnage tax companies/groups who are SMarT training providers
2005-06	6,948,239	1,578,247
2004-05	6,826,856	1,813,434
2003-04	5,968,316	1,826,561
2002-03	5,185,305	1,584,803
2001-02	4,296,243	1,317,088

Transport Select Committee

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what action has been taken by his Department to implement Transport Select Committee recommendations since the 2001-02 Session; and if he will make a statement. [77847]

Gillian Merron: The Department takes very seriously all recommendations contained in Select Committee reports and where possible, addresses each and every one in our response.

If the Committee do not feel that their recommendations have been properly responded to, they are of course able to publish further reports.

Transport Direct

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have used www.transportdirect.info in each of the last 12 months. [82211]

Dr. Ladyman: Statistics for both the number of people who have used Transport Direct and the number of pages that they have accessed are as follows:

Month	User sessions	Pages accessed
July 2005	234,101	1,938,772
August 2005	329,047	2,403,413
September 2005	345,802	2,440,177
October 2005	344,968	2,572,766
November 2005	378,911	3,165,276
December 2005	373,853	3,448,952
January 2006	406,927	3,872,218
February 2006	427,997	4,202,907
March 2006	425,772	4,427,304
April 2006	436,718	4,085,244
May 2006	475,161	4,435,045
June 2006	602,648	4,689,903
Grand total	4,781,905	41,681,977

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcohol Sales

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what controls the licensing regime imposes on the sale of alcohol to minors via *(a)* fast food delivery outlets and *(b)* shopping purchases online. [82121]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* Since 24 November 2005, it has become an offence to sell alcohol anywhere to a person under 18. There are no longer any exceptions.

Under the new licensing regime, we have:

made protection of children from harm a statutory objective of the Licensing Act 2003;

introduced fixed penalty notices for selling to children, and for purchase or attempted purchase by children, and these offences apply equally to mail order or internet purchases;

increased the fines fivefold for offences of selling to children, from a maximum of £1,000 up to £5,000;

ensured that personal licences can now be lost for a first offence;

ensured that premises licences, including those for a fast food outlet or a mail order or internet company, are subject to review for such behaviour, with temporary closures, reduced hours and licence revocation if necessary;

brought forward the Violent Crime Reduction Bill with proposals for a new offence of persistent selling to children and a power to close offending retailers; and

created powers by which premises licences can be made subject to conditions restricting or prohibiting the presence of children.

BBC World (China)

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what filtering takes place of BBC World programmes in China. [81848]

Mr. Woodward: I understand that BBC World's programmes in China are not filtered by the BBC but, as part of the channel's distribution agreement, the channel signal is downlinked in China and, in common with other overseas satellite television broadcasters, is re-uplinked on the Sino satellite. On occasion BBC World's signal has been interrupted or suspended by the Chinese authorities prior to the re-uplink of the signal on the Sino satellite platform.

Braille/Audio/Large Print Publications

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding her Department has provided for *(a)* Braille, *(b)* audio and *(c)* large print books, newspapers and magazines in each of the last five years. [73657]

Mr. Woodward: My Department has no specific budget to fund Braille, audio and large print publications. However, these publications benefit through Government support for libraries and the publishing industry generally, and more widely, by the way we encourage all industries to make their publications accessible to all. There have also been almost £10 million worth of Lottery projects which have involved publications for the visually impaired.

Broadcast Rights Payments

Michael Connarty: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the lost revenue to UK

companies and recording artists from the lack of payments for broadcast rights in the USA; and what estimate has been supplied to her Department by the music industry. [82619]

Mr. Woodward: This Department has not made such an estimate. However, the recording industry has estimated that a change in US law in respect of broadcasting rights would enable it to earn additional revenue of approximately £281 million. Furthermore, in 2001 the European Commission estimated that the US Fairness in Music Licensing Act 1998, had cost composers, songwriters and music publishers some $25 million a year in lost royalties.

Licensing Legislation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the progress on preparation of the new licensing legislation consultation document. [82673]

Mr. Woodward: We are conducting a review of the guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 in two stages.

Following an initial review, which covered issues where a broad consensus existed among stakeholders, supplementary guidance was tabled in Parliament on 22 June 2006. The supplement is now in force and has been made available to all licensing authorities.

We will conduct a formal public consultation on the fuller review over the summer with a view to tabling any revised guidance in Parliament by the end of 2006.

Listed Buildings

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions since 1997 a previously listed building has been de-listed *(a)* after English Heritage had advised against de-listing, *(b)* after English Heritage has advised in favour of de-listing and *(c)* because the building was fundamentally damaged; and whether any of the buildings de-listed were subsequently demolished. [82681]

Mr. Lammy: Between 1997 and 2005 inclusive, 696 buildings were removed from the statutory list.

We do not hold data on decisions to de-list buildings in the format you request, and to compile it would incur disproportionate costs. Neither DCMS nor English Heritage holds data on whether de-listed buildings were subsequently demolished.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many buildings were *(a)* listed and *(b)* de-listed in each year since 1997; and how many had their listing changed (i) from grade I to grade II and (ii) from grade II to grade I. [82682]

Mr. Lammy: The figures for questions *(a)* and *(b)* are set out as follows:

(a) Buildings removed from the list

	Number
1997	144
1998	77
1999	127
2000	72
2001	70
2002	53
2003	38
2004	61
2005	54

(b) Buildings added to the list

	Number
1997	1,217
1998	1,926
1999	2,276
2000	1,310
2001	804
2002	538
2003	543
2004	485
2005	554

We do not hold a central record of cases in which buildings were upgraded from I to II or downgraded from II to I, and to compile it would incur disproportionate costs.

Radio Licences

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 407W, on radio licences, what factors she took into account when deciding that there was not a case for a review at this time; and if she will make a statement. [82635]

Mr. Woodward: It is a well established principle in the UK that broadcasting is carried out independently of Government. Accordingly, decisions on the licensing of radio stations are made by Ofcom, the independent regulator, free from Government intervention. We are not aware of any evidence which suggests that this principle should be reviewed.

Television Licences

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what information TV Licensing provides about local Paypoint facilities in Swansea to pay for television licences; [81970]

(2) what advice is being given to people by TV Licensing about *(a)* the withdrawal of television licence stamps and *(b)* arrangements for their replacement. [82005]

Mr. Woodward: The BBC, as television licensing authority, has responsibility for the administration of the licensing system. TV Licensing operates under contract to the corporation. I have therefore asked the

BBC's Head of Revenue Management to reply. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the withdrawal of television licence savings stamps. [81971]

Mr. Woodward: The BBC, as television licensing authority, is replacing television licence savings stamps with a new, card-based savings scheme. This scheme offers similar ease of use to stamps and important advantages, including added security for savers, (with a central record of their credit balances). Savings stamps can be used to purchase a TV licence at a post office until 31 July this year, after which they will be redeemable for cash from TV Licensing, without limit of time.

Ann Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people over 75 years in Brentford and Isleworth constituency receive free television licences. [82433]

Mr. Woodward: TV Licensing, which administer (as agents for the BBC) free television licences for people aged 75 or over are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of the number of free licences issued. However, according to the Department for Work and Pensions records the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming the winter fuel payment in 2004-05 in the Brentford and Isleworth constituency was 4,865.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Solicitor-General what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the chief accounting officer of each of the Law Officers' Departments. [76721]

The Solicitor-General: For my Departments the answer is as follows:

CPS

The DPP, Ken Macdonald QC, is the Accounting Officer. He has an honours degree in politics, philosophy and Economics; and was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1978.

Treasury Solicitor

The Principal Accounting officer for HM Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor is Juliet Wheldon DCB QC. She read history at university and was called to the Bar in 1975.

SFO

The Principal Accounting Officer is the Director of the Serious Fraud Office, Robert Wardle LIB, a solicitor of the Supreme Court who has prosecution experience over 28 years.

RCPO

The Accounting Office of the Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office is David Green QC who is also the Department's Director. He is a graduate of Cambridge University (MA Hons) and has been a member of the Bar (Inner Temple) since 1979.

The role of the Accounting Officer is one that the Permanent Secretary or Head of Department combines with his/her personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the Department and for Department-wide procedures in financial and other matters. The Accounting Officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified and experienced senior managers, such as the Finance Director.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Solicitor-General when he will reply to question number 77183, on looters in Basra, tabled by the hon. Member for Sunderland, South on 8 June. [83235]

The Solicitor-General: I replied to the hon. Member on 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1111W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abandoned Cars

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to ensuring that abandoned cars are removed from public highways and council land within a reasonable time period. [82411]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 includes provisions that amend legislation relating to abandoned vehicles, with the effect that from 18 October 2005, all abandoned vehicles can be removed immediately from a road. A 'road' is defined in statute but is not restricted to the public highway and includes all roads to which the public have access and will, in many cases, include private roads running through housing estates.

Agricultural Workers

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consultations were undertaken with employers of seasonal agricultural workers scheme students on changes to the employment contracts of those students; what discussions he had with the Home Office; and if he will make a statement. [82026]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* The Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Scheme (SAWS) is operated by the Home Office. Defra provides advice to the Home Office on how minimum wage legislation is applied in the agricultural sector and any implications it has for SAWS. This procedure was followed during the drafting of the contract clarification letter issued by the Home Office on 22 June. The Home Office is not involved in drawing up contracts of employment which are a matter for individual employers and their employees.

Aquaculture

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what compensation is available to aquaculture industries in cases where compulsory slaughter is ordered due to an outbreak of a list 2 disease; and what recent discussions he has had with the aquaculture industry on this issue. [82691]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* Under successive Governments, compensation has not been available for the compulsory slaughter of fish due to an outbreak of serious fish diseases; this remains my Department's policy.

Following the recent outbreak of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia on a trout farm in the River Ouse catchment area, I have held meetings with farmers in the area and their representative organisations to hear their concerns and consider options for alleviating current difficulties.

Brixham Fish Market

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to his answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 386-87W, on Brixham fish market, why a final decision on the funding of Brixham fish market will only be made when an assessment of the potential impact of a possible restriction of scallop dredging in Lyme Bay is completed. [83297]

Mr. Bradshaw: To take into account all the factors that could affect the economic viability of Brixham fish market, when taking a decision on whether to grant a significant sum of public funding for its redevelopment. These factors include a possible restriction in scallop dredging. Bearing in mind that scallops form a significant part of the value of landings into Brixham, my officials sought further information on the potential effect of a loss of revenue from this source and an assurance from the applicant that this had been considered.

I am pleased to say that following consideration of this further information and receipt of an assurance from Torbay council, officials have approved the application for grant funding of the market, and the council has been informed of this decision.

Creameries

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had discussions with Office of Fair Trading officials on the number of creameries available for dairy farmers to sell their products to. [76187]

Barry Gardiner: There have been no discussions on this. However, officials regularly discuss matters relating to the dairy sector.

Dairy Industry

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will set up a regulator of the price of milk for a temporary period. [79755]

Barry Gardiner: The Government supported the conclusion of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee in 2004, that there was no compelling evidence in favour of setting up a regulatory body to oversee the dairy industry. It is difficult to see how a regulator could determine a fair price other than by reference to a market price. A price regulator would almost certainly be incompatible with EU competition law and with the common organisation of the market in milk and milk products.

Debt Collectors

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its (i) executive agencies and (ii) non-departmental public bodies use the services of private debt collectors. [71063]

Barry Gardiner: The services of private debt collectors are not used by DEFRA, its executive agencies or DEFRA funded advisory non-departmental public bodies (not including minor bodies).

Departmental Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans he has for legislation in the next Session of Parliament; and if he will make a statement; [78838]

(2) if he will list those Government Bills sponsored by his Department that are still to be introduced during the 2005-06 Session. [78837]

Barry Gardiner: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of food served in his Department's catering establishments was of British origin in 2005; and what instructions he has issued to the provider of food services regarding the sourcing of food. [78162]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* From information held centrally, the proportion of food served in the Department's catering establishments that is of British origin is 100 per cent. for eggs and milk products; 90 per cent. for cheeses; 80 per cent. to 100 per cent. for root vegetables; 50 per cent. to 80 per cent. for salad vegetables; 25 per cent. to 40 per cent.

for fruit; 85 per cent. for fish; 100 per cent. for bakery products; 80 per cent. for chicken; 70 per cent. for beef; 15 per cent. for lamb; 25 per cent. for bacon and 90 per cent. for pork.

DEFRA's catering services providers are required to use food produce which is fresh and seasonal including organic produce. They are also required to develop the use of small and medium sized enterprises in their food supply chains. The catering services providers are required to have full regard to the objectives of the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI). The service performance of the catering services providers is the subject of continuous assessment and review.

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the chief accounting officer of his Department. [76794]

Barry Gardiner: I refer to my answer of 30 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 506W, which gave details of the Department's Finance Director. The Department's Principal Accounting Officer is Helen Ghosh, Permanent Secretary.

Accounting Officer is a role that the Permanent Secretary combines with her personal responsibility for the overall organisation, management and staffing of the department and for department-wide procedures in financial and other matters. The Accounting Officer is assisted in the discharge of these duties by suitably qualified and experienced senior managers, such as the Finance Director.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the pension liability of his Department over the next 30 years. [75274]

Barry Gardiner: A technical note by HM Treasury which was placed in the Library of the House on 2 March 2006 following an oral statement in Parliament by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury, 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-390.

Pension liabilities are not estimated for individual Departments, they are estimated for individual pension schemes, as shown in the breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme given in table 1 of the technical note. The technical note covers all the major schemes.

The technical note provides detailed information about the size and nature of the liabilities and how they are calculated. Pension liabilities represent obligations already incurred which will fall due to be met over many decades, up to 80 years or more. Neither Government nor private sector pension providers engage in speculation about additional liabilities that might be incurred in future years.

Departmental Premises (Security)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to ensure that no illegal immigrants are employed in the manned guarding of his Department's premises. [80797]

Barry Gardiner: For our main headquarters buildings we employ a mix of in-house and contract guards. For the former we carry out a robust basic check on all successful applicants which includes confirmation of identity, nationality (including right to work), criminal record declaration and references. Following a successful outcome of the basic check all guards undergo formal security vetting.

All contract guards throughout the DEFRA estate must be licensed under the Private Security Industry Act 2001. This provides us with assurance that identities and criminal records have been checked. For headquarters-based contract guards we also subject them to formal security vetting as a matter of routine.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly employed illegal immigrants as security guards. [80814]

Barry Gardiner: We are not aware that we have directly or indirectly employed illegal immigrants as security guards.

Departmental Staff

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people over the age of 55 years have been recruited into his Department in each of the last three years. [77273]

Barry Gardiner: The number of people over the age of 55 recruited into DEFRA, the Government Decontamination Service, the Marine Fisheries Agency, the Pesticides Safety Directorate, the State Veterinary Service, the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate in the each of the last three calendar years was as follows:

	Number
2003	58
2004	53
2005	57

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79059]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA directly operates a number of websites, including the main DEFRA website

(www.defra.gov.uk) and the Government's sustainable development website (www.sustainable-development.gov.uk).

Direct operating costs—the staff costs for the central team with lead responsibility for updating and maintaining websites and for website policy—are estimated to be around £352,000 for the last financial year. Additional costs arise from the activities of a large number of staff in business units across the Department, contributing to the content of websites as part of their communications activities, but an overall cost for this could not be readily estimated. Website hosting services—as well as a range of IT applications—are provided as part of DEFRA's overall IT service provision and the costs could not be readily disaggregated.

A number of other websites are operated by or on behalf of the Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies, for which costs are either covered by the budgets for specific programmes (and not separately identified), or included within the above figures. Detailed information is not currently held centrally for such websites, and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Farm Employment

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed in *(a)* dairy farming, *(b)* beef farming, *(c)* sheep farming, *(d)* arable farming, *(e)* mixed farming and *(f)* other forms of farming in Yeovil constituency in (i) 1990, (ii) 2000 and (iii) 2005. [82184]

Barry Gardiner: The number of people working on agricultural and horticultural holdings in Yeovil constituency by predominant farm type are as follows. constituency level data are not available before 1998. Changes in farm type classifications mean figures for the cattle and sheep and grazing livestock categories are not directly comparable across the years.

Farm type	*2000*	*2005*
Employees (including salaried manager and casual workers)		
Cereals	17	25
General cropping	68	41
Horticulture	208	179
Pigs and poultry	27	9
Dairy	193	175
Cattle and sheep (less favoured area)	0	n/a
Grazing livestock (less favoured area)	n/a	0
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	74	n/a
Grazing livestock (lowland)	n/a	105
Mixed	69	29
Other types	48	42
Total labour force (including farmers, partners, directors and employees)		
Cereals	71	110
General cropping	133	87
Horticulture	283	265
Pigs and poultry	65	59
Dairy	515	444
Cattle and sheep (less favoured area)	0	n/a
Grazing livestock (less favoured area)	n/a	0
Cattle and sheep (lowland)	413	n/a
Grazing livestock (lowland)	n/a	489
Mixed	152	105
Other types	199	156

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Farm Payments

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to pay interest on outstanding payments due on *(a)* hill farm allowance, *(b)* protein supplements and *(c)* energy crop supplements. [82487]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The protein supplements and aid for energy crops are made under Pillar 1 of the Common Agricultural Policy and have a legal payment deadline of 30 June 2006. As such, the Rural Payments Agency will be making interest payments at the London Interbank Offered Rate +1 per cent., calculated from 1 July 2006, in respect of any such payments which are paid after this deadline and where responsibility for the delay rests with the Rural Payments Agency. This will be subject to a minimum interest payment level of £50.

The hill farm allowance payments are made under Pillar 2 (Rural Development) of the Common Agricultural Policy and have no legal deadline. At present we do not consider that there is a case for the payment of interest in respect of hill farm allowance.

Fish Deaths (Cuckoo Hollow)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ask the Environment Agency to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death by asphyxiation of 5,000 fish at Cuckoo Hollow, Werrington, Peterborough on 15 June 2006; whether the Agency has in place a plan to prevent similar occurrences during future periods of hot weather; and if he will make a statement. [82453]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* The Environment Agency has been fully involved in investigating the incident at Cuckoo Hollow. Agency staff found that dissolved oxygen levels in the lake were very low, largely because of high temperatures over the previous weekend. Action was taken by Agency staff to replenish oxygen levels in the lake, and to ensure that there were no signs of any chemical pollution.

The Environment Agency is continuing to work with Peterborough city council, the owner of the lake, to ensure actions are taken to minimise any possibility of a reoccurrence in the future.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of his Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80478]

Barry Gardiner: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Marine Bill

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to present a draft Marine Bill to Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [82157]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 745W.

Meat Imports

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of beef and beef products were imported into the UK from *(a)* other EU member states and *(b)* other countries in (i) 2004 and (ii) 2005. [81208]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows imports of beef and beef products into the UK split by EU countries and other countries.

Imports of beef and beef products into the UK

Tonnes

EU/ Non-EU	*Beef product*	*Country*	*2004*	*2005*
EU	Beef (fresh or chilled)	Irish Republic	130,020	108,270
		Netherlands	10,134	9,165
		Germany	4,794	2,805
		Poland	2,340	2,760
		Denmark	1,779	1,412
		France	1,698	1,416
		Belgium	1,621	1,315
		Italy	1,492	975
		Other	430	227
	Beef Product	Irish Republic	69,458	94,430
		Netherlands	5,758	5,861
		Germany	3,063	4,794
		Denmark	4,510	1,972
		France	2,494	2,776
		Belgium	1,493	1,926
		Sweden	502	747
		Poland	422	287
		Other	710	529
	Beef (frozen)	Irish Republic	29,567	28,270
		Germany	5,341	6,400
		Italy	7,622	3,006
		Netherlands	6,980	3,497
		France	5,064	2,370
		Belgium	3,208	2,558
		Spain	1,388	622
		Denmark	877	682
		Poland	384	634
		Other	142	32
EU Total			303,291	289,737
Non-EU	Beef Product	Brazil	59,008	53,576
		Argentina	9,101	7,574
		Uruguay	4,233	4,987
		South Africa	388	254
		Botswana	285	201
		New Zealand	32	311
		Other	607	255
	Beef (fresh or chilled)	Brazil	13,826	13,811
		Argentina	6,110	6,647
		Namibia	5,723	5,649
		Uruguay	4,472	5,669
		Australia	5,227	4,631
		Botswana	4,052	3,048
		Chile	135	886
		Other	303	209
	Beef (frozen)	Brazil	20,785	18,365
		Argentina	2,531	2,590
		Uruguay	1,099	1,202
		Botswana	796	414
		Namibia	489	213
		Other	183	137
Non-EU Total			139,384	130,628
Grand Total			442,675	420,365

Notes:
1. Data prepared by Trade statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis Division, DEFRA.
2. 2005 data is subject to amendments.
3. EU data based on EU 25.

Source:
H M Revenue and Customs

Milk

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he plans to have with the *(a)* Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers and *(b)* National Union of Farmers on the price for milk paid to farmers. [76175]

Barry Gardiner: The Government share farmers' concerns over the low farmgate price of milk and Ministers meet regularly with both representatives of

the diary industry and the NFU. However, price negotiations between producers and processors, are a private commercial matter in which Government cannot get involved, as long as competition rules are respected.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* liquid milk and *(b)* milk powder was (i) imported and (ii) exported in each of the last three years. [82488]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The following table shows exports from the UK and imports into the UK of liquid milk and milk powder for 2003 to 2005.

		2003		2004		2005	
Trade	*Type*	*Tonnes*	*£000*	*Tonnes*	*£000*	*Tonnes*	*£000*
Exports	Liquid Milk	198,464	48,130	258,101	58,404	499,481	100,479
	Milk Powder	172,745	212,035	185,647	219,429	99,828	114,924
Imports	Liquid Milk	37,755	13,641	56,170	13,886	48,116	16,313
	Milk Powder	45,319	44,975	67,898	52,170	76,897	65,184

Source:
H M Revenue and Customs
Data prepared by Trade statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis Division, DEFRA 2005 data is subject to amendments

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the liquid whole milk equivalent volume of *(a)* imports and *(b)* exports of milk-based products in each of the last three years. [82489]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* It is not possible to provide overseas trade estimates for the different milk products in liquid milk equivalent. It is a complex calculation which can lead to double counting as different components of liquid milk can be used to manufacture different products. The following table shows the UK trade in milk products in tonnage and value for 2003 to 2005.

		2003		2004		2005	
Trade	*Description*	*Tonnes*	*£000*	*Tonnes*	*£000*	*Tonnes*	*£000*
Imports	Cheese	315,622	743,898	334,654	810,598	352,411	850,668
	Yoghurt	193,255	137,888	181,110	139,889	154,200	126,651
	Butter	118,387	281,102	113,694	278,869	128,620	309,407
	Buttermilk	56,602	48,609	87,409	68,181	111,127	96,253
	Ice cream	76,779	129,736	89,304	142,482	82,317	127,658
	Condensed milk	19,628	17,770	25,134	22,913	32,911	33,221
	Whey	26,827	18,715	25,029	16,071	22,303	17,293
	Other	1,334	1,716	1,707	2,146	2,079	3,391
	Imports total	808,435	1,379,434	858,043	1,481,149	885,968	1,564,543
Exports	Cheese	89,795	179,415	93,286	201,560	96,073	219,079
	Whey	42,647	12,140	56,167	16,812	75,416	27,287
	Ice cream	40,847	47,680	53,219	50,464	50,515	46,763
	Butter	44,366	74,952	34,793	59,235	45,147	73,216
	Yoghurt	9,755	14,831	12,033	21,359	22,317	24,457
	Buttermilk	11,659	6,719	13,056	5,166	20,456	6,328
	Condensed milk	20,471	15,046	17,767	10,756	3,726	6,470
	Other	834	918	11,221	24,456	162	689
	Exports total	260,374	351,701	291,542	389,807	313,813	404,289

Source:
H M Revenue and Customs
Data prepared by Trade statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis Division, DEFRA 2005 data is subject to amendments

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the sustainability for dairy farmers of the price paid to them for milk. [78386]

Barry Gardiner: Price negotiations between producers and processors, are a private commercial matter in which Government cannot get involved provided competition rules are respected.

Dairy farmers are currently facing a number of challenges, including farmgate prices. In line with the 'Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food', the Government are working alongside the industry to facilitate and support its future development. For

example, the Dairy Supply Chain Forum is providing information to help the dairy industry make informed decisions about its future in a world with much freer trade and lower prices

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average price per litre paid to *(a)* farmers, *(b)* purchasers and *(c)* supermarkets for milk was in each month in each year since 1997. [82451]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The information requested is as follows.

(a) The table shows monthly weighted average farm gate milk prices in pence per litre for the United Kingdom.

The average prices are calculated from monthly surveys of milk purchasers conducted in England and Wales by Defra, in Scotland by SEERAD and in Northern Ireland by DARD.

The farm gate price is the average price received by producers, net of delivery charges. No deduction has been made for superlevy.

(b) Prices paid by retailers to milk purchases are not available.

(c) Prices are derived from the Expenditure and Food Survey and are for the top five shops (in terms of value of food and drink purchased) as identified in this survey. Prior to 2001-02 this information was collected as part of the National Food Survey and cannot be broken down by retail outlet in this way.

	Supermarket price (liquid wholemilk)	*Farmgate price (including bonus payments)*
2001-02	43.79	19.31
2002-03	44.98	16.86
2003-04	47.37	18.27
2004-05[1]	48.00	18.39

[1] Pence per litre.

National Water Grid

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with the water industry regarding proposals for a national water grid; and if he will make a statement; [82576]

(2) what plans he has to develop a national water grid; and if he will make a statement. [82852]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1448W.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to consult the water industry on national water plans. [82853]

Ian Pearson: A meeting with representatives from across the water industry was held on 1 June, to discuss the provision of water resources over the short, medium and long term.

All water companies have water resources plans, which reconcile supply and anticipated demand over a 25-year horizon, in their own areas of supply.

The production and maintenance of water resources management plans will become a statutory requirement under the Water Act 2003. A consultation on the proposed water resources management plans regulations was held between 31 January 2006 and 25 April 2006. The consultees included water companies. The new regime will commence in April 2007.

Palm Oil (Malaysia)

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the environmental impact of palm oil production in Malaysia. [82873]

Ian Pearson: Palm oil is used in many processed foods as well as cosmetics and detergents. It can also be used to produce biodiesel transport fuel. For this reason, demand is high and may be contributing to the destruction of virgin forest in Malaysia and Indonesia. Environmental groups have highlighted in particular the impact this may be having on Orang-utan populations.

The Government are very conscious that increasing consumption of goods and services in the UK can have environmental and social consequences overseas. It is for this reason that DEFRA is commissioning research work on the environmental impacts of internationally sourced commodity production in general.

Specifically, the Government are also encouraging industry to sign up to the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) which is developing a globally acceptable definition of sustainable palm oil production.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which Private Members' Bills were drafted by his Department in each Session since 1997; and which subsequently received Royal Assent. [78836]

Barry Gardiner: Members will consider a range of possible subjects before introducing their Private Members' Bills. Government draftsmen do draft some Bills in advance which are available as one of the options for Members to consider before they make their selection. However, Members may make subsequent amendments or revisions to a Government drafted Bill, or use it as the basis for a Private Members' Bill in the future.

The information requested is therefore not collected.

Rural Payments Agency

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of whether there was any element of

maladministration on the part of the Rural Payments Agency in its failure to pay the bulk of the 2005 single farm payments by the end of March 2006. [73217]

Barry Gardiner: The assessment my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) made on learning that the bulk of payments would not be made by the end of March was that there was an urgent need to strengthen the leadership of the Rural Payments Agency. The subsequent appointment of Mark Addison and then Tony Cooper as interim chief executive has lead to the position reported by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1478, that, as of 20 June, some £1.38 billion, representing more than 90 per cent. of the total fund, has now been paid to more than 100,000 applicants.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the performance of employees of the Rural Payments Agency; and if he will make a statement. [79484]

Barry Gardiner: Most representations have been along the lines of those made by Peter Kendall, President of the National Union of Farmers who, after visiting a Rural Payments Agency office in April, stated that

"From what I have seen, I am convinced that RPA staff are doing their level best to get through mapping tasks and to speed up the validation process."

Concerns have also been raised about the conduct of a minority of employees at one RPA office, which is being addressed in accordance with the Agency's established procedures.

Shrewsbury Flower Show

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will attend the Shrewsbury Flower Show as a guest of the hon. Member for Shrewsbury. [80330]

Barry Gardiner: Unfortunately I am unable to accept the hon. Member's invitation as there are enormous demands on my diary and those of my ministerial colleagues.

Single Farm Payments

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the occasions on which he indicated *(a)* in public and *(b)* to the House that payments under the single payments scheme would be met before the legal deadline. [69521]

Barry Gardiner: My right hon. friend the Secretary of State and his predecessor have consistently reported the Rural Payments Agency's targets and forecasts in respect of the timing of payments under the 2005 single payment scheme. Those targets and forecasts have tended to focus on when payments would start and when certain proportions would be completed rather than the position at the end of the regulatory payment window of 30 June. My right hon. friend the Secretary of State's latest report on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1478 indicated that, as of 20 June, some £1.38 billion, representing more than 90 per cent. of the total fund, has now been paid to more than 100,000 applicants. The outstanding payments will be made as soon as possible.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will seek to extend the single farm payment to those who plant trees on their land as part of an environmental improvement. [81114]

Barry Gardiner: While claimants under the Single Payment Scheme are required to maintain their land in good agricultural and environmental condition, the scheme is not designed to fund environmental improvements.

However, there are other options available to farmers and landlords, such as Environmental Stewardship and the English Woodland Grant Scheme, which do support the environmental improvement of land, including the planting of trees.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of farmers in *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham and *(b)* England have received their single farm payments. [76184]

Barry Gardiner: The total number of single payment scheme customers is approximately 120,000. As at 30 June 2006, 92 per cent. (107,888) customers have received either a full or partial payment.

Details of payments made in England up to 30 June 2006, including by constituency and county, will be published in due course.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to make partial payments under the 2006 single payments scheme; and if he will make a statement. [77564]

Barry Gardiner: As my right hon. friend, the Secretary of State, reported to the House on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1478-79, the need for the necessary EU legislation to make partial payments has been discussed with the Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner, Mrs. Fisher-Boel, and the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has been authorised to start work on the necessary systems. However, until the interim RPA chief executive has had an opportunity to make a realistic assessment of the prospects for full payments, we do not want to commit to a particular timetable or specify whether or when partial payments might be necessary.

Tallow

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the likely impact of exempting tallow from the EU definition of biomass. [82872]

Mr. Bradshaw: The EU has defined biomass as

"the biodegradable fraction of products, wastes and residues from agriculture (including vegetal and animal substances), forestry and related industries, as well as the biodegradable fraction of industrial and municipal waste...".

As a form of animal substance, tallow is not exempt from the EU's definition of biomass and we are not aware of proposals to make it so. No such assessment has therefore been made.

Timber Imports

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to reduce timber imports from Burma. [79550]

Barry Gardiner: There are no current economic sanctions or restrictions on sourcing goods from Burma. However, Government policy is to offer no support to British companies who wish to trade with Burma, informing those who enquire of the grave political situation, the regime's atrocious record on human rights, and its economic mismanagement.

Government are working closely with the NGO Global Witness on how best to protect Burma's forests. Their report, "A Choice For China", calls for a ban on illegally logged timber. It does not, however, support a ban on all timber from Burma, bearing in mind the complexity of the problem. Instead, Global Witness has called for timber companies not to import illegally logged timber, and for the Chinese Government to suspend imports of logs and processed timber across the China-Burma border. China has taken action by closing its border crossings to timber trucks from Burma. Burma officials have also been trying to stop the trade in recent months, and the military regime suspended tree-cutting, timber transport and log shipments to China at the end of 2005.

Government continues to work through a number of channels with China to tackle the problem of illegal logging in the Asian region.

Wheels to Work

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will provide future funding for Wheels to Work schemes in Northamptonshire. [79556]

Barry Gardiner: Responsibility for delivering the Countryside Agency's rural economic and social regeneration policies, including transport, now lies with the regional development agencies (RDAs) who will determine where and on what it is appropriate to spend funds.

East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA) has funded two Wheels to Work schemes in Northamptonshire using the funds that were transferred to EMDA from the Countryside Agency. £248,990 of EMDA funding has been allocated over three years (2005-08).

As well as support from the RDAs, 'Wheels to Work or Learning' schemes receive funding from local Jobcentre Plus and Connexions offices, Learning and Skills Councils and from local transport authorities. The major source of transport funding in rural areas is local authorities.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Ex-miners (Compensation)

14. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made in establishing a minimum compensation payment scheme for ex-miners suffering from chronic bronchitis and emphysema. [82780]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department supports the minimum payment proposal in principle and continues to work with the claimants' solicitors group to conclude matters. Discussions are nearing resolution and I hope the issues that remain are now resolved quickly enabling final agreement, including approval from solicitors, to be achieved.

Nuclear Power

15. **Mr. Hurd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the Government's policy is on nuclear power. [82781]

Malcolm Wicks: The Energy Review, launched by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in November 2005, is considering how to secure clean and affordable energy for the long term. It is exploring aspects of energy supply and demand, focusing on policy measures beyond 2010 including an assessment of the possible future role of civil nuclear and other generating technologies.

The Government will publish their proposals shortly.

British Firms (Export Markets)

16. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to encourage British firms to develop export markets. [82782]

Mr. McCartney: In a fast moving world the UK needs to be in a position to meet the challenges of globalisation. UK Trade and Investment is addressing this issue by helping British business to respond better to rapid, turbulent economic and social change. It is developing a new programme of support for companies trading internationally in emerging markets such as India and China as well as an increased focus on helping knowledge-intensive and innovative businesses.

UK Trade and Investment has been developing a new five-year strategy outlining how in the future it will undertake this vital role. The proposed launch date for the strategy is 20 July and I will keep the House informed.

Renewable Energy

17. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to promote renewable energy. [82783]

Malcolm Wicks: The Renewables Obligation is the Government's key mechanism for encouraging renewable generation. This is supported by around £500 million of spending between 2002 and 2008 in the form of R and D and capital grants on emerging low carbon and renewable technologies.

Rural Post Offices

18. **Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the future of the rural network. [82784]

Margaret Hodge: My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for the Royal Mail and Post Office (Jim Fitzpatrick), has had a number of discussions with ministerial colleagues in key Government Departments about the future of the Post Office network.

Departmental Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of his Department; what commitment he has made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81052]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI is committed to the targets for energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions as set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development in Government. During the period 1990-2000 to 2004-05 the DTI HQ and its Agencies have achieved a reduction in carbon emissions from 5.2 to 4.4 (000 tC).

Over the past two years the Department has reduced the size of its London HQ estate by over 30 per cent. with a corresponding reduction in all the associated environmental impacts. This has been achieved by making more efficient use of its existing accommodation and the adoption of flexible desking on the basis of eight workstations for every 10 staff. Other carbon reduction initiatives include the purchase of nearly a third of its electricity from renewable sources between 1999-2000 and 2004-05.

Multinational Enterprises

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many meetings have been convened between complainants and companies by the UK National Contact Point under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises since the Guidelines were implemented by the Government; [78633]

(2) what the criteria are by which the UK National Contact Point for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises decides to include specific instance cases in the official OECD table of specific instances; [78634]

(3) what the criteria are by which the UK National Contact Point for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises decides to share relevant information with the complainant during the course of the specific instance procedure; [78635]

(4) to what extent Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines on Multinational Enterprise cover the behaviour of UK companies in dealing with their suppliers; and if he will make a statement; [78636]

(5) when he will implement United Nations Security Council Resolution 1457; [78637]

(6) if he will assess the extent to which his Department has implemented the recommendations made in the report of the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes Region on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and if he will make a statement; [78638]

(7) in what ways the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises govern the operations of multinational companies in states where the national government is considered by the UK Government to be perpetrating humans rights abuses. [78628]

(8) how many complaints the national contact point for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises has received under the specific instance mechanism relating to activities of UK companies in *(a)* Zimbabwe and *(b)* Nigeria in each of the last five years; and how many have been resolved; [78629]

(9) what the average time taken to conclude the specific instance procedure for complaints under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises by the nation contact point located within his Department has been in each year since they were introduced; [78631]

(10) how he will ensure that complainants based in non-Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries are able to use the specific instance procedure under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises in relation to UK companies. [78632]

Mr. McCartney: Governments adhering to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises encourage enterprises operating in or from their territories to observe the Guidelines wherever they operate. Chapter II—General Policies states that enterprises should

"respect the human rights of those affected by their activities consistent with the host government's international obligations and commitments."

Chapter II—General Policies also states that enterprises should

"encourage, where practicable, business partners, including suppliers and subcontractors, to apply principles of corporate conduct compatible with the Guidelines."

As asserted m the September 2005 stakeholder consultation document on the UK national contact point's (NCP) promotion and implementation of the

Guidelines, the NCP will follow its procedures where relevant and practicable if issues arise in non-adhering countries. Where information is not otherwise available, it may be able to obtain this through UK overseas posts. Where parties are unable to make their representations in the UK, it may undertake field visits, for which terms of reference will be established in advance.

The NCP has received no complaints relating to implementation of the Guidelines in specific instances by UK companies in Zimbabwe or Nigeria.

The NCP reports details of all complaints that it has decided justify consideration as a specific instance for inclusion in the OECD's annual report on the Guidelines.

Details of the number of meetings convened by the NCP between parties to a specific instance are not held centrally.

The procedural guidance that accompanies the Guidelines specifically provides that

"information and views provided during the proceedings by another party involved will remain confidential, unless that other party agrees to their disclosure."

Accordingly, as asserted in the stakeholder consultation document, in the interests of transparency, the NCP will make available all documentation received from a party to other parties except in accordance with the exemptions provided for under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Details of the time taken to conclude specific instances by the NCP since it was set up following the decision of the OECD Council in June 2000 are as follows:

Company	*Complainant*	*Filed*	*Concluded*
National Grid Transco	Citizens for a Better Environment	July 2003	July 2005
De Beers	n/a	October 2003	May 2004
Avient	n/a	October 2003	September 2004
Oryx Natural Resources	Rights and Accountability in Development	October 2003	June 2005

Other specific instances have been dropped by the complainant or are ongoing.

The handling of UK companies listed in the final report of the United Nations Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of DR Congo referred to in Security Council Resolution 1457 as unresolved cases and referred to the NCP for investigation and updating was set out in the July 2005 Government response to a February 2005 report of the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes Region (APPG) report.

I have arranged for copies of the Government response to the APPG report and the stakeholder consultation document on the NCP's promotion and implementation of the Guidelines to be placed in the Libraries of the House. The Government will shortly publish its response to the stakeholder consultation.

Social Enterprises

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what sources of publicly-funded financial support are available for new social enterprises. [76726]

Edward Miliband: I have been asked to reply.

There are many sources of publicly-funded financial support available to new social enterprises.

The Futurebuilders Fund exists to develop the capacity of the voluntary and community sector, including social enterprises, to deliver public services in England.

There is also the Adventure Capital Fund which aims to strengthen local communities by investing in organisations that work in, and for, those communities, helping them to thrive through enterprise.

Other sources include Unlimited (Unltd), funded through a Millennium Award endowment, with the objective of supporting and developing the role of social entrepreneurs as a force for positive change in the UK. The Big Lottery Fund is also open to applications from social enterprises.

Some Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs) are another source of finance, providing loans at commercial rates to social enterprises. There may also be additional regional or local funds available. The local Business Link would be best placed to advise on what support exists locally.

Sustainable Energy

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of grants available to home owners for solar heating; and if he will make a statement. [79528]

Malcolm Wicks: Solar water heating for home owners have been supported as part of the Clear Skies programme, which had a £13.25 million budget over three years beginning January 2003. To date over 5,500 household installations of solar water heating have been completed. We are continuing to support solar water heating, along with other microgeneration technologies, through the Low Carbon Buildings programme with a £80 million budget over the next three years.

Since 2003, we have seen the installer base grow from approximately 80 to over 300 companies. Solar water heating is now a proven and commercial technology and we hope to see payback times reduce as economies of scale emerge in the supply chain, providing further benefits to householders. We also believe the Low Carbon Buildings programme will build on the achievements of the last three years and make a contribution to helping the industry move to a more sustainable market.

World Trade Organisation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps the Government are

taking to encourage progress within the World Trade Organisation for a new trade agreement; and if he will make a statement. [82772]

Mr. McCartney: The Government remain fully committed to securing an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry was in Geneva last week to emphasise our commitment to the DDA in meeting with the EU Trade Commissioner, and counterparts in other EU member states. He and I continue to discuss the DDA with the Trade Ministers of other WTO member countries. Other members of the Government have also been in contact with their opposite numbers. We also remain in regular contact with business and civil society.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Official Car

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what the make, age and model of his official car are. [83239]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My official car is a Jaguar XJ, capable of running a 5 per cent. biodiesel blend, provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA). In accordance with its established practice, the GCDA replaces its cars every three years. My current car is less than 12 months old.

All travel is carried out in accordance with the guidance "Travel by Ministers".

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

American Embassy

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the City of Westminster about planning permission for the security barriers outside the American embassy. [81022]

Yvette Cooper: There were brief contacts at official level in April 2003 to obtain some background information about the pre-application discussions that were then taking place between Westminster city council and the US embassy. There have been no contacts since.

Brownfield Development

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1744, on brownfield development, if she will break down the south east region figures for 2004 by local authority area. [80713]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* The information available is from Land Use Change Statistics, shown in the following tables. The tables show figures for 2004 and the average for 2001 to 2004 for each local authority in the south east. Single year figures at local authority level are not representative due to small sample sizes and are therefore subject to fluctuation, so the average over the period 2001 to 2004 is a better representation than the figure for a single year.

The figures provided in the previous answer included conversions, which are only available at a regional level. The figures in this answer therefore exclude conversions, and as a result the regional total shown will be different.

The tables also include figures for 1989 to 1992. Before 1989 the data was based on smaller samples and so is not comparable.

New dwellings on previously-developed land: South East

	2004			
	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	*New dwellings on NOT previously-developed land, as a proportion of all new dwellings (greenfield)*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously developed land*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings*
Bracknell Forest	98	2	18	18
West Berkshire	64	36	11	7
Reading	100	0	45	45
Slough	60	40	32	19
Windsor and Maidenhead	97	3	37	36
Wokingham	41	59	72	29
Aylesbury Vale	50	50	74	37
South Bucks	100	0	100	100
Chiltern	99	1	41	41
Wycombe	93	7	66	61
Milton Keynes	12	88	12	1
Eastbourne	40	60	41	16
Hastings	28	72	8	2
Lewes	71	29	34	24
Rother	86	14	45	39
Wealden	81	19	55	44

New dwellings on previously-developed land: South East

	2004			
	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	*New dwellings on NOT previously-developed land, as a proportion of all new dwellings (greenfield)*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously developed land*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings*
Brighton and Hove	100	0	24	24
Basingstoke and Deane	33	67	72	24
East Hampshire	80	20	55	44
Eastleigh	87	13	43	37
Fareham	95	5	62	59
Gosport	60	40	18	11
Hart	39	61	52	20
Havant	98	2	23	22
New Forest	87	13	73	63
Rushmoor	92	8	25	23
Test Valley	83	17	18	15
Winchester	74	26	58	43
Portsmouth	91	9	13	11
Southampton	99	1	25	25
Isle of Wight	79	21	47	37
Ashford	28	72	26	7
Canterbury	39	61	19	8
Dartford	73	27	6	4
Dover	83	17	7	6
Gravesham	92	8	5	5
Maidstone	80	20	22	17
Sevenoaks	88	12	44	39
Shepway	79	21	13	10
Swale	46	54	31	14
Thanet	91	9	33	30
Tonbridge and Malling	81	19	18	14
Tunbridge Wells	90	10	52	47
Medway	91	9	22	20
Cherwell	42	58	48	20
Oxford	50	50	11	6
South Oxfordshire	94	6	72	68
Vale of White Horse	78	22	12	9
West Oxfordshire	21	79	30	6
Elmbridge	98	2	73	71
Epsom and Ewell	100	0	10	10
Guildford	100	0	26	26
Mole Valley	75	25	35	26
Reigate and Banstead	99	1	19	19
Runnymede	87	13	53	46
Spelthorne	100	0	29	29
Surrey Heath	99	1	90	89
Tandridge	97	3	70	68
Waverley	100	0	47	47
Woking	100	0	18	18
Adur	99	1	1	1
Arun	86	14	17	14
Chichester	82	18	54	44
Crawley	100	0	—	—
Horsham	99	1	27	27
Mid Sussex	53	47	25	13
Worthing	63	37	30	19
Total south east	72	28	36	26

	Average 2001 to 2004			
	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	*New dwellings on NOT previously-developed land, as a proportion of all new dwellings (greenfield)*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously developed land*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings*
Bracknell Forest	69	31	56	39
West Berkshire	69	31	14	10
Reading	97	3	20	19
Slough	76	24	20	15
Windsor and Maidenhead	87	13	62	54
Wokingham	71	29	66	47
Aylesbury Vale	45	55	42	19
South Bucks	86	14	53	45
Chiltern	94	6	51	48
Wycombe	94	6	28	26
Milton Keynes	13	87	15	2
Eastbourne	30	70	32	10
Hastings	45	55	13	6
Lewes	57	43	25	14
Rother	75	25	46	35
Wealden	83	17	67	55
Brighton and Hove	93	7	25	23
Basingstoke and Deane	40	60	86	34
East Hampshire	70	30	45	32
Eastleigh	81	19	39	31
Fareham	77	23	65	50
Gosport	41	59	14	6
Hart	36	64	53	19
Havant	79	21	42	33
New Forest	69	31	61	42
Rushmoor	91	9	28	25
Test Valley	53	47	36	19
Winchester	69	31	40	28
Portsmouth	94	6	16	15
Southampton	90	10	28	25
Isle of Wight	64	36	38	25
Ashford	33	67	16	5
Canterbury	61	39	19	11
Dartford	78	22	7	5
Dover	80	20	35	28
Gravesham	78	22	11	9
Maidstone	81	19	10	8
Sevenoaks	85	15	68	58
Shepway	55	45	26	14
Swale	45	55	20	9
Thanet	84	16	27	23
Tonbridge and Malling	68	32	14	10
Tunbridge Wells	91	9	45	41
Medway	84	16	29	24
Cherwell	37	63	27	10
Oxford	81	19	14	11
South Oxfordshire	89	11	31	28
Vale of White Horse	70	30	18	12
West Oxfordshire	41	59	26	11
Elmbridge	98	2	62	60
Epsom and Ewell	99	1	29	29
Guildford	94	6	29	27
Mole Valley	84	16	54	45
Reigate and Banstead	89	11	26	23
Runnymede	78	22	67	52
Spelthorne	98	2	32	31
Surrey Heath	96	4	62	59

	Average 2001 to 2004			
	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	*New dwellings on NOT previously-developed land, as a proportion of all new dwellings (greenfield)*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously developed land*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings*
Tandridge	92	8	34	31
Waverley	92	8	48	44
Woking	98	2	24	24
Adur	96	4	32	31
Arun	61	39	27	17
Chichester	62	38	36	22
Crawley	92	8	52	48
Horsham	66	34	27	18
Mid Sussex	72	28	28	21
Worthing	92	8	42	39
Total south east	67	33	33	22

	1992			
	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	*New dwellings on NOT previously-developed land, as a proportion of all new dwellings (greenfield)*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously developed land*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings*
Bracknell Forest	10	90	47	5
West Berkshire	52	48	61	32
Reading	77	23	19	15
Slough	75	25	56	42
Windsor and Maidenhead	69	31	48	33
Wokingham	73	27	30	22
Aylesbury Vale	41	59	48	20
South Bucks	57	43	48	27
Chiltern	55	45	65	36
Wycombe	70	30	25	17
Milton Keynes	0	100	14	0
Eastbourne	19	81	55	11
Hastings	37	63	9	3
Lewes	93	7	38	35
Rother	54	46	80	43
Wealden	76	24	28	21
Brighton and Hove	67	33	32	21
Basingstoke and Deane	41	59	44	18
East Hampshire	56	44	61	34
Eastleigh	47	53	50	23
Fareham	50	50	74	37
Gosport	100	0	26	26
Hart	29	71	50	15
Havant	79	21	46	37
New Forest	46	54	40	19
Rushmoor	75	25	33	25
Test Valley	38	62	51	19
Winchester	42	58	29	12
Portsmouth	90	10	40	36
Southampton	84	16	39	33
Isle of Wight	87	13	48	42
Ashford	52	48	35	28
Canterbury	54	46	56	30
Dartford	97	3	27	26
Dover	78	22	75	58
Gravesham	87	13	52	45
Maidstone	47	53	78	37
Sevenoaks	90	10	83	74
Shepway	27	73	29	8

1992

	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	New dwellings on NOT previously-developed land, as a proportion of all new dwellings (greenfield)	New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously developed land	New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings
Swale	70	30	34	24
Thanet	76	24	53	40
Tonbridge and Mailing	64	36	62	40
Tunbridge Wells	88	12	70	61
Medway	61	39	59	36
Cherwell	8	92	46	4
Oxford	21	79	98	21
South Oxfordshire	25	75	34	8
Vale of White Horse	14	86	75	10
West Oxfordshire	27	73	71	19
Elm bridge	77	23	49	38
Epsom and Ewell	99	1	82	81
Guildford	64	36	96	61
Mole Valley	95	5	27	26
Reigate and Banstead	73	27	24	18
Runnymede	94	6	41	38
Spelthorne	88	12	63	56
Surrey Heath	86	14	54	46
Tandridge	90	10	18	17
Waverley	79	21	65	51
Woking	86	14	33	29
Adur	46	54	100	46
Arun	67	33	38	25
Chichester	76	24	54	41
Crawley	7	93	—	—
Horsham	29	71	63	18
Mid Sussex	38	62	74	28
Worthing	49	51	87	43
Total South East	51	49	47	24

Average 1989 to 1992

	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	New dwellings on NOT previously-developed land, as a proportion of all new dwellings (greenfield)	New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously developed land	New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings
Bracknell Forest	14	86	55	8
West Berkshire	60	40	49	30
Reading	88	12	23	20
Slough	64	36	32	21
Windsor and Maidenhead	85	15	56	47
Wokingham	56	44	33	19
Aylesbury Vale	29	71	46	13
South Bucks	74	26	54	40
Chiltern	76	24	71	54
Wycombe	76	24	35	26
Milton Keynes	4	96	50	2
Eastbourne	42	58	49	21
Hastings	43	57	32	14
Lewes	56	44	42	24
Rother	68	32	51	35
Wealden	57	43	48	28
Brighton and Hove	81	19	65	53
Basingstoke and Deane	46	54	45	21
East Hampshire	59	41	69	41
Eastleigh	26	74	57	15
Fareham	42	58	58	25
Gosport	80	20	45	36

	Average 1989 to 1992			
	New dwellings on previously-developed land, excluding conversions, as a proportion of all new dwellings	*New dwellings on NOT previously-developed land, as a proportion of all new dwellings (greenfield)*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all on previously developed land*	*New dwellings on previously residential land as a proportion of all new dwellings*
Hart	43	57	62	27
Havant	74	26	80	59
New Forest	48	52	56	27
Rushmoor	80	20	36	29
Test Valley	40	60	47	19
Winchester	49	51	40	20
Portsmouth	88	12	35	31
Southampton	80	20	46	36
Isle of Wight	68	32	52	36
Ashford	41	59	65	27
Canterbury	65	35	55	36
Dartford	88	12	26	23
Dover	63	37	40	25
Gravesham	71	29	35	25
Maidstone	53	47	43	23
Sevenoaks	75	25	67	50
Shepway	53	47	33	17
Swale	73	27	28	20
Thanet	72	28	29	21
Tonbridge and Mailing	79	21	45	36
Tunbridge Wells	69	31	52	36
Medway	66	34	47	31
Cherwell	19	81	47	9
Oxford	48	52	35	17
South Oxfordshire	36	64	53	19
Vale of White Horse	30	70	48	14
West Oxfordshire	26	74	51	13
Elm bridge	75	25	55	41
Epsom and Ewell	77	23	64	49
Guildford	62	38	52	32
Mole Valley	76	24	60	46
Reigate and Banstead	78	22	43	33
Runnymede	87	13	66	57
Spelthorne	82	18	60	50
Surrey Heath	53	47	85	45
Tandridge	90	10	36	33
Waverley	79	21	66	52
Woking	86	14	59	51
Adur	72	28	66	47
Arun	63	37	60	38
Chichester	70	30	54	38
Crawley	17	83	32	6
Horsham	37	63	61	22
Mid Sussex	48	52	61	29
Worthing	63	37	69	44
Total South East	54	46	49	26

Note:
Some local authority figures are incomplete, therefore total includes estimates for missing or partial local authority returns. For this reason the total may not equal the sum of the districts.

Building Standards

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received from professional bodies regarding design quality and energy efficiency in building standards; and if she will make a statement. [79966]

Yvette Cooper: On design quality standards Government have an ongoing dialogue with a range of professional bodies, either directly or through the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. Recently, we have not received any specific representations from specific professional bodies regarding design quality. The most recent was the March 2005 publication of the Royal Institute of

British Architects' 'Manifesto for Architecture' (http://www.riba.org/go/RIBA/News/Policy_4440.html). However, this was not specific to Government, but aimed at a wider audience.

On energy efficiency standards we are currently engaging a range of stakeholders in discussions around further reform of building regulations. During the period 2003 to 2005 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister consulted widely on proposals for raising energy efficiency standards in line with commitments made in the Energy White Paper. These consultations supported improvements in energy efficiency standards through an amendment of the Building Regulations that came into effect on 6 April 2006. I am aware that construction industry professional bodies have been active in disseminating the changes introduced.

Commission for Equality and Human Rights

Mr. Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to include representatives of carers on the new Commission for Equality and Human Rights. [80704]

Meg Munn: The new Commission for Equality and Human Rights will be an independent body, with a minimum of 10 and up to 15 Commissioners. The Commissioners will have to have a demonstrable commitment to, and understanding of, the wider context of the equalities, human rights and good relations agendas. They will need to deal authoritatively with issues of equality that affect different people in different ways, depending on their circumstances.

Correspondence

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the hon. Member for North Down has not received a response to her letter dated 10 February in relation to the Firefighters Pension Scheme. [83212]

Mr. Woolas: The hon. Member's letter was transferred to the Northern Ireland Office as it concerned matters which were for that Department. Officials of the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister wrote to the hon. Member on 28 February advising her of the transfer.

Departmental Staff

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1746W, on departmental staff, if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's Training Framework Agreement; and what the names are of the suppliers covered by the agreement. [82945]

Angela E. Smith: A copy of the Department's Training Framework Agreement will be placed in the Library. The suppliers covered by the agreement are:

AKT Productions Ltd.
Alpha Consolidated Training Ltd.
ASK Europe plc
Atkins Centre for Corporate Learning
Basis
Bray Leino
Capita Learning and Development
National School of Government (formerly CMPS)
Communicaid Public Sector
Deloitte
Elieshа Training.
Epic Group (including The Development Partnership)
The Faraday Partnership
Hemsley Fraser
LMD—Learning Materials Design
Pearn Kandola
Penna Consulting
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1746W, on departmental staff, if she will place in the Library print outs from her departmental intranet of all the Skills for Life pages and links. [82946]

Angela E. Smith: Print outs from the pages of the Department for Communities and Local Government intranet and relevant links regarding Skills for Life will be placed in the Library.

Design Quality

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to make Government funding conditional on good design quality. [80041]

Yvette Cooper: The Government believe good design is essential in creating and maintaining quality places where people want to live and work, now and in the future. Through a range of different interventions we aim to create better, more liveable places through promoting more informed attention to design, the quality of which makes the difference in creating places that will stand the test of time.

The Office of Government Commerce is an independent office of the Treasury which works with public sector organisations to help them improve their efficiency, gain better value for money from their commercial activities and deliver improved success from programmes and projects. Ministers have agreed minimum procurement standards (www.ogc.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?docid=1004956) that are mandatory across central Government. These standards include that all clients should aim to deliver design excellence in accordance with the principles set out in 'Achieving Excellence 9: Design Quality (OGC, 2004)'.

www.ogc.gov.uk/sdtoolkit/reference/ogc_library/achievingexcellence/ae9.pdf

The Department for Communities and Local Government is also promoting and delivering good design through three main channels:

Developing policy and raising design standards of buildings and places. DCLG non-departmental public bodies, English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation, have both set out design quality standards that are requirements for projects that they fund.

Encouraging innovation in buildings and the management of the public realm, through programmes and projects such as the Millennium Communities and the £60,000 home competition that are setting new benchmarks.

Promoting and championing understanding and take-up of good practice, sharing experience and improving design skills, though funding to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and the Academy for Sustainable Communities to support work on the ground.

Draft Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what draft Bills have been produced by her Department since October 2005; how many *(a)* were examined and *(b)* are planned to be examined by (i) a Departmental Select Committee and (ii) a Joint Committee; what draft Bills are still to be produced by her Department; when each is expected to be published; how many clauses each has; and if she will make a statement. [81268]

Angela E. Smith: No draft Bills have been produced by this Department since October 2005.

Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be indicated in the Queen's Speech.

Former Council Properties

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties formerly owned by local authorities are privately let; and what information she has collated on the *(a)* rents charged for such properties and *(b)* rent levels for similar council-owned properties in 2005-06. [81607]

Yvette Cooper: No information is available on the number of properties formerly owned by local authorities that are privately let.

Green Infrastructure

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition she uses of green infrastructure. [80504]

Yvette Cooper: The Department for Communities and Local Government takes a broad definition of green infrastructure and through the Growth Area Fund supports improvements to parks and open spaces, improved access between the urban and rural fringe, and habitat creation and protection projects.

The Government believe that communities are more successful and enjoy a better and healthier quality of life if they have easy access to an attractive, well designed and managed green environment which is rich in bio-diversity.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is investing £38 million to support the delivery of green infrastructure projects, meeting our 10 per cent. funding commitment set out in the Government's response to the Barker Report. Examples include the Forest of Marston Vale; the Nene Valley Regional Park; Green Park South, Peterborough; the Wicken Fen Vision; Singleton Environment Centre, Ashford; and Bedford River Valley Park.

In 2004, the Government published Greening the Gateway, a greenspace strategy for the Thames Gateway, which set a strategic context for the delivery of regional and local environmental initiatives. The Department for Communities and Local Government has invested over £26 million in green infrastructure projects in the Thames Gateway, and has supported the development of 'Green Grids' in Kent Thameside, East London and South Essex as examples of best practice in providing an accessible interlinking chain of local green space that encourages travel without cars.

Housing, Tamworth

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to improve the provision of council housing for those with serious disabilities in *(a)* Tamworth and *(b)* the West Midlands region. [80125]

Yvette Cooper: Responsibility for planning the provision of housing for those with serious disabilities lies with local housing authorities who are responsible for assessing housing needs within their areas and devising strategies to address them. If an authority identifies the need for more specially appointed social housing for people with disabilities it may decide to modify council houses or to work with Housing Associations on modification or new development. Local housing authorities also have a mandatory duty to fund adaptations to council housing for eligible disabled tenants under the disabled facilities grant legislation contained in the Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996.

Hydro-Electricity

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will establish an appeal mechanism for when the Environment Agency decides not carry out an environmental assessment of a planning application for a hydro-electric generating plant; and if she will make a statement. [82624]

Yvetté Cooper: The decision on whether an environmental impact assessment (EIA) is required for a proposed project rests with the appropriate competent authority. In the case of projects which fall within the planning system, the competent authority is normally the local planning authority. The

Environment Agency's role for EIA purposes is as a statutory consultation body. There is a statutory appeal mechanism for an applicant for planning permission who disagrees with a planning authority's decision to require EIA. Action against an authority's decision not to require EIA, however, could only be pursued by means of an application for judicial review.

Ministers' Offices

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1599W, on Ministers' offices, which Ministers who previously had offices in 26 Whitehall when part of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister moved to Eland House following the creation of the Department of Communities and Local Government. [82950]

Angela E. Smith: My hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper) and my noble Friend Baroness Andrews moved from 26 Whitehall to offices in Eland House following the creation of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1599W, on Ministers' offices, who occupies the offices in 26 Whitehall which were previously occupied by Ministers within the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. [82951]

Angela E. Smith: The offices in 26 Whitehall previously occupied by my hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper) and my noble Friend Baroness Andrews are currently empty pending decisions on reassignment.

New Housing (Flood Risk)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many houses indicated in plans scheduled for completion by 2020 in London and the South East are to be built in areas determined by the Environment Agency as liable for flooding, broken down by site. [78956]

Yvette Cooper: This information is not held centrally by the Department for Communities and Local Government but may be available from local planning authorities in London and the South East, as the bodies responsible for preparing development plans.

Planning Policy Guidance Note 25 (PPG25) Development and Flood Risk requires local planning authorities to apply a sequential test to land at risk of flooding. The test has regard to the area liable to flooding, the probability of it occurring and the extent and standard of flood defences among other factors.

For London, the risk of flooding was considered in the Greater London Authority's London Housing Capacity study 2004, which assessed housing potential to 2027. Sites deemed unsuitable on flood risk grounds were excluded and many other sites with lower risk of flooding had their potential housing capacities reduced.

The Regional Monitoring Report 2005 produced by the South East England Regional Assembly indicates that the number of existing properties at risk from flooding in the South East is 235,000.

Permitted Development Rights

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 20 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2832W, on permitted development rights, whether he plans to hold a consultation on the Lichfield and Partners report on the Operation of Permitted Development Rights (2003); whether the Department plans to comment formally on the report; to what purpose the report *(a)* has been and *(b)* is planned to be put; and what the cost of the Lichfield and Partners review and report was. [63037]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

There are no plans to hold a consultation on the report by Lichfield and Partners or to comment formally on it. Changes to the operation of permitted development rights will continue to be taken forward on a topic-related basis and consulted on as such. For example, we announced on 4 July that we will draw up proposals to revise the scope of householder permitted development rights. The report will continue to inform such consideration. The cost of the report was £102,725.

Planning Permission (Flood Risk)

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's policy is on the provision of planning permission to create new basement properties. [76439]

Yvette Cooper: As basements can provide extra space without additional land take, the Government supports their provision, in appropriate circumstances, as part of new housing or as alterations to existing properties. Whether planning permission is required depends on the circumstances of each particular case. For example, excavation below an existing property to create a basement would require planning permission whereas adapting an existing cellar would not require planning permission if all the works were internal.

The question of the need for planning permission for their provision in residential properties was one of a number of issues looked at by a group reviewing the subject of householder development consents more widely. The report of that group was published on 4 July 2006 and it recognised that there was concern that the absence of guidance on the planning status of basements discouraged their wider use. We will be undertaking further work on householder permitted development in light of that report with a view to consulting on detailed proposals later this year.

Polytunnels

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to introduce legislation to control the use of polytunnels in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* areas of outstanding natural beauty. [81510]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have no plans to introduce any new legislation to control the use of polytunnels. The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides controls on the development and use of land in all areas of the country. Whether the erection or use of any particular polytunnel is deemed to constitute 'development' under the Act will depend on the facts of each case, taking account of such matters as the scale, manner of construction and extent and nature of fixation of the polytunnel. Ultimately, this is a matter for the courts to determine.

Supported Housing Schemes

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to increase the number of supported housing schemes for people with learning disabilities. [82412]

Yvette Cooper: Through the Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing Programme, the Government fund a range of sheltered and supported accommodation accessible by people with learning difficulties, while the Corporation's HomeBuy scheme can help people with disabilities into sustainable home ownership.

A Government objective, laid out in the White Paper "Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21st Century", is to enable people with learning disabilities and their families to have greater choice and control over where, and how they live. Through the Supporting People programme, the Government enable provision of a wide variety of services which help people with learning difficulties to live independently; some of which are sheltered or supported housing schemes, while others are 'floating' schemes which allow people the choice of receiving support in their own home.

Town Centre Redevelopment

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assistance the Government are providing to local councils to redevelop town centres. [82410]

Yvette Cooper: Since 1997, the Government have put in place a range of policy initiatives and measures to assist local authorities to deliver an urban renaissance, including the re-development of town and city centres.

The Urban White Paper "Our Towns and Cities: the Future" published in 2000 identified a range of measures (policies, programmes and tax incentives) to foster and support an urban regeneration, including city centre renewal.

Over £2 billion in funds is provided annually to England's nine regional development agencies (RDAs) to promote regional economic growth and urban regeneration, including support for city centre renaissance. English Partnerships (EP), the national regeneration agency, has a direct role in fostering urban renaissance. Together with the RDAs, EP has helped set up 21 urban regeneration companies, in partnership with local authorities, to drive forward regeneration projects many of them targeted on city centre re-development.

National economic stability has provided a solid foundation for local economic strategies and public-private partnerships which have attracted huge investment into city centre initiatives. Major public investment in civic squares, parks, open spaces, parks and river frontages has also attracted private investors to commit funds to major city centre schemes.

Through the Government's Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (March 2005), assistance is given to local authorities and stakeholders on how to plan proactively for the redevelopment of town centres. It advises on how the Government's key objective, to promote the vitality and viability of town centres, should be taken into account in producing statutory development plans, and determining planning applications for town centre uses, such as retail, leisure and office development.

Also in March 2005, the Government published the "How to Manage Town Centres" guide, to assist local councils and other stakeholders in applying the powers and tools available for tackling priority issues, particularly those related to making town centres safer and cleaner. The guide includes examples of innovative approaches for using them and examples of good practice, and outlines the importance of pooling and sharing local information, responsive and pro-active local leadership, developing town centre strategies which are linked to local planning, crime and disorder reduction, licensing and transport strategies, and partnership working.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Ministerial Salaries

22. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether she receives a full ministerial salary. [82789]

Meg Munn: Yes.

Flexible Working

23. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what information the Government make available to women on their right to flexible working hours. [82790]

Meg Munn: The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) and the direct.gov website provide guidance for employees (men and women) on the right

to request flexible working. The direct.gov website has three interactive tools which help employees make applications to work flexibly. ACAS provide leaflets and also operate a helpline, answering queries from both employees and employers on employment matters including flexible working.

Homophobia (Schools)

24. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government plan to take to tackle homophobia in schools. [82791]

Meg Munn: We propose to introduce regulations under the Equality Act 2006 later this year that will make sexual orientation discrimination unlawful in schools. These measures will be backed by guidance for schools on how to tackle such discrimination and will complement existing, and new guidance on tackling homophobic bullying planned for next year.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

25. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the Government expect to announce the name of the Chairman of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [82792]

Meg Munn: We hope to announce the Chair of the new Commission in summer this year, with an announcement of Commissioners and Chief Executive to follow in late autumn.

PRIME MINISTER

Special Envoy

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the countries visited by Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean since her appointment as his special envoy; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* purpose was of each visit. [81019]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1614-15W. Baroness Symons has also visited Algeria twice in her capacity as Special Representative for Memoranda of Understanding towards the end of 2005.

Baroness Symons has now ceased her role as Special Representative for Memoranda of Understanding, and as Representative for the Two Kingdoms Dialogue.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Procedures Committee

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of the Animal Procedures Committee have *(a)* a background and *(b)* expertise in animal welfare; and what the selection criteria are to become a member of the Committee. [82675]

Joan Ryan: The Animal Procedures Committee (APC) is an independent body set up under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to advise the Home Secretary and the Department of Health, Social Security and Public Safety Northern Ireland Minister on matters concerned with the 1986 Act and their functions under it.

Excluding the chairman, there must be a minimum of 12 members, one must be a lawyer and at least two thirds must be medical practitioners, veterinary surgeons or have qualifications or experience in a biological subject. At least half of the members must not have held a licence to carry out procedures on animals within the last six years and animal welfare interests must be adequately represented. The Act places certain restrictions on the balance of interests and competences to be represented and also limits the maximum term of membership to two consecutive terms of four years.

There are currently 19 members of the Committee (including the chairman). Seven have a background and expertise in animal welfare. However, all members of the committee share a common concern for the welfare of the animals used in scientific procedures, and, under section 20(2) of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, in considering any matter must have regard both to the legitimate requirements of science and industry and to the protection of animals against avoidable suffering and unnecessary use.

All appointments are made jointly with the Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety for Northern Ireland (DHSSPSNI). Members are selected on personal merit, and not as nominees, delegates or representatives of any organisations or pressure groups. The posts are unpaid. Nevertheless, every effort is made to ensure that the Nolan principles are applied and to that end we entrust the management of the process to the Appointments Commission. All appointments to the Animal Procedures Committee are announced publicly.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in Humberside Police Authority area in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [82532]

Mr. McNulty: Humberside Police Authority area is coterminous with the Humberside Criminal Justice System (CJS) area. A table giving annual data, up to 30 September 2005 (latest available), broken down by CJS area is available on the Crime Reduction website at www.crimereduction.gov.uk.

Bail Hostels

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 271W, on bail hostels, how many sex offenders were resident at the bail hostel in Wesleyan Road, Peterborough on 31 May 2006; and if he will make a statement. [82006]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The number of sex offenders accommodated in any

approved premises, (formerly bail and probation hostels) will vary at any one time. Statistical information about the type of offences committed by offenders residing at an approved premises at any one time is not collected centrally.

Crime Statistics (Suffolk)

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people who reside in Suffolk were prosecuted under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 in each year since it was enacted. [82109]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, in the Suffolk police force area from 1992 to 2004 is in the following table Figures for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, in the Suffolk police force area, 1992 to 2004[1]

Code	Offence description	Statute	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
821	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	—	3	2	1	—	2	3
822	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
11112	Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a)	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
11113	Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11114	Giving or offering to give a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11115	Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d)	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
11116	Abandoning, or allowing to stray, a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11117	Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3)	3	—	2	—	—	—	—
11118	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	—	4	1	—	2	1	2
11119	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11120	Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified	Badgers (further protection) Act 1991 Sec.1. Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 4(8). Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Sec.13	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Code	Offence description	Statute	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
821	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place injuring any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	2	1	5	6	3	—	5
822	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place and injure any person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11112	Breeding or breeding from a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(a)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11113	Selling, exchanging, offering, advertising or exposing for sale a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(b)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11114	Giving or offering to give a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(c)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11115	Allowing a fighting dog to be in a public place without a muzzle or a lead	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(d)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11116	Abandoning, or allowing to stray, a fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(2)(e)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Code	Offence description	Statute	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
11117	Possession, without exemption, of a Pit Bull Terrier, Japanese Tosa or other designated fighting dog	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 1(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11118	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in a public place, no injury being caused	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)	2	3	1	—	2	3	2
11119	Owner or person in charge allowing dog to enter a non-public place causing reasonable apprehension of injury to a person	Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(3)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11120	Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified	Badgers (further protection) Act 1991 Sec.1. Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 4(8). Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Sec.13	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
Source:
RDS — Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Criminal Justice and Court Services Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the operation of section 57 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000; and what recent representations he has received about the operation of this *(a)* section and *(b)* Act. [71014]

Mr. Coaker: Section 57 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 (CJCS) inserted new provisions in section 38 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). These provisions enable police custody officers to detain a person after charge for the purposes of taking a sample (of urine or other non-intimate sample) to test for the presence of specified Class A drugs, subject to conditions and procedures set out in sections 63B and 63C of PACE.

The Drugs Act 2005 (section 7 and paragraphs 1-4 of Schedule 1) subsequently amended section 63B and other sections of PACE to allow for the testing of adults for specified Class A drugs on arrest while retaining the powers for testing on charge in the case of adults and the under eighteens (where applicable). Where a person has tested positive under these powers, section 9 of the Drugs Act introduced a new power for the police to require adults to attend an assessment of their drug use or face a criminal sanction.

This legislation forms a core part of the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) and aims to identify problematic drug misusers at the earliest opportunity of their contact with the criminal justice system and get them into drug treatment and other support. Currently, drug testing operates within the 71 crime partnership areas across England and Wales with high levels of acquisitive crime, the so called 'DIP intensive areas'.

The volume of tests conducted under this legislation continues to grow. Some 17, 400 adult drug tests were carried out in April 2006, more than three times the number in April 2005.

The Home Office has received no specific recent representations about the operation of section 57 of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 although a number of police forces have made enquiries about introducing drug testing in their areas.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Criminal Records Bureau disclosure applications were received in each of the last 12 months; how many were issued; and what the average length of time taken to issue a disclosure was in each month. [81688]

Joan Ryan: The total number of disclosure applications received and disclosures issued by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) in the last 12 months is contained in table 1.

Information on the average length of time taken to process the checks during these periods is not available in the format requested. The CRB operates to a set of a Published Service Standards (PSS) which for the majority of the period was to publish 93 per cent. of Standard Disclosures within two weeks and 90 per cent. of Enhanced Disclosures within four weeks. The monthly performance measured against the PSS is as shown in tables 2 and 3.

The four week target for Enhanced Disclosures is made up of two distinct parts. The CRB is required to process 90 per cent. of valid Enhanced Disclosure applications to the police within 10 days, with the police forces required to process 95 per cent. of the checks within a further 14 days. The CRB consistently exceeded their target in 2005-06 and, for May 2006, processed 97.4 per cent. of applications to the police within 10 days. The CRB and the police forces are working together to reduce police completion times in line with the overall service standard objectives.

The CRB recently published its Five-Year Strategy and Business Plan, 2006-07 and the PSS for the financial year 2006-07 for Standard Disclosures is 90 per cent. within 10 days and for Enhanced Disclosures 90 per cent. within 28 days. The shortening of the Standard Disclosure PSS is the result of the effectiveness of the CRB's internal processes.

Table 1

Month	Total net receipts	Total disclosures issued
2005		
June	236,602	230,251
July	241,901	215,378
August	238,045	220,375
September	242,993	215,695
October	262,796	252,608
November	245,555	272,507
December	198,791	231,659
2006		
January	209,361	217,764
February	247,591	234,556
March	294,303	277,610
April	207,265	217,764
May	280,171	242,911
Total	2,905,374	2,829,078

Table 2

Standard disclosures	Total	Volume within PSS	PSS target (percentage)	PSS achieved (percentage)
2005				
June	27,205	26,851	[1]93.0	98.7
July	25,833	25,601	[1]93.0	99.1
August	23,966	23,942	[1]93.0	99.9
September	25,117	25,092	[1]93.0	99.9
October	27,388	27,306	[1]93.0	99.7
November	26,249	26,092	[1]93.0	99.4
December	23,066	23,043	[1]93.0	99.9
2006				
January	23,055	22,963	[1]93.0	99.6
February	28,511	28,454	[1]93.0	99.8
March	36,436	36,363	[1]93.0	99.8
April	24,719	24,645	[2]90.0	98.7
May	34,401	34,310	[2]90.0	97.4
June 2005 to May 2006	325,946	324,661	[1]93.0/[2]90.0	99.3

[1] Percentage in 14 days. [2] Percentage in 10 days.

Table 3

Enhanced disclosures	Total	Volume within PSS	PSS target (percentage in 28 days)	PSS achieved (percentage)
2005				
June	203,046	166,092	90.0	81.8
July	189,545	160,734	90.0	84.8
August	196,409	159,877	90.0	81.4
September	190,578	154,559	90.0	81.1
October	225,220	172,969	90.0	76.8
November	246,258	209,566	90.0	85.1
December	208,593	177,095	90.0	84.9
2006				
January	194,709	166,476	90.0	85.5
February	206,045	174,314	90.0	84.6
March	241,174	209,821	90.0	87.0
April	193,045	171,038	90.0	88.6
May	208,510	177,448	90.0	85.1
June 2005 to May 2006	2,503,132	2,099,989	90.0	83.9

Identity Checks (Licensed Premises)

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to police forces and licensees on the removal of means of identity from those seeking entrance to a licensed premises; and if he will make a statement. [79530]

Mr. McNulty: No guidance has been issued on this subject by the Home Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers, or the Security Industry Authority.

IMPACT Programme

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the written statement of 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on the IMPACT programme, how many police forces in England and Wales are using the IMPACT nominal index (INI); how many police officers on average have access to the INI within each child abuse investigation unit; when he expects the INI to be available to all police officers in every force; what further development of the INI is planned; and what assessment he has made of its likely impact on police forces; [73239]

(2) pursuant to the written statement of 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, columns 17-19WS, on the IMPACTS programme, what estimated *(a)* funds and *(b)* manpower will be required by police forces in England and Wales to implement the IMPACT nominal index in other business areas outside child abuse investigation units; [73310]

(3) pursuant to the statement on the IMPACT programme issued by his Department on 19 April 2006, which business areas within police forces will receive the IMPACT nominal index (INI) during 2006 in addition to child abuse investigation units. [73311]

Mr. McNulty: All 43 forces in England and Wales have been using the IMPACT nominal index (INI) since it was deployed in December 2005 to a child abuse investigation unit, with at least two trained users, in each force. The IMPACT programme will complete deployment to force child abuse investigation units by the end of July this year, on the basis of requirements identified by chief constables, which will mean that 850 staff (around a third of all staff in this business area) will be trained in the use of the INI.

Although the IMPACT nominal index is currently intended to be used primarily for child protection, officers from other business areas may, with the

authority of an officer of at least superintendent rank, have searches carried out where necessary for the prevention or detection of serious crime. It is our intention to deploy the INI to other business areas following full deployment to child abuse investigation units but we do not plan to train all officers in the use of the INI or to give all officers direct access to the system; searches can be carried out on their behalf. Which areas should receive the application, and in which order, will be determined in consultation with the police service, informed by the outcome of current trials involving the Thames Valley Force Intelligence Bureau; the Child Exploitation and On-line Protection Centre; the East Midlands Regional Special Operations Unit and the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command. At the conclusion of the trials in August, the IMPACT Programme Board will have a better understanding of the business benefits and resources required to respond to inter-force requests for information following a match on the INI. It is for forces to determine how to manage the resource requirements to implement the new operational capability we are delivering. The INI is being developed to incorporate certain local audit and administration functions. We are currently assessing the impact of INI on forces in terms of the operational benefits delivered by the system and the demands associated with responding to inter-force enquiries. On-site surveys and case reviews are being conducted to identify the type and number of cases where INI-identified data have made a significant contribution to their work. We are also working with forces to identify best practice and potential new applications of the system.

IRA Manchester Bombings

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make arrangements for payments to be made to the victims of the 15 June 1996 IRA Manchester bombings on terms similar to the payments being made to victims of the 7 July London bombings and their families. [76533]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The victims of the Manchester bombing and the 7/7 bombings were/are eligible for criminal injuries compensation under the terms of the statutory criminal injuries compensation scheme approved by Parliament which applied at the date their application was/is received. The payments made to both sets of victims, and indeed to all victims of violent crime in Great Britain, are assessed and paid on the basis of the scheme applying when their application is received. No special arrangements or payments under the current scheme are being made for 7/7 victims.

However, in the immediate aftermath of the 7/7 bombings, the Mayor of London set up the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund in partnership with the British Red Cross. The Government donated £1 million to the fund in July 2005. The Government announced on 8 June 2006 that, in recognition of the exceptional circumstances of the London bombings, it was donating a further £2.5 million to the fund, *Official Report*, column 38WS. The trustees of the charity will decide how the extra money will be distributed among victims of the 7/7 bombings in the form of charitable grants.

Knife Amnesty

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives have been handed in during the amnesty in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire; and if he will make a statement. [82745]

Mr. Coaker: Figures for the number of items handed in during the knife amnesty are being collected at police force level and will be released shortly. 17,715 items were handed in in England and Wales during the first week of the amnesty.

We worked closely with ACPO to develop the arrangements for the amnesty, which was part of our wider strategy to tackle knife crime. We are also focusing on legislation, enforcement, education and prevention. We have brought forward provisions in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill that will raise the age at which someone can be sold a knife to 18; are introducing a new offence of using someone to mind a weapon; and are giving head teachers powers to search pupils for knives. The Home Secretary announced on 19 June 2006 that he was giving very serious consideration to the suggestion that the maximum sentence for having a knife or blade in a public place should be increased from the current sentence of 2 years.

Many police forces are undertaking tough enforcement operations, for example, the Metropolitan police's Operation Blunt and the British Transport police's Operation Shield, which uses search equipment to detect those carrying knives and other weapons on our transport network. We are also supporting educational initiatives that demonstrate to young people the dangers of carrying knives, and reinforce the message that carrying a knife can result in it being turned on you.

Through our small grants programme, the Connected Fund, we are also supporting a wide range of local community projects which work with young people to provide mentoring, training, education and other support.

MI5

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many MI5 files have been destroyed since 1997. [76275]

Mr. McNulty: I am informed that since 1997 approximately 110,000 files have been destroyed.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to his answer of 1 June 2006, to Question 68479 on MI5 files, how many of the 325,000 files are personal files. [76465]

Mr. McNulty: I am informed that of the approximately 325,000 files held by the Security Service at January 2005, approximately 272,000 were personal files.

Miscarriages of Justice (Compensation)

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many awards of compensation have been made to victims of miscarriages of justice under the *(a)* statutory and *(b)* discretionary scheme in each of the last five years; and how many of these awards were for more than £500,000. [82062]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures for the number of final awards made over the last five years are set out in the following table. There are two cases in which applicants whose cases have not been completed have received interim payments on account in excess of £500,000. There are seven cases currently with the independent assessor for final assessment in which the applicants are seeking awards in excess of £500,000.

Final awards made under the statutory and discretionary schemes for compensation for wrongful conviction and/or charge.

	Number of final awards made	Statutory	Discretionary	Number over £500,000
2001-02	28	15	13	2
2002-03	17	9	8	2
2003-04	27	16	11	0
2004-05	8	5	3	1
2005-06	24	19	5	3

Northern Way

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role his Department plays in the delivery of the Northern Way initiative. [74042]

Mr. McNulty: The main role the Home Office plays in the Northern Way is tackling crime, drugs and antisocial behaviour which, if left unchecked, have the potential to undermine regeneration and attempts to improve regional economic growth.

Oxycodone

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effects on *(a)* the UK balance of payments, *(b)* UK jobs and *(c)* the number of traffic movements of moving the production of oxycodone hydrochloride formulations from the United Kingdom to another country in the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [77134]

Mr. Coaker: No such assessments have been made.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many producers and suppliers of oxycodone hydrochloride in the European economic area are approved as alternative sources of supply of the raw material to UK manufacturers of oxycodone preparations for the British market. [76539]

Mr. Coaker: No application has been received to import oxycodone hydrochloride or its base materials from any territory within the European economic area.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect on UK producers of oxycodone hydrochloride formulations of other EU countries interpreting the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961) less restrictively than his Department; and if he will make a statement. [76540]

Mr. Coaker: No such assessment has been made.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to ensure that production of oxycodone formulations does not move from the UK to elsewhere in the European Union as a result of Home Office interpretation of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. [76952]

Mr. Coaker: Production of controlled drugs, such as oxycodone, is governed by the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 and implemented by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Licensed production under the Act limits domestic trade to medical and scientific purposes. The policy on licensing takes no account of commercial considerations nor does the Act confer any power to compel a manufacturer to remain within the United Kingdom.

Party Conference Security

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1036-37W, on party conference security, what the costs to public funds were of policing and general security for the *(a)* Labour and *(b)* Conservative party conferences in each year since 1992, broken down by spending at (i) national spring conferences, (ii) national autumn conferences and (iii) regional conferences. [79339]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* The table shows the cost to public funds, in the form of special grant paid to police authorities, for policing national spring conferences and national autumn conferences in England and Wales. Funding is not provided for regional conferences. For security reasons, we do not disclose the other costs incurred.

Year of party conference	Force	Amount of Government special grant (£ million)
(a) Labour		
National Spring Conferences		
2001-02	South Wales	0.275
2003-04	Greater Manchester	0.500
2004-05	Northumbria	1.440
2005-06	Lancashire	0.820
National Autumn Conferences		
1997-98	Sussex	0.750
1998-99	Lancashire	0.750
1999-2000	Dorset	1.581
2000-01	Sussex	1.660

Year of party conference	Force	Amount of Government special grant (£ million)
2001-02	Sussex	1.810
2002-03	Lancashire	1.500
2003-04	Dorset	2.250
2004-05	Sussex	3.303
2005-06	Sussex	3.600
(b) Conservative National Autumn Conferences		
1996-97	Dorset	1.150
1997-98	Lancashire	0.750
1998-99	Dorset	0.750
1999-2000	Lancashire	0.892
2000-01	Dorset	0.900
2001-02	Lancashire	1.072
2002-03	Dorset	0.894
2003-04	Lancashire	1.200
2004-05	Dorset	1.185
2005-06	Lancashire	1.400

Police

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will seek a report from the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester regarding the case of PC Sean Mullaney. [75414]

Mr. McNulty: PC Mullaney was suspended from duty when the CPS decided to prosecute him for two counts of common assault. He was found guilty on both counts, but successfully appealed against the convictions. PC Mullaney's suspension was consequently lifted, and the decision taken to offer him advice on the standards of conduct expected of him.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officer applications from *(a)* women and *(b)* black and minority ethnic candidates there were in each of the last five years in the UK. [73339]

Mr. McNulty: The available information for police officer applications in England and Wales is set out as follows. It is based on responses from forces as these are not data that are collected centrally. Responsibility for recruitment of officers in Scotland and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of my right hon. friends the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Recruitment fluctuates according to natural wastage as well as specific funding available. The crime fighting fund has driven significant recruitment over recent years, including record levels in 2002-03 when joiners totalled 13,100. Since then, recruitment has slowed down and this is reflected in numbers of female and minority ethnic applicants as shown in the table.

Number of applications to be a police officer (2001 to 2005)

	Female applicants	Number Minority ethnic applicants
2000-01[1]	15,446	3,556
2001-02[2]	14,891	4,604
2002-03[3]	22,838	4,712
2003-04[4]	14,060	3,419
2004-05[5]	10,974	3,060

[1] Total is based on 41 forces providing data.
[2] Total is based on 42 forces providing data.
[3] Total is based on 40 forces providing data.
[4] Total is based on 38 forces providing data.
[5] Total is based on 39 forces providing data.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1046W, on the police, what the total expected cost is of the consultants employed by his Department to advise on police force amalgamations. [75223]

Mr. McNulty: The total costs of employing consultants to help advise the Home Office on police force restructuring is expected to be around £1 million.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assurances *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Lancashire police authorities have sought regarding the terms of their amalgamation; what progress his Department has made in providing these assurances; and if he will make a statement. [82964]

Mr. McNulty: Ministers and officials in the Home Office have had regular discussions with representatives of Lancashire and Cumbria police authorities covering a wide range of issues. We are working closely with them to resolve all outstanding issues.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions his Department has had with other departments regarding the use of amalgamation orders to harmonise the police precept for council taxpayers where police authorities are amalgamated; and whether his Department plans to use primary legislation to harmonise the police precept for council taxpayers. [82965]

Mr. McNulty: My Department has had regular discussions with other interested departments. I do not envisage that primary legislation will be required to harmonise police precepts.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 40W, on helicopter searches, at what time the police helicopter at RAF Benson was *(a)* placed on and *(b)* taken off standby. [81217]

Mr. McNulty: The answer on 2 June 2006 referred to helicopter searches from RAF Benson on 18 July 2003. The police helicopter based at RAF Benson was available for tasking from 5.35 pm on 17 July 2003 until the end of its duty period at 2.30 am on 18 July 2003. It was available for tasking again from 8.00 am on 18 July 2003 until 2.30 am on 19 July 2003.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the

change in the number of civilian posts which would result if a merger of Cheshire and Merseyside police forces was carried out. [47791]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 2 February 2006]:* I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in replying to her question.

It has been estimated that a merger of Cheshire and Merseyside police forces would lead to savings of 5 per cent. of the civilian staff payroll. The precise posts involved, or their number, have not been identified.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures his Department will be taking to ensure that local decision-making is preserved under the planned merging of police forces in England and Wales. [75135]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* The police basic command unit (BCD) will shortly be put on a legal footing under the provision of the Police and Justice Bill. Local accountability will remain, as operational policing in local areas will continue to be conducted by the BCD under the supervision of the commander. The creation of strategic forces would improve policing by reducing the abstraction of police officers away from neighbourhood policing to deal with serious and organised crime.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of police retirements were ill health retirements in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [75760]

Mr. McNulty: Of the officers who retired with either an ordinary pension or an ill-health pension in 2004-05 10.5 per cent. retired with an ill-health pension, based on available data from 42 out of 43 forces. Since the number of retirements is liable to change from year to year, the rate of ill-health retirement is now measured against the number of officers in service, this being a more stable measure. For 2004-05 the rate of ill-health retirement was three per 1,000 serving officers. These figures are published in HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary's annual report for 2004-05 (page 25) which can be found at: http://www.official-documents.co.uk/document/hc0506/hc08/0842/0842.pdf. This represents a significant improvement in performance, the rate having been 14 per 1000 in 1997-98.

Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the consistency of first night programmes across the prison estate. [62754]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All prisons must ensure that arrangements are in place to provide for the safety and well-being of newly arrived prisoners, particularly during their first night in custody, and to inform them of what to expect over the next 24 hours. The details of these arrangements are a matter for local prison management, and will vary according to the nature of the establishment and its population, and the needs of individual prisoners. No central assessment has been made of the consistency of first night programmes.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the weighted scorecard of London prisons maintained by HM Prison Service; and what position is occupied by each prison establishment in it. [74013]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The weighted scorecard is an internal performance information management tool, provided to all establishments to help drive performance improvement. The current weighted scorecard has been produced for quarter four of financial year 2005-06, using provisional data. The following table provides the current position of the London establishments.

Establishment	*Quarter four position in weighted scorecard*
Belmarsh	95
Brixton	91
Feltham	100
Holloway	16
Latchmere House	129
Pentonville	105
Wandsworth	134
Wormwood Scrubs	19

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on the transfer of inmates from *(a)* a category A prison to a category B prison, *(b)* a category B prison to a category C prison and *(c)* a category C prison to a category D prison; what changes there have been in that policy since 1 May 1997; on what dates the policy was changed; and how the policy change was made public. [77444]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The purpose of the recategorisation of prisoners is to determine whether, and to what extent, the risks a prisoner presented at their last review have changed and to ensure that the prisoner continues to be held in the most appropriately secure conditions. There have been no significant policy changes since 1997.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average weekly cost of detaining an *(a)* male and *(b)* a female person in prison (i) on remand awaiting trial and (ii) after sentence was (A) in the last period for which figures are available and (B) in each of the last 10 years. [82355]

Mr. Sutcliffe: HM Prison Service does not collect cost data in the format requested. Costs are collected at each individual establishment and across the prison estate and this does not distinguish between sentenced and remand prisoners.

Probation Service

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has for changes to the Probation Service. [82684]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* There have been significant improvements in the performance

of the probation service in recent years. However, we need to do more. We published on 30 March 2006 "Working with probation to protect the public and reduce re-offending". This sets out how we will work with the probation service and other partners to develop more effective end-to-end management of offenders throughout their sentence. We intend to bring forward legislation to give effect to our proposals as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Public Order

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offenders were found guilty of *(a)* drunk and disorderly behaviour and *(b)* drunken and aggravated behaviour in (i) England, (ii) Beverley and Holderness and (iii) East Riding of Yorkshire council area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [80454]

Mr. McNulty: Data from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing how many offenders were found guilty of drunkenness offences in England and in the East Riding of Yorkshire are in the following table. We are unable to supply convictions for Beverley and Holderness constituency as the data is not available at the level of detail required. Figures for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006. The table also shows the number of penalty notices (PNDs) for drunk and disorderly behaviour in England in 2004. Data of the number of PNDs issued in the East Riding are not available as figures are not collected at this level of detail.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of drunkenness offences in England and the East Riding of Yorkshire, 1997 to 2004[1]

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
England									
Convictions	Drunkenness, simple	3,333	3,710	3,134	2,579	2,424	2,201	1,999	1,674
	Drunkenness with aggravation	22,474	23,864	22,764	22,078	21,468	22,741	23,893	17,550
Penalty notices	Drunk and disorderly behaviour	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25,591
East Riding of Yorkshire[2]									
Convictions	Drunkenness, simple	1	—	1	—	1	5	2	2
	Drunkenness with aggravation	15	10	8	8	17	72	75	48

n/a = not applicable, as penalty notices were not introduced until 2004.
[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] The figures cover four local justice areas: Goole and Howdenshire, Bridlington, Beverley and the Wolds and Hull and Holderness.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Safety Cameras

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum distance is over which a LT120.20 mobile speed camera can record speed. [82081]

Mr. McNulty: LTI 20.20 laser speedmeters can be used up to a distance of 999.9m. The instruments are technically capable of operating to distances twice as far, but the maximum distance they can display is 999.9m. Use is therefore limited to this distance.

School Arson

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in how many cases of arson attacks on schools a suspect was *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* charged in the last year for which figures are available; and what percentage of total cases of arson attacks on schools these figures represent. [79512]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not possible to identify cautions or prosecutions resulting from arson attacks on schools, in the data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform as such offences cannot be distinguished from all other offences of arson. Data compiled by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), formerly the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) show that in England during 2004, there were 677 fires on schools in which deliberate ignition was established or suspected. DCLG do not collect any information on whether the police arrested or charged any suspects, or on subsequent court appearances.

Security Industry Approved Contractor Scheme

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his written statement of 16 February 2006, on the Private Security Industry Approved Contractor Scheme, what assessment he has made of whether companies that have obtained *(a)* UKAS Quality Assurance standards (EN 45012) or *(b)* UKAS Product Certification standards (EN 45011) specific to the security industry should be passported through to membership of the scheme. [59022]

Mr. Coaker: It is not currently possible for a company to achieve ACS accreditation via the passporting route. The SIA is currently in discussion with one certification body that is preparing an application for accreditation of a passport scheme. No other expressions of interest have been received to date.

Companies that meet standards that do not directly and exactly cover all the 89 indicators or that cover other criteria in more depth may be eligible for the Fast Track route. This includes companies that have met relevant quality assurance standards and product certification standards as assessed by a UKAS accredited body under EN 45011 and/or EN 45012.

Terrorism (Public Informants)

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to deal with information from the public about those suspected of terrorist acts or conspiracy to commit terrorist acts. [81891]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* Any information about suspected terrorist activity should be passed to the police. There are a number of ways in which this can be done including the Anti-Terrorist Hotline. The Metropolitan Police Service Anti-Terrorist Branch would be informed in appropriate cases. Any information received by the Anti-Terrorist Branch is logged, assessed and prioritised formally on a daily basis. This process would include detailed inquiries to establish the veracity or otherwise of the information.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether proper procedures were followed by the police and intelligence services when Mr. Martin Gilbertson approached West Yorkshire police in 2003 about Mohammed Siddique Khan and other individuals responsible for the terrorist attacks in London on 7 July 2005; why the police told Mr. Gilbertson to post the information rather than arranging to speak to a police officer; whether the information received was logged and properly dealt with; and if he will make a statement. [81892]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* West Yorkshire police have released a press statement confirming that they have no knowledge of any contact with Mr. Gilbertson prior to 7 July 2005 in relation to the matters raised by him. West Yorkshire police have informed us that Mr. Gilbertson continues to assist officers as part of the overall investigation into the 7 July bombings.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of progress towards achieving prosecutions in Afghanistan for those involved in the trafficking of narcotics. [82857]

Mr. McCartney: Since August 2005, over 460 individuals have been arrested on suspicion of drugs related offences in Afghanistan. Prosecutors have handled over 350 cases and over 150 individuals have been convicted. This progress is being supported by improvements to the criminal justice system infrastructure, including the establishment of dedicated and secure narcotics courts and prison facilities. A counter narcotics Criminal Justice Task Force of 80 Afghan investigators, prosecutors and judges has been established to work with the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan specifically to conduct drugs prosecutions. New Afghan counter narcotics legislation was adopted in December 2005. The new law gives wide-ranging powers for prosecution of drugs offenders, covering both those transporting drugs and those facilitating or conspiring to do so, and sets out stringent minimum sentences for drug trafficking offences and tough sentences for public officials interfering in cases.

Amazonian Deforestation Project

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what companies are involved in the Amazonian Deforestation Soya Certification Project in the Para region, Brazil; what proportion come from the region; and if she will make a statement. [82575]

Mr. McCartney: Cargill is the only company involved in the Amazon Deforestation Soya Certification Project. It is a US based privately owned company with regional offices in Santarem, State of Para, Brazil. Approximately 300 local Brazilian producers supply Cargill with soya. All these producers participate in the Amazon Deforestation Soya Certification Project. The project works intensively with approximately 20 of these producers.

British Embassies/High Commissions

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the locations are of British embassies and high commissions staffed by only one UK-based diplomat. [82084]

Mr. Hoon: Two British high commissions are staffed by a single UK-based diplomat. They are in St. John's (Antigua and Barbuda) and Castries (St. Lucia). Our embassy to the Holy See is also staffed by one UK-based officer.

In addition, the following subordinate posts are staffed by one UK-based diplomat:

British Embassy Office, Abijan
The Administrator's Office, Ascension Island
British Consulate-General, Auckland
British Embassy Office, Banja Luka
British Consulate-General, Bordeaux
Embassy Office, Conakry
British Consulate-General, Lille
British Consulate-General, Lyon
British Consulate, Monrovia
British Consulate, Nagoya
Pitcairn Islands Administration, Pitcairn
The Administrator's Office, Tristan de Cunha.

Burma

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of whether the recent move of the Burmese capital is related to the development of a nuclear site in the vicinity. [83206]

Mr. McCartney: We were formally notified of the Burmese authorities' decision to relocate the seat of administration to Pyinmana on 7 November 2005. The State Peace and Development Council claims that moving to a more central location will enable the Government to carry out the development of the whole nation more effectively. We have no evidence that the move was related to the development of a nuclear site in the vicinity.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports the Government have received on the use of chemical weapons by the regime in Burma. [83208]

Mr. McCartney: In 2005 we looked into allegations that the Burmese regime had used chemical weapons against Karenni fighters but there was no hard evidence to confirm this. Since then we have not received any further reports.

International Atomic Energy Agency

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her *(a)* US and *(b)* European counterparts on the reinstating of International Atomic Energy Agency verification and monitoring activities in Iraq; and if she will make a statement. [82860]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had discussions with her US or European counterparts on this issue.

There are two distinct International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) activities in Iraq. The IAEA's first mandate is to continue to implement safeguards in Iraq under an agreement pursuant to the global Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The IAEA's second mandate in Iraq derives from authority of the UN Security Council under the auspices of adopted Resolution 687 in 1991. This included the establishing of an international inspection regime for disarming Iraq of weapons of mass destruction; in particular to uncover, map, monitor and neutralise Iraq's clandestine nuclear weapons programme. The IAEA, through its Iraq Nuclear Verification Office (INVO), remains responsible for this aspect of the nuclear file in Iraq.

On 17 March 2003, the IAEA and all other UN organisations suspended field activities in Iraq ahead of the announced military operations. During this interruption of inspections, INVO has focused its activities on consolidating and further analysing the information collected, with the objective of identifying lessons learned for the future and determining to what extent the Agency's plan for resuming verification activities needs to be adapted in light of those lessons and the changing situation in Iraq. Periodic reports are filed with the UN Security Council. The IAEA has stated that it remains prepared to resume its field and related activities in Iraq, pending guidance from the UN Security Council.

Iraq

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received from her US counterpart regarding the statement by the US Commander of Multinational Forces in Iraq that covert Iranian special forces are providing weapons, roadside bomb technology and training to Shi'ite extremist groups; and if she will make a statement. [82856]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discusses the situations in Iran and Iraq frequently with Dr. Rice. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has said, the nature of some explosive devices used in Iraq, including against British troops, leads us to either Iranian elements or Lebanese Hezbollah, which has close connections with Iran. We continue to investigate. We have repeatedly made our concerns clear to the Iranians in the strongest terms.

Israel

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what monitoring, beyond seeking information from Israel, is being undertaken by the UK Government to ascertain whether military equipment supplied directly to Israel, or components which are supplied to a third country but which have been re-exported or diverted to Israel, are being used in the military incursions by Israel into Gaza and the West Bank which commenced on 27 June; and if she will make a statement. [83291]

Mr. McCartney: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 5 July (UIN 82166). Our embassy in Tel Aviv monitors local developments taking account of information from all relevant sources which might indicate that military equipment from the UK or other suppliers has been used in a manner inconsistent with the Consolidated Criteria. All relevant information obtained would be taken into consideration as appropriate in the thorough assessment of any future export licensing decisions.

Journalists (China)

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on reports of restrictions being placed on journalists by the Chinese Government. [82827]

Mr. McCartney: The Government are very concerned about the apparent hardening of Chinese policy on freedom of expression, including on journalists and in relation to the internet. We regularly

raise these concerns with the Chinese Government and make clear our view that freedom of information is essential to the development of a modern, stable and sustainable society.

Freedom of expression was a particular focus of the May 2006 round of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue. The EU also made representations to the Chinese Government on this issue in Beijing on 27 June 2006. Several individual cases of concern were raised on both occasions and at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue in Beijing on 3 July 2006. I will discuss media freedom issues with the Chinese Government and foreign correspondents during my forthcoming visit to China.

Kashmir

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department is taking to help resolve the dispute over Kashmir. [82692]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* My hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East discussed Kashmir with the Pakistani Prime Minister, Shaukat Aziz, during his visit to the UK in March 2006. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed Kashmir with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his visit to India in September 2005. My right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) the then Foreign Secretary discussed Kashmir with Indian and Pakistani counterparts during his visit to both countries in February 2005. Officials in both countries also regularly discuss the situation in Kashmir with Indian and Pakistani Ministers and officials.

The Government fully supports the ongoing Composite Dialogue between India and Pakistan, which includes the issue of Kashmir. We will continue to urge both countries to seek a lasting solution to their dispute over Kashmir, which takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

Kosovo

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has made to ensure that the protection of minorities is properly provided for in the final status arrangements for Kosovo. [82299]

Mr. Hoon: The UK continues to stress to the Kosovo Government the need to focus on delivering UN-endorsed standards relevant to minority communities in Kosovo, and to create the conditions for a multi-ethnic Kosovo. In mid-June the Contact Group (United States, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and Russia, together with EU representatives) Head of Missions in Pristina presented a list to the Kosovo Government of priority standards, including minority rights, where we expected to see progress.

The Contact Group ministerial statement of 31 January and the UN-endorsed Guiding Principles make clear that the final status outcome should offer effective constitutional guarantees to assure the protection of minorities, including mechanisms to ensure their participation in central government and in the new local administrative structures. There should also be robust arrangements for patrimonial sites. Both of these documents can be found in the Library of the House.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has made to ensure that the protection of religious and cultural sites is properly provided for in the final status arrangements for Kosovo. [82300]

Mr. Hoon: In mid-April, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Balkans co-ordinator held a meeting with Mr. Astrit Haraqia, the Kosovo Minister of Culture, and reiterated the importance of protecting and preserving Kosovo's cultural heritage.

UN Status Envoy, Martti Ahtisaari, held talks on 23 May 2006 between Belgrade and Pristina on the protection of cultural and religious heritage sites. A further meeting is due to be held on 17 July 2006. The UK welcomes these meetings and hopes that agreement on this issue can be reached soon.

The UK recognises that the protection of religious and cultural sites will be a key issue during the final status process. The Contact Group's UN-endorsed Guiding Principles refer to the need for any settlement to include specific safeguards for the protection of the cultural and religious heritage in Kosovo, and provisions specifying the Status of the Serbian Orthodox Church's institutions and sites in Kosovo. These Guiding Principles are there to support the work of the UN Status Envoy and have been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the final status of Kosovo; and if she will make a statement. [82301]

Mr. Hoon: The Government's policy on Kosovo's final status is set out in the Contact Group ministerial statement of 31 January 2006 and the UN-endorsed Guiding Principles.

The Contact Group ministerial statement makes clear that the final status process for Kosovo should be concluded during 2006, that there were a distinct set of circumstances that distinguished Kosovo from other disputed areas and that any settlement needed to be acceptable to the people of Kosovo.

The UN-endorsed Guiding Principles exist to support the UN Status Envoy. They make clear that there should be no partition of, or in Kosovo, and no union of Kosovo with any country or part of any other country after the solution of Kosovo's final status.

Both of these documents have been placed in the Library of the House.

Montenegro

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to exchange diplomatic missions with Montenegro; and who will take up the position of Her Majesty's Ambassador to the state. [83113]

Mr. Hoon: On 13 June 2006, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary wrote to Montenegrin Foreign Minister Vlahovic to propose the establishment of diplomatic relations between the UK and Montenegro, and to announce our intention to upgrade the British Office in Podgorica to an embassy as soon as is practicable. Our ambassador in Belgrade will be responsible for relations with Montenegro until the resident ambassador has been appointed.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Canon Law

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assurances have *(a)* been sought and *(b)* received from the new ambassador to the Vatican that at all times he will place UK law above Canon law. [77299]

Mr. Hoon: I have been asked to reply.

All Heads of British Diplomatic Missions are bound by Diplomatic Service Regulations which are made under powers vested in the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs by the Diplomatic Service Order in Council 1991 (as amended). These include a Code of Ethics, the Diplomatic Service Code, which makes clear that the duty of all members of the Diplomatic Service is to the duly constituted Government of the United Kingdom. The Code also includes

"the duty to comply with the law, including international law and treaty obligations, and to uphold the administration of justice".

This includes the applicable law of the UK and any international legal obligations of the UK. Without prejudice to their privileges and immunities, diplomats are also required by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations to respect the laws of the receiving State.

Courts Service

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether an impact assessment was carried out prior to the decision to implement changes in the Courts Service's budget. [79008]

Ms Harman: With regards to the impact assessment, all parts of HMCS worked up plans to see how they could make savings that would enable them to live within the set budget, while maintaining the services HMCS delivers to its customers and minimising impacts for staff and jobs.

Departmental Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will keep a separate record of the amount spent annually by her Department on alcohol for hospitality purposes. [77298]

Vera Baird: My Department records in its accounting system all expenditure incurred for hospitality purposes in total. It does not allow for the information to be broken down specifically for alcohol expenditure.

All expenditure incurred by DCA is done so in accordance with the principles set out in Government Accounting and supported by the Department's published internal guidance.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what plans she has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in her Department are carbon neutral; and if she will make a statement. [81397]

Bridget Prentice: All central Government ministerial and official air travel is being offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases Certified Emissions Reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

Development, Innovation and Support Contracts Project

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what progress has been made on the Development, Innovation and Support Contracts project; and if she will make a statement. [82554]

Vera Baird: The DISC Programme is due to announce the award of contracts in the fourth quarter of 2006 and is on target to achieve this.

DNA Bioscience

Mr. Laws: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2082-86W, on DNA Bioscience, whether DNA Bioscience made an application to be added to the accredited list. [82475]

Ms Harman: I refer the hon. Member for Yeovil to the answer given to him on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2082-86W. As indicated in the paragraphs headed "DNA Diagnostics Center and DNA Bioscience", DNA Bioscience was not itself accredited by the Department for Constitutional Affairs to carry out court directed tests under section 20 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969. DNA Bioscience was not eligible to be accredited by DCA as it was not a testing facility, so had no ISO 17025 accreditation. Following an application from DNA Bioscience, DCA agreed that DNA Diagnostics Center (the laboratory DNA Bioscience used to conduct DNA tests) could be added to the accredited list. The

Department the[illegible]reed orally in December 2004, that DNA Bioscience's details could be added to the accredited list, but this was not as a result of an application for accreditation. The intention was to add those details as a referral route to the accredited body (DNA Diagnostics Center).

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of her Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80474]

Vera Baird: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Libra

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many magistrates courts are using the Libra computer system. [82555]

Ms Harman: There are nine magistrates courts using the Libra case management system.

Official Residences

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the official residences for which her Department is responsible; who occupies each one; what the annual cost is of running each property; what contribution the occupants of each make towards running costs; what the total capital and refurbishment expenditure was on those properties in 2004-05; how much was spent in each property on *(a)* flowers and plants, *(b)* wine and entertaining, *(c)* food, *(d)* telephone bills and *(e)* electricity and gas in 2004-05; how many (i) domestic and (ii) maintenance staff are employed at each property, broken down by post; and what the total cost of staff employment was in 2004-05. [50876]

Vera Baird: My Department is not responsible for any official residences.

The Palace of Westminster is responsible for the maintenance of the Lord Chancellor's residence in the House of Lords and for any work that needs to be carried out. There are no permanent staff employed at the residence. The Lord Chancellor's Private Office is responsible for the administration of the residence in terms of organising tours of the residence and keeping the diary of charitable functions. The Department does not make any contributions to the running cost of the Lord Chancellor's residence in the House of Lords.

The cost of *(b)* wine and entertaining and *(c)* food for the years 2004 and 2005 are as follows:

	Amount (£)
(b) Wine and entertaining	
2005	883.88
2004	2,914.12
(c) Food	
2005	15,534.40
2004	29,440.78

My Department is not responsible for *(a)* flowers and plants, *(d)* telephone bills or *(e)* gas and electricity bills nor are we responsible for (i) domestic or (ii) maintenance staff.

With respect to the contribution made by occupants: Ministers occupying official residences do not pay tax on the living accommodation itself. However tax is paid on the ancillary services (lighting, heating etc.) at a sum limited to his/her taxable ministerial salary and benefit (if any).

Parliamentary Boundaries

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when the final outcome of the Parliamentary Boundary Commission will *(a)* be published and *(b)* become effective for the purpose of the election on which these boundaries would be used. [81854]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply as this question relates to the Northern Ireland Parliamentary Boundary Commission.

The Parliamentary Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland is required to submit its final report to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland by June 2007. The Secretary of State must then lay the Commission's final recommendations (with or without modifications) before Parliament for approval.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Economically Inactive

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the 2 million economically inactive people who would like to work are receiving benefits, broken down by benefit. [75345]

Mr. Plaskitt: In January-March 2006 there were 7,943,000 inactive people of working age in the United Kingdom. Of these 2,019,000 (25 per cent.) wanted to work.[1]

Latest LFS data suggest that of the 2 million inactive people who want to work: around one quarter are claiming housing and/or council tax benefit; around 15 per cent. are claiming sickness or disability benefits (excluding disabled persons tax credit); around 17 per cent. are claiming child benefit; less than two per cent. were claiming jobseeker's allowance; and around one third are not claiming benefits.[2]

Comparison between the data collected by the LFS and administrative data shows that the LFS consistently undercounts benefit claimants. However, the LFS data give an indication of the benefits received. It is important to note because of these caveats and the small sample sizes of the data used, the figures above are subject to a great degree of uncertainty.

Sources:

[1] Labour Force Survey (LFS), January-March 2006.

[2] Labour Force Survey Winter 2005.

Jobcentre Plus

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the closure of much of the Jobcentre Plus office in Cotlands Road, Bournemouth; what assessment he has made of *(a)* the capacity of the revised arrangements to deal with inquiries from claimants unable to get help or advice on the telephone and *(b)* the number of officers in management roles at the Chippenham office; what the average time taken to process an application for benefits has been in each of the last three months; and if he will make a statement. [71264]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 6 July 2006:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what representations he has received since the closure of much of the Jobcentre Plus office in Cotlands Road Bournemouth; what assessment he has made of (a) the capacity of the revised arrangements to deal with inquiries from claimants unable to get help or advice on the telephone and (b) the number of officers in management roles at the Chippenham office; what the average time taken to process an application for benefits has been in each of the last three months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I fully accept that the services offered to our customers in Bournemouth and Poole over the last few months has not been as I would want. We are part of the way through the creation of a network of Benefit Delivery Centres to modernise the processing of claims for benefit. Chippenham, which serves customers in Bournemouth and Poole, is one of these sites and I regret to say that there have been a number of local issues which have had the effect of reducing the level of service below acceptable levels. Specifically, we have been short of experienced staff and some key management posts were unfilled which has inhibited our ability to respond to local problems. Experience levels are growing and we have recently filled all of the management posts. We now have four senior managers on site and 22 junior managers to support them.

We have developed a local improvement plan and a number of steps have already been taken with some early signs of improvement showing through in the data for April. These steps include the recruitment of 38 additional staff and the transfer of four experienced Incapacity Benefit staff from another site to bolster experience levels. We have also reviewed our internal process from first contact by the customer to payment, which will reduce the time it takes to assess claims. We are reviewing progress against this plan weekly and putting in place arrangements to clear the arrears of claims that have built up by lending Chippenham additional help from outside.

I have set out in the attached tables the latest data on claims clearance at Chippenham and representations received. Neil Couling, Director of Benefits and Fraud, would be more than happy to meet with you to discuss these.

Finally, you ask about the difficulties being experienced by customers getting through to Chippenham by phone. Some technical issues have exacerbated problems but I am pleased to say that these issues are being addressed. Our contractors hope the service will start to improve in July. Benefit Delivery Centres have a key role to play in supporting the improvements to our services, including improving processing times and reducing fraud and error in the benefit system. For customers who are unable to access our services through the telephone or electronically, we still have other options including office interviews and home visits.

I hope this is helpful.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many individuals diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis who attended a medical tribunal were successful in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005. [81968]

Vera Baird: I have been asked to reply as responsibility for Social Security and Child Support appeals now falls to the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs.

The requested information is not available. Details are not kept about the nature of the medical condition of people who attend appeal tribunals.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements are in place to ensure that medical tribunals for individuals diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis who are housebound are held in a location convenient for the claimant. [81969]

Vera Baird: I am answering this question as responsibility for social security and child support appeals now falls to the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs.

Social security and child support appeals are heard at a network of around 130 venues throughout Great Britain. Where a party to the proceedings wishes to attend an oral hearing but is unable to travel due to a medical condition, a legally qualified panel member may agree that the hearing can be held at an alternative suitable location, including the person's home.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate *(a)* the number of people due to retire after 2010 who have paid voluntary national insurance contributions and who would otherwise have qualified for a full basic pension on the basis of 30 contribution years required for a full state pension and *(b)* the total amount of such overpayment. [77988]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested.

National Insurance Numbers

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals applying for a national insurance number were referred to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in *(a)* the last six months, *(b)* the last 12 months and *(c)* each of the last five years due to (i) suspicion about their eligibility to work in the UK, (ii) the use of false documents and (iii) other reasons. [75703]

Mr. Plaskitt: Between 1 April 2005 and 31 March 2006, 3309 cases were referred to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. Of these, 772 were referred due to the use of false documents and 2537 were referred as potential immigration offenders. Figures are not available prior to the 1 April 2005 as the information was not formally recorded. No further breakdown is available.

Pathways to Work Pilot Areas

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's estimate is of the cost to date of personal adviser time per work-focused interview in Pathways to work pilot areas. [49802]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The total cost to date per work-focused interview (or unit cost) is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

In response to PSA target requirements, Jobcentre Plus do publish the unit costs for job broking and benefit processing every year in their annual report and accounts. The PSA unit costs for job broking activities and benefit processing for 2004-05 were as shown in the following table.

Benefit	*Unit cost (£)*
Job broking	197.64
Benefit processing	28.07

Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of women in the UK who will retire between 1 May 2005 and 31 April 2010 with *(a)* 30 years or more of class 1 national insurance contributions and *(b)* more than 30 but less than 39 years of national insurance contributions. [77999]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested.

Personal Capability Assessment

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) which organisations his Department has had meetings with on the proposed reform of the Personal Capability Assessment referred to in the Green Paper "A new deal for welfare"; [75376]

(2) which individuals form the expert panels set up by the Department since the publication of the Green Paper "A new deal for welfare" to formulate policy on reforming the Personal Capability Assessment; and which bodies they represent. [75386]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As part of the Welfare Reform Green Paper consultation we have met a large number of stakeholders to discuss the full range of our reform proposals. With many of these we discussed our proposals to transform the PCA. Because of the number of organisations involved we are not able to list all the individuals and groups involved. We continue to meet with organisation to discuss the proposals.

In addition, the Department has created a series of working groups, comprising medical, technical and stakeholder experts, to advise and assist in the work to transform the Personal Capability Assessment (PCA). The membership of each of the groups is in the tables.

Overarching PCA Consultative Group

Name	*Organisation*
Duleep Allirajah	Macmillan Cancer Support
Dr. Mark Baker	RNID
Andy Barrick	RNIB
Brigid Campbell	Independent/Social Security Advisory Committee
David Congdon	MENCAP
Stephen Duckworth	Disability Matters
Richard Excell	TUC
Katie Hanson	SENSE
Jane Harris	Rethink
Marilyn Howard	DRC
Christine Jess	Disability Employment Advisory Committee
John Knight	Leonard Cheshire
Glynn McDonald	Arthritis Care
Andy Rickell	Scope
Sue Christoforou	MIND
Vanessa Stanislas	Disability Alliance
John Wheatley	Citizens Advice Bureau

Mental Health Consultative Group

Name	*Organisation*
David Congdon	MENCAP
Sue Christoforou	MIND
Margaret Edwards	SANE
Richard Excell	TUC
Jane Harris	Rethink
Caroline Hawkings	Turning Point
Kate Nash	Radar
Rachel Perkins	Disability Employment Advisory Committee
Mia Rosenblatt	National Autistic Society
Liz Sayce	Disability Rights Commission
Judy Scott	Judy Scott Consultancy
Debbie Witton	Salford County Council

Mental Health Technical Working Group[1]

Name	*Organisation*
Dr. Jed Boardman	Royal College of Psychiatrists
Dr. Alan Cohen	Royal College of GPs
Dr. Bob Grove	Department of Health

Mental Health Technical Working Group[1]

Name	*Organisation*
Sue Godby	Unum Provident/College of Occupational Therapists
Dr. Paul Litchfield	Faculty of Occupational Medicine
Miles Rinaldi	National Institute for Mental Health in England
Philippa Russell	National Children's Bureau
Prof. Geoff Shepherd	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mental Health Trust

Physical Descriptors Technical Working Group[1]

Name	*Organisation*
Dr. Anthony Clarke	Royal National Hospital for Rheumatological Diseases
Peter Dewis	Unum Provident
Dr. David Henderson-Slater	Oxford Centre for Enablement
Anne Johnson	Royal National Hospital for Rheumatological Diseases
Anne Spaight	Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board

Review of evidence gathering from GPs[1]

Name	*Organisation*
Dr. Robert Barnett	General Practitioner
Dr. John Chisholm	Royal College of General Practitioners

[1] Members of the Technical Groups were chosen for the experience they bring to the groups, not the organisations they are employed by or are members of. They do not necessary represent the views of these organisations on the groups.

DEFENCE

9 mm Browning Pistol

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans there are to replace the 9 mm Browning pistol in the UK armed forces; [80933]

(2) who makes the 9 mm ammunition used with the Browning side arm in the UK armed forces; and what recent assessment has been made of the trend in the number of stoppages; [80935]

(3) in what years successive marks of the Browning 9 mm pistol came into service. [81102]

Mr. Ingram: The Browning 9 mm pistol entered service in 1967 and no successive marks have been introduced. A replacement pistol is not planned until 2016. The ammunition is manufactured by Israeli Military Industries (IMI). The performance of all weapons systems is continuously assessed and there has been no trend identified regarding stoppages for the Browning 9 mm pistol.

Afghanistan

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment UK officials have made of the feasibility of making concurrent progress on security and counter-narcotics objectives in Afghanistan. [82425]

Mr. Ingram: The UK's aim in Afghanistan is to support the development of a free, secure and stable state. The drugs trade feeds on and contributes to insecurity in Afghanistan and the wider region, and insurgents and drug traffickers flourish in the same ungoverned space. It needs therefore to be tackled to ensure improvements in the overall security.

This cannot be done by military means alone, and so we are working closely with other Government Departments to deliver a comprehensive package of military, economic, diplomatic and developmental support to the Afghan Government.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Sabre and *(b)* Scimitar vehicles are deployed in Afghanistan. [82829]

Mr. Ingram: To declare the exact vehicle mix currently in or planned for Afghanistan would be detrimental to the safety of UK personnel and disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the security of the armed forces.

Army Continuous Attitude Survey

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 20th June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1708W, on the Army Continuous Attitude Survey, what the contents were of question 39c in the Army Continuous Attitude Survey September to December 2005; and why this question was not printed in the copy which was placed in the Library on 19 April 2006. [80698]

Mr. Watson: The Serving Personnel Continuous Attitude Survey (CAS) is a management information tool that is used to assess and monitor the attitudes of serving officers and soldiers over time. Its findings inform the development of service personnel strategy and policies. In the ninth Serving Personnel (SP9) survey, which was distributed in September 2005, question 66 was removed and replaced with question 39c, an open-ended question which asks "If within the last 12 months you have suffered unfair treatment, discrimination, harassment and/or bullying and you have chosen not to complain please explain why?". The analysis of open-ended questions is complex and not contained in the Technical Annex of the CAS Report, which is placed in the Library of the House.

The analysis of question 39c is summarised as follows. It gives the number of comments made as well as a more detailed breakdown of the negative comments, which are used to identify areas for improvement. Overall, a total of 90 officers and 252 soldiers commented, which equates to 8 per cent. and 16 per cent. respectively of those who responded to the questionnaire.

Number and type of comments made by respondents:

	Officers		Soldiers	
Type of comment	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Negative	102	78	243	70
Neutral	7	5	14	4
Positive	22	17	90	26
Total	131		347	

Breakdown of negative comments made by category:

		Number of comments	
Category		*Officers*	*Soldiers*
1.	Stigma attached to complaining	8	13
2.	Pressure not to complain	3	7
3.	Fear of further victimisation/bad reaction from person responsible for unfair treatment	4	22
4.	Would have made the situation worse	7	26
5.	Do not know/did not know what to do	3	10
6.	Pointless—nothing changes	22	54
7.	Did not feel the need to/could not be bothered to complain	18	21
8.	Part of Army life	5	7
9.	Lack of trust in the system	2	25
10.	Leaving soon or moving jobs (respondent or person responsible for unfair treatment)	0	7
11.	Currently being dealt with	2	1
12.	Effect on career prospects	7	14
13.	Dealt with in-house/informal complaint made	0	1
14.	Not suffered any unfair treatment	0	0
15.	General comments about unfair treatment suffered/suffering (no mention of complaint)	18	33
16.	Other (any comments that do not fit the above categories)	3	2

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department is making contributions of *(a)* funding, *(b)* expertise and *(c)* personnel towards the (i) UN and (ii) EU peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [82059]

Mr. Ingram: UK funding for the UN Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) is drawn from the Tri-departmental (FCO, MOD, DfID) peacekeeping budget. In 2005-06 this budget made assessed contributions of approximately £37 million to MONUC. The UK also currently provides six officers to MONUC, at a gross additional cost of £740,000 in 2005-06. These officers fill key strategic posts, notably that of the Chief of Staff in the Eastern Division HQ in Kisangani, and the Military Assistant to the Force Commander in the MONUC Force HQ in Kinshasa. In addition, we have provided training support during the stand-up of the Eastern Division HQ and advice, with other nations, through the short-term deployment of a technical assessment mission.

Through the EU Funding Mechanism (ATHENA) the UK has paid, via the same Tri-departmental budget, £1.634 million for the common costs of the EU military mission to the Republique Democratique du Congo (EUFOR RD Congo). EUFOR RD Congo is deploying in support of MONUC and with the approval of the Congolese Transitional National Government. UK MOD is currently providing three personnel for EUFOR RD Congo: one officer for the Operational HQ in Germany; one officer for the Force HQ (FHQ) in Kinshasa, for the duration of the Operation; and one further officer from the European Air Group to the FHQ, to assist with planning and logistics for up to four weeks.

Military Flying Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the Military Flying Training private finance initiative programme will close. [81434]

Mr. Ingram: I assume the hon. Member is referring to the financial closure of the UK Military Flying Training System contract. Competitive bids are in the process of being assessed, after which the investment decision will be taken. Current planning assumptions expect financial closure to occur in 2007.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the implementation of the Military Flying Training public finance initiative programme on departmental targets for *(a)* improved quality of training, *(b)* cost reduction and *(c)* contraction of the defence estate. [81604]

Mr. Ingram: The NAO Report, HG 880 Session 1999-2000 "Training New Pilots" dated 14 September 2000, recommended a more consistent approach to flying training. This report was instrumental in the initiation of the UK Military Flying Training System Project.

Since the project is still in its competitive phase, it is not possible to predict the full extent of the benefits to be realised through the project at this point. It is anticipated that the primary benefits will come from modernising the flying training processes for all three services, realising efficiencies and, since training is currently spread across several organisations, taking advantage of potential economies of scale. It is assumed that the existing estate will be utilised, although it is possible that there may be opportunities in the future for some estate rationalisation.

Military Vehicles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what vehicles are provided for Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel on active service in Iraq. [82519]

Mr. Ingram: We currently use three similar types of Explosive Ordnance Disposal vehicle on Operation TELIC. However, the disclosure of any further detail would reveal the strength and capability of UK forces

operating in Iraq, which could have a bearing on our operational security, thereby placing our servicemen and women in additional unnecessary danger or potential harm.

Search and Rescue Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2052W, on search and rescue services, whether the assessment of the future of the Maritime Counter Terrorism role will include consideration of RNAS Culdrose as a possible base for the fulfilment of this role. [81955]

Mr. Ingram: The continued requirement for 771 Squadron's Maritime Counter Terrorism (MCT) role will be fully assessed in due course. Assuming the requirement remains, the task will be fulfilled by an equally capable military unit using an in-service helicopter, operating out of its usual base. Helicopters based at RNAS Culdrose would be considered along with all MOD helicopter types, and Culdrose would be considered as a possible future operating base for fulfilment of the MCT role currently undertaken by 771 Squadron.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2052W, on search and rescue services, whether relevant factors will include the consideration of *(a)* support for local air ambulance out of hours, *(b)* medical evacuations, *(c)* casualty evacuations, *(d)* availability of back-up aircraft and *(e)* capacity to call upon competent trained non-search and rescue aircraft and crews from the same base for large scale emergencies which are functions of the 771 Squadron. [81958]

Mr. Ingram: The requirement specification for the future Search and Rescue Helicopter service is being developed in full consultation with key stakeholders, including senior representatives from RNAS Culdrose, to ensure that the service is at least as effective as the current one. For large scale emergencies the Ministry of Defence policy remains to evaluate the need for Military Aid to the civil community on a case by case basis, dependent upon availability.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2052W, on search and rescue services, which *(a)* existing and *(b)* potential helicopter bases the Maritime Coastguard Agency and his Department have assessed as capable of providing an equivalent search and rescue coverage of the maritime western approaches to that provided by the 771 Squadron at RMAS Culdrose. [81973]

Mr. Ingram: Any assessment of basing for the UK Search and Rescue Helicopter service must take account of the capability provided by the UK bases as a whole. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency and Ministry of Defence "Review of UK Search and Rescue (SAR) Helicopter Provision and Coverage Criteria Report—June 2001" contained a risk assessment of UK Search and Rescue, which included the maritime western approaches. The assessment demonstrated that current basing arrangements, which include RNAS Culdrose, meet the coverage criteria.

Any new helicopter basing arrangement proposed will also be assessed, in terms of the whole UK capability, to ensure that it meets the defined coverage criteria.

Sig Sauer 228 Pistols

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Sig Sauer 228 pistols are in use in the British armed forces, broken down by unit. [80934]

Mr. Ingram: There are 117 Sig Sauer 228 pistols available to the UK armed forces, 36 of which are currently deployed for training purposes as follows:

Unit	*Quantity*
6 Regiment Royal Military Police	22
Pontrilas Army Training Area (PATA)	1
57 Logistic Support Squadron	6
Defence Human Intelligence Unit (DHU)	7

The balance are currently held in storage.

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on the development of a replacement Arming, Fuzing and Firing system for the Trident warhead; and when the system will enter service. [80013]

Des Browne: It is not our practice to comment on the details of UK warhead design. I am withholding the information requested because it relates to national security and defence in the UK.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has carried out to verify the integrity of Trident targeting and fire control software created and tested in the US and from which US-eyes only items have been removed. [82406]

Des Browne: Each new release of Trident fire control software is certified by the US Government under the terms of the Polaris Sales Agreement (as amended for Trident). Under the agreement, the UK has the capability to validate the software models for software performance and verify that the findings are correct. This is undertaken and independently verified by UK experts to ensure the software meets our requirements before being issued to Royal Navy submarines.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* officer and *(b)* rating complement is of the Trident fleet (i) at full strength and (ii) currently. [82866]

Mr. Ingram: The Royal Navy Trident Fleet consists of four Vanguard-class Ballistic Missile Submarines (SSBNs).

The full complement of a Vanguard-class submarine in a sea-going role is 160 men, consisting of 19 officers and 141 ratings. Of these, 140 go to sea.

Six crews are provided to man the four boats; a total requirement of 114 officers and 846 ratings. The current trained strength is 110 officers and 840 ratings.

Current policy is to ensure that any submarine is 100 per cent. manned at sea, with priority given to the SSBN force.

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the training requirements of the Trident fleet crew; and if he will make a statement. [82867]

Mr. Ingram: The Trident fleet consists of four Vanguard-class Ballistic Missile Submarines (SSBNs). Training requirements of the Trident fleet crew are subject to continual review and assessment. This process ensures that training remains up to date, and provides highly capable and well trained personnel onboard Trident submarines.

SCOTLAND

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what average hourly rate was paid by his Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81491]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office did not use any employment agencies during 2005-06.

Barnett Formula

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the operation of the Barnett Formula as it relates to Scotland. [81026]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend has regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a range of issues.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the average cost to his Department was of replying to a letter written by *(a)* an hon. Member and *(b)* a member of the public in the last period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum was accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80511]

David Cairns: The Cabinet Office, on an annual basis, publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of Departments in replying to Members/ Peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS.

The information requested is not held in the form requested.

Departmental Chief Accounting Officer

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the chief accounting officer of his Department. [76709]

David Cairns: For administrative purposes, the Scotland Office is within the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and the Permanent Secretary, DCA, is the Accounting Officer. The Head of the Scotland Office, Dr. James Wildgoose, is an Additional Accounting Officer and is responsible for financial and other Accounting Officer activities in the Office. He does not hold a professional accountancy qualification but has full access to advice from professionally qualified staff in both the DCA and the Scottish Executive.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of his Department. [80080]

David Cairns: For administrative purposes, the Scotland Office is within the Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA). The Head of Finance at the Scotland Office is Ian Allen. He does not hold a professional accountancy qualification but has full access to advice from professionally qualified staff in both the DCA and the Scottish Executive.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83627]

David Cairns: None.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Central Office of Information

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will place in the Library a copy of the Central Office of Information's Information and Press Officers Directory. [83001]

Mr. McFadden: A copy of the Information and Press Officers Directory has been placed in the Library, for the reference of Members.

The directory is currently being revised and a new edition will be published at the end of July. The new edition, and subsequent revisions, will also be placed in the Library.

Contingency Telecommunications Provision

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when she expects the project for a new Contingency Telecommunications Provision to be put in place; whether it is expected fully to meet contingency voice and data communications requirements; and how much has been allocated to the programme. [81482]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* The Cabinet Office last year replaced most of the aged Emergency Communications Network with satellite telephones for all responder organisations connected to the Network and a range of other bodies, thereby enhancing the quality, diversity and deployability of fallback voice communications in the event of failure of public fixed and mobile telephone networks. The current budget for this capability is some £500,000 per year.

The Cabinet Office is also taking forward longer-term work to enhance the resilience of responders' communications, drawing on the lessons of recent incidents, especially the response to the bombings in London on 7 July 2005. This work is covering the wide range of communications systems available to responders for use in civil contingencies. Some £3.4 million per year is currently allocated for these purposes.

Departmental Estate

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much her Department has spent on the repair of water leaks within its estate in each of the last three financial years; if she will estimate likely expenditure for 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [81929]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office operates a number of facilities management contracts across its estate. These cover both prescheduled maintenance and minor ad hoc repairs. The scheduling and reporting mechanisms for all such works mean that it is not possible to separately identify the amount spent on water repairs from other costs.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what her practice is regarding meeting, discussing and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [81256]

Mr. McFadden: The Cabinet Office always seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy-making process; both informal and formal. The Department holds regular meetings with representatives of the principal stakeholder groups for our policy areas and with relevant experts. Organisations and individuals can also contribute to the department's formal consultations which abide by the Code of Conduct on Consultation. Known stakeholders are alerted to the fact that a formal consultation is taking place. As required by the Code, the Department then gives feedback on the responses received and on how the consultation process influenced the policy decision.

Departmental Staff

Roger Berry: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many disabled staff in her Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82220]

Mr. McFadden: The following table gives details of the number of disabled staff who have received support through Access to Work. These figures include staff that have started in the Cabinet Office and brought Access to Work assessments with them, who have received on-going support through the Fares to Work provision available through the scheme, and new staff who have approached Access to Work for an assessment and assistance.

April to March each year	*Number of staff*
2001-02	2
2002-03	3
2003-04	2
2004-05	5
2005-06	2
2006-07	1

Cabinet Office has a written policy on the provision of reasonable adjustments for disabled staff. Access to Work is only one of the options available, with the majority of costs for assessments and reasonable adjustments being met centrally by the Department.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans she has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in the Cabinet Office are carbon neutral; and if she will make a statement. [81403]

Edward Miliband: Through its commitment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Scheme, as from 1 April 2006 all flights undertaken by Cabinet Office Ministers and officials are being offset and thus carbon neutral. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases Certified Emissions Reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

Public Sector Information

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how the European Directive on the re-use of public sector information is applied to private sector bids for public sector data to be used to build added-value services; and if she will make a statement. [76638]

Edward Miliband: The overriding aim of the European Directive on the re-use of public sector information, and the Regulations that implemented the Directive in the UK (SI2005/1515) was to encourage the re-use of public sector information and stimulate the growth of the information industry and the development of value added information products and services. The key theme of the Regulations is on improving transparency, fairness and consistency. The framework set out in the Regulations is underpinned by a robust complaints process. This will help the private sector ascertain what information is available for re-use and the terms of re-use.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment she has made of the performance of the Office of Public Sector Information in resolving concerns about access to public sector data for the purposes of developing added-value services; and if she will make a statement. [76639]

Edward Miliband: The Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) has the policy lead on the re-use of public sector information, in accordance with the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations (2005 No. 1515) which came into force on 1 July 2005. Since then OPSI has made a significant contribution in sharing best practice across the public sector. This includes developing an on-line licence that can be used across the whole of the public sector, developing an on-line assessment tool which gauges the effectiveness of public sector organisations in meeting their obligations, and speaking to over 400 public sector organisations about their new responsibilities. OPSI has also played a key role in setting standards of compliance and in the resolution of disputes. These initiatives help to encourage and facilitate the re-use of public sector information in the context of value added information products and services.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bonfires

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many communal and commemorative bonfires are estimated to have been organised in Northern Ireland during July and August in *(a)* 1995 and *(b)* 2005. [81669]

David Cairns: The information requested is not held centrally, however, an Interagency Working Group was set up in November 2003 to compile a report on bonfires in Northern Ireland. Information provided by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive indicated that there were 1203 bonfires in 2003 on their property. Information was also received from 23 of the 26 district councils in Northern Ireland. They indicated that they were only aware of 431 bonfires in 2003. This figure would include some of the bonfires on Housing Executive property. The Group was only in existence during the time required for completion of the report. There has been no update since then.

Child Care

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what strategy the Department for Education has in place to support and facilitate child care through the women's community sector. [82004]

Maria Eagle: The Department of Education does not have a remit to support and facilitate child care through the women's community sector. On 6 March my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland announced £14.6 million to help support voluntary and community groups in their work with disadvantaged children: through the Department for Social Development the women's community sector received £1.6 million of this, to support 14 women's centres in providing child care until the end of March 2008.

Child Sex Offenders

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many hostels are used by the Probation Board of Northern Ireland for housing known child sex offenders; where the hostels are; and how many sex offenders reside in these hostels. [80959]

Mr. Hanson: There are five hostels approved by the Probation Board which accommodate child sex offenders. For reasons of public safety it is not in the public interest to provide detailed information about the whereabouts of sex offenders. Effective public protection can best be provided by the relevant agencies through monitoring and supervision of such offenders in a regulated and stable environment.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* letters from members of the public, *(b)* letters from hon. Members and *(c)* parliamentary questions from (i) hon. Members and (ii) Members of the House of Lords the Departments under his authority dealt with in each of the last five years. [78877]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office received the following parliamentary questions in each of the last five calendar years. It is not possible to provide separate figures for hon. Members and Members of the House of Lords.

	Number
2002	1,729
2003	2,908
2004	4,137
2005	4,476
2006	[1]3,155

[1] Up to 21 June 2006.

Information regarding correspondence is below. It is listed by Department as each private office records correspondence to their respective Minister individually. As a result of this, the information is recorded in different ways by different offices. Therefore some have been unable to break down the figures to the extent requested by the hon. Gentleman.

	NIO[1]	DHSSPS[1]	OFMDFM[2]		DRD	
	Total	Total	MP	Public	MP[3]	Public
2002[4]	[5]906	372	—	—	26	113
2003	2,842	1,244	—	—	152	408
2004	2,224	1,419	—	—	127	592
2005	2,356	1,750	[7]58	[7]466	121	456
2006[6]	1,342	1,159	[7]	[7]	54	162

	DE		DEL	
	MP	Public	MP	Public
2002[4]	22	51	21	105
2003	80	127	39	45
2004	138	287	43	56
2005	153	461	47	58
2006[6]	27	194	20	27

	DCAL		DSD		DETI	
	MP	Public	MP	Public	MP	Public
2002[4]	27	98	54	42	14	38
2003	52	195	132	227	39	128
2004	69	387	111	246	74	61
2005	51	323	123	186	27	41
2006[6]	27	162	76	81	19	20

	DoE		DARD	
	MP[3]	Public	MP	Public
2002[4]	16	172	[7]25	[7]9
2003	145	894	90	9
2004	156	846	97	53
2005	177	922	101	77
2006[6]	115	341	31	37

[1] NIO and DHSSPS correspondence data are not held in a way that makes it possible to separate out correspondence from MPs and from others.
[2] OFMDFM correspondence data are only available from 18 May 2005 to date, and it is not possible to break them down by year.
[3] Includes only MPs with Northern Ireland constituencies.
[4] From 1 October 2002, unless otherwise indicated.
[5] From 1 January 2002.
[6] Figure to June 2006.
[7] From 15 October 2002.

Note:
Information is recorded in different ways by different Departments. The figures include some instances of double-counting, for example, where a letter is transferred between Departments or where input is required from more than one Department.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his practice is regarding meeting, discussions with and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81637]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office and the Northern Ireland Departments seek a range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy-making process, both informal and formal. Each department holds regular meetings with its principal stakeholder groups and with relevant experts. Organisations and individuals can also contribute to the Departments' formal consultations which abide by the code of conduct on consultation. Known stakeholders are alerted to the fact that a formal consultation is taking place. As required by the code, the relevant Department then gives feedback on the responses received.

Environment and Renewable Energy Funding

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will review the eligibility criteria for the Environment and Renewable Energy Funding package to take account of recent representations he has received on their appropriateness. [82018]

Maria Eagle: The Environment and Renewable Energy Fund's aim of making Northern Ireland an exemplar region in the use of renewable energy is still on course and no considered review of the eligibility criteria is necessary at this time.

Finucane Inquiry

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many judges he has appointed for the inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane; and if he will instead hold an independent public inquiry into the murder. [80972]

Mr. Hain: The Government are currently taking steps to facilitate the establishment of an inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane under the Inquiries Act 2005. No appointments have yet been made. The Government are clear that an inquiry established under the Inquiries Act 2005 will be fully independent and will also be public to the extent possible.

Foreign Nationals

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign nationals have set up residence in Northern Ireland in the last two years, broken down by country of origin. [80108]

Mr. Hain: This information is not held. However, the 2001 census provides figures on the country of birth of residents in Northern Ireland. This can be accessed at www.nisranew.nisra.gov.uk/census/excel/ks05dc.xls

Table KS05: Country of birth

		Percentage of persons born in:						
Area	*All persons*	*Northern Ireland*	*England*	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Republic of Ireland*	*Other EU Countries*[1]	*Elsewhere*
Northern Ireland	1,685,267	91.04	3.66	1.00	0.18	2.32	0.61	1.20
Local Government District								
Antrim	48,366	87.04	7.30	1.62	0.48	1.35	0.84	1.37
Ards	73,244	92.25	3.71	1.05	0.20	1.20	0.47	1.12
Armagh	54,263	91.66	2.92	0.64	0.11	3.41	0.53	0.73
Ballymena	58,610	93.88	2.78	0.97	0.11	0.89	0.46	0.91
Ballymoney	26,894	94.97	2.62	0.66	0.08	0.86	0.28	0.54
Banbridge	41,392	93.77	2.87	0.69	0.14	1.30	0.41	0.84
Belfast	277,391	91.36	2.95	0.80	0.14	1.96	0.96	1.82
Carrickfergus	37,659	91.37	4.25	1.21	0.19	0.95	0.57	1.46
Castlereagh	66,488	92.10	3.11	0.96	0.16	1.55	0.45	1.67
Coleraine	56,315	90.21	3.95	1.22	0.21	2.35	0.58	1.48
Cookstown	32,581	94.69	2.33	0.56	0.10	1.18	0.32	0.83
Craigavon	80,671	92.85	3.25	0.77	0.13	1.47	0.57	0.96
Derry	105,066	88.15	3.99	1.03	0.14	5.11	0.65	0.93
Down	63,828	91.32	4.50	0.80	0.23	1.62	0.44	1.10
Dungannon	47,735	93.10	2.58	0.50	0.07	2.48	0.48	0.79
Fermanagh	57,527	87.00	4.05	0.62	0.13	7.13	0.37	0.69
Larne	30,832	93.04	3.34	1.31	0.17	0.92	0.40	0.83
Limavady	32,422	89.28	4.26	2.41	0.71	1.68	0.56	1.10
Lisburn	108,694	90.06	5.02	1.10	0.26	1.45	0.87	1.25
Magherafelt	39,780	95.18	2.03	0.57	0.07	1.12	0.30	0.72
Moyle	15,933	91.87	3.57	1.46	0.14	1.52	0.62	0.83
Newry and Mourne	87,058	90.01	3.26	0.60	0.13	4.58	0.59	0.82
Newtownabbey	79,995	93.15	2.99	0.88	0.15	1.08	0.40	1.36
North Down	76,323	86.14	6.23	2.69	0.32	1.96	0.81	1.85
Omagh	47,952	90.77	4.26	0.66	0.16	2.52	0.58	1.04
Strabane	38,248	89.70	2.40	1.15	0.05	6.05	0.27	0.39
Health and Social Services Board								
Eastern	665,968	90.72	3.91	1.11	0.20	1.72	0.78	1.57
Northern	426,965	92.38	3.57	1.03	0.18	1.24	0.48	1.11
Southern	311,119	92.01	3.04	0.65	0.12	2.81	0.53	0.84
Western	281,215	88.70	3.86	1.06	0.19	4.81	0.52	0.85
Education and Library Board								
Belfast	277,391	91.36	2.95	0.80	0.14	1.96	0.96	1.82
North Eastern	394,384	92.19	3.67	1.07	0.19	1.25	0.50	1.14
South Eastern	388,577	90.26	4.60	1.33	0.24	1.55	0.64	1.39
Southern	343,700	92.26	2.97	0.64	0.12	2.66	0.51	0.84
Western	281,215	88.70	3.86	1.06	0.19	4.81	0.52	0.85
Parliamentary Constituency								
Belfast East	79,261	91.76	3.53	1.07	0.19	1.30	0.57	1.59
Belfast North	86,066	93.62	2.62	0.73	0.11	1.28	0.63	1.01
Belfast South	94,994	86.79	3.97	1.04	0.20	3.43	1.21	3.37
Belfast West	87,610	94.78	1.58	0.38	0.07	1.27	1.12	0.80
East Antrim	84,062	91.83	3.75	1.21	0.19	1.08	0.52	1.43
East Londonderry	88,737	89.87	4.06	1.65	0.38	2.10	0.58	1.34
Fermanagh and South Tyrone	91,127	89.05	3.55	0.58	0.11	5.54	0.42	0.75
Foyle	105,066	88.15	3.99	1.03	0.14	5.11	0.65	0.93
Lagan Valley	101,696	89.74	5.29	1.18	0.28	1.44	0.77	1.31
Mid Ulster	86,496	94.86	2.19	0.56	0.08	1.23	0.33	0.75

Table KS05: Country of birth

Area	*All persons*	*Percentage of persons born in:* *Northern Ireland*	*England*	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Republic of Ireland*	*Other EU Countries*[1]	*Elsewhere*
Newry and Armagh	100,950	90.35	3.02	0.59	0.11	4.62	0.56	0.75
North Antrim	101,437	93.85	2.86	0.96	0.11	0.98	0.44	0.80
North Down	85,992	86.60	6.07	2.54	0.32	1.91	0.79	1.78
South Antrim	99,810	90.63	4.98	1.19	0.30	1.12	0.57	1.20
South Down	104,658	91.54	3.94	0.73	0.19	2.10	0.50	0.99
Strangford	98,158	92.64	3.39	0.96	0.18	1.19	0.44	1.21
Upper Bann	102,947	92.83	3.29	0.77	0.14	1.48	0.54	0.95
West Tyrone	86,200	90.29	3.44	0.87	0.11	4.09	0.44	0.75
NUTS Level III								
Belfast	277,391	91.36	2.95	0.80	0.14	1.96	0.96	1.82
Outer Belfast	369,159	90.42	4.41	1.36	0.22	1.44	0.65	1.50
East of Northern Ireland	396,943	92.05	3.92	0.99	0.20	1.28	0.52	1.03
North of Northern Ireland	274,878	89.80	3.63	1.24	0.20	3.64	0.54	0.94
West and South of Northern Ireland	366,896	91.26	3.16	0.60	0.12	3.59	0.48	0.80

[1] European Union as defined on census day (29 April 2001). 'Other EU countries' includes United Kingdom; part not specified and Ireland; part not specified.

Knives

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many knife stabbing incidents have occurred in Northern Ireland over the last three years, broken down by Westminster constituency; and how many of these involved fatalities. [77341]

Mr. Hanson: The following tables provide statistics on knife crime incidents over the past three years according to PSNI District Command Units. The incidents are sorted by the recorded crime categories used by the police. While is it known that a knife was used in all incidents recorded, it is not possible to indicate how the knife was used.

Crimes recorded where a knife was involved in the incident 2003-04[1]

	Offences against the person	*Murder*[2]	*Sexual offences*	*Burglary*	*Robbery*	*Theft*
Armagh	2	0	0	1	8	0
Banbridge	5	0	0	1	2	1
Ballymena	19	0	0	1	11	1
Ballymoney	5	0	0	1	0	0
Coleraine	9	0	0	5	13	3
Cookstown	1	0	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	23	0	0	1	13	2
Dungannon and South Tyrone	3	0	1	1	0	1
Down	15	1	1	2	4	0
Fermanagh	4	0	0	0	4	0
Foyle	31	1	0	4	7	2
Limavady	5	0	1	0	0	1
Magherafelt	2	0	0	0	1	0
Moyle	3	0	0	1	0	0
Newry and Mourne	26	0	0	2	11	1
Omagh	13	0	0	2	6	0
Strabane	4	0	0	1	1	0
Rural region	170	2	3	23	81	12
Antrim	8	0	0	2	9	0
Ards	15	0	0	1	2	0
East Belfast	13	0	0	0	55	1
North Belfast	41	0	2	1	37	3
South Belfast	29	0	1	2	58	2
West Belfast	20	0	0	2	15	0
Carrickfergus	12	0	0	1	2	0

Crimes recorded where a knife was involved in the incident 2003-04[1]

	Offences against the person	*Murder*[2]	*Sexual offences*	*Burglary*	*Robbery*	*Theft*
Castlereagh	2	0	0	1	10	1
Larne	15	0	0	0	1	0
Lisburn	10	0	0	2	14	0
Newtownabbey	20	0	0	2	24	2
North Down	13	0	1	2	16	0
Urban Region	198	0	4	16	243	9
Northern Ireland	368	2	7	39	324	21

	Fraud and forgery	*Criminal damage*	*Offences against the state*	*Other notifiable offences*	*Total offences*
Armagh	0	2	1	0	14
Banbridge	0	0	0	0	9
Ballymena	0	8	2	0	42
Ballymoney	0	2	0	0	8
Coleraine	0	10	7	3	50
Cookstown	0	1	1	0	3
Craigavon	0	6	7	0	52
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	1	1	0	8
Down	0	6	4	0	32
Fermanagh	0	3	0	0	11
Foyle	0	4	5	1	54
Limavady	0	2	5	0	14
Magherafelt	0	1	0	0	4
Moyle	0	2	2	0	8
Newry and Mourne	0	7	2	0	49
Omagh	0	5	3	1	30
Strabane	0	0	1	0	7
Rural region	0	60	41	5	395
Antrim	0	4	0	0	23
Ards	0	4	1	0	23
East Belfast	0	3	7	0	79
North Belfast	0	14	13	1	112
South Belfast	0	8	10	0	110
West Belfast	0	4	13	0	54
Carrickfergus	0	1	0	0	16
Castlereagh	0	8	0	0	22
Larne	0	3	1	1	21
Lisburn	0	1	0	0	27
Newtownabbey	0	14	1	0	63
North Down	0	5	3	0	40
Urban Region	0	69	49	2	590
Northern Ireland	0	129	90	7	985

[1] Please note that the figures relate to crimes where a knife was involved in the incident—it is not known how the knife was actually used.
[2] Murder figures are also included in the 'offences against the person' total.
Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Crimes recorded where a knife was involved in the incident 2004-05[1]

	Offences against the person	*Murder*[2]	*Sexual offences*	*Burglary*	*Robbery*	*Theft*
Armagh	2	0	0	0	0	0
Banbridge	2	1	0	0	1	0
Ballymena	15	0	0	1	13	0
Ballymoney	2	0	0	1	2	0
Coleraine	20	0	0	2	5	4
Cookstown	2	0	0	1	0	0
Craigavon	33	0	0	3	5	0
Dungannon and South Tyrone	8	1	0	1	4	0

Crimes recorded where a knife was involved in the incident 2004-05[1]

	Offences against the person	*Murder*[2]	*Sexual offences*	*Burglary*	*Robbery*	*Theft*
Down	10	0	0	2	1	2
Fermanagh	2	0	1	0	1	1
Foyle	30	0	0	1	7	1
Limavady	7	0	1	1	0	0
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moyle	7	0	0	0	1	0
Newry and Mourne	24	0	1	1	5	1
Omagh	5	0	0	1	0	0
Strabane	3	0	0	0	0	0
Rural region	172	2	3	15	45	9
Antrim	10	0	0	0	6	1
Ards	7	0	0	0	6	0
East Belfast	11	0	0	2	15	2
North Belfast	59	1	1	2	54	2
South Belfast	20	2	0	2	58	1
West Belfast	40	1	0	1	18	0
Carrickfergus	6	0	0	0	6	2
Castlereagh	4	0	0	0	2	0
Larne	6	1	0	0	1	0
Lisburn	7	1	0	1	18	0
Newtownabbey	23	1	0	0	27	1
North Down	29	1	0	3	9	1
Urban Region	222	8	1	11	220	10
Northern Ireland	394	10	4	26	265	19

	Fraud and forgery	*Criminal damage*	*Offences against the state*	*Other notifiable offences*	*Total offences*
Armagh	0	3	5	0	10
Banbridge	0	8	2	0	13
Ballymena	0	11	3	0	43
Ballymoney	0	4	1	0	10
Coleraine	0	6	11	0	48
Cookstown	0	1	0	0	4
Craigavon	0	11	3	0	55
Dungannon and South Tyrone	0	4	2	0	19
Down	0	9	5	0	29
Fermanagh	0	6	3	0	14
Foyle	0	10	18	0	67
Limavady	0	5	3	0	17
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	0
Moyle	0	1	1	0	10
Newry and Mourne	0	10	5	0	47
Omagh	0	0	1	0	7
Strabane	0	2	3	0	8
Rural region	0	91	66	0	401
Antrim	0	9	9	0	35
Ards	0	5	4	0	22
East Belfast	0	6	3	0	39
North Belfast	0	10	13	0	141
South Belfast	0	6	18	0	105
West Belfast	0	4	6	0	69
Carrickfergus	0	3	3	0	20
Castlereagh	0	3	0	0	9
Larne	0	8	2	0	17
Lisburn	0	1	0	0	28

	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Offences against the state	Other notifiable offences	Total offences
Newtownabbey	0	9	0	0	60
North Down	0	6	6	0	54
Urban Region	0	70	65	0	599
Northern Ireland	0	161	131	0	1000

[1] Please note that the figures relate to crimes where a knife was involved in the incident—it is not known how the knife was actually used.
[2] Murder figures are also included in the 'offences against the person' total.

Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Crimes recorded where a knife was involved in the incident 2005-06[1]

	Offences against the person	Murder[2]	Sexual offences	Burglary	Robbery	Theft
Armagh	3	0	0	0	2	0
Banbridge	2	0	1	0	1	1
Ballymena	12	0	1	2	9	0
Baliymoney	4	0	0	0	0	0
Coleraine	14	0	4	1	7	3
Cookstown	1	0	0	0	0	0
Craigavon	35	0	0	0	15	2
Dungannon and South Tyrone	4	0	0	2	3	0
Down	12	0	0	2	4	2
Fermanagh	12	1	0	0	2	1
Foyle	36	1	0	1	11	3
Limavady	13	0	0	0	1	0
Magherafelt	0	0	0	0	1	0
Moyle	2	0	0	0	0	0
Newry and Mourne	30	0	0	0	11	1
Omagh	6	0	0	1	3	1
Sirabane	5	0	0	0	1	0
Rural region	191	2	6	9	71	14
Antrim	17	0	0	0	5	0
Ards	21	0	1	1	4	2
East Belfast	10	1	0	1	23	0
North Belfast	66	1	0	1	69	2
South Belfast	14	0	0	1	64	0
West Belfast	31	2	1	3	52	0
Carrickfergus	9	1	0	0	3	1
Castlereagh	10	0	1	0	10	2
Larne	6	0	0	1	0	0
Lisburn	4	0	0	2	20	0
Newtownabbey	23	1	2	0	31	0
North Down	28	0	2	0	7	1
Urban Region	239	6	7	10	288	8
Northern Ireland	430	8	13	19	359	22

	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Offences against the state	Other notifiable offences
Armagh	2	10	0	17
Banbridge	2	1	0	8
Ballymena	14	5	0	43
Baliymoney	1	0	0	5
Coleraine	10	17	0	56
Cookstown	0	1	0	2
Craigavon	4	5	0	61
Dungannon South Tyrone	1	0	0	10
Down	6	1	0	27
Fermanagh	4	3	0	22
Foyle	12	5	0	68
Limavady	5	3	0	22
Magherafelt	0	0	0	1

	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Offences against the state	Other notifiable offences
Moyle	3	0	0	5
Newry and Mourne	6	10	0	58
Omagh	4	4	0	19
Strabane	0	2	0	8
Rural region	74	67	0	432
Antrim	4	5	0	31
Ards	6	4	0	39
East Belfast	3	1	0	38
North Belfast	9	26	0	173
South Belfast	4	29	0	112
West Belfast	3	21	1	112
Carrickfergus	0	0	0	13
Castlereagh	2	2	0	27
Larne	4	3	0	14
Lisburn	3	0	0	29
Newtownabbey	8	3	0	67
North Down	1	4	0	43
Urban Region	47	98	1	698
Northern Ireland	121	165	1	1130

[1] Please note that the figures relate to crimes where a knife was involved in the incident—it is not known how the knife was actually used.
[2] Murder figures are also included in the 'offences against the person' total.
Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Organisations

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding was awarded by the Government to lesbian, gay and bisexual organisations in Northern Ireland in 2004-05; and what percentage of funding awarded to all section 75 groups this represented. [59991]

Paul Goggins *[pursuant to the reply, 16 May 2006, Official Report, c. 879W]:* Unfortunately due to an administrative error the hon. Gentleman was provided with incorrect information. The correct information is as follows:

£596,613 was awarded to lesbian, gay and bisexual organisations in 2004-05. This is approximately 0.8 per cent. of the amount paid by Government to all organisations in the voluntary and community sector.

I apologise for any inconvenience caused.

L'Estrange and Brett

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what services provided by L'Estrange and Brett Solicitors the Northern Ireland Police Fund wrote a cheque for more than £60,000. [82868]

Paul Goggins: The details of payments made by the Northern Ireland Police Fund is a matter for the Fund.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland why the Northern Ireland Police Fund wrote a cheque to L'Estrange and Brett Solicitors for more than £60,000; who signed it; who authorised it; and whether it was *(a)* discussed and *(b)* approved by the directors of the board. [82960]

Paul Goggins: The details of the payments made by the Northern Ireland Police Fund are matters for the Fund.

Select Committee Recommendations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what action has been taken by his Department to implement Northern Ireland Select Committee recommendations since the 2001-02 Session; and if he will make a statement. [78851]

Mr. Hain: Information relating to the implementation of Northern Ireland Select Committee recommendations for each year since the 2001-02 Session is not held centrally. It cannot therefore be readily retrieved without incurring disproportionate costs. In their responses to Northern Ireland Select Committee reports the Government make it clear whether or not they accept the Committee's recommendations.

Sex Offenders

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons on the sex offenders register in Northern Ireland have reoffended while still on the register in each of the last five years. [81809]

Mr. Hanson: The Northern Ireland Sex Offender Strategic Management Committee in its annual report "Managing the Risk 05/06" published on 27 June 2006 reported that of the cases managed at category 2 (medium risk) or category 3 (high risk) one offender was charged or reported for a further serious sex

offence during the previous 12-month period ending 31 March 2006. The information for the previous four years and for category 1 (low risk) offenders is not collated centrally by the PSNI and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. At an operational level the police and other agencies involved in the multi-agency sex offender risk assessment and management (MASRAM) procedures are fully aware of the nature of each individual offender's offending behaviour including whether this involves further offences of a sexual nature.

Waste Management

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the environmental effects of the incineration of *(a)* municipal and *(b)* industrial waste. [82019]

David Cairns: There are no incinerators in Northern Ireland burning municipal waste. Any future municipal waste incinerator would require a permit from the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) to operate, would be required to meet the standards of the Waste Incineration Directive and would be required to assess the impact of such an operation on the environment. EHS would also carry out its own assessment of the impact before any permit issued and this would include the use of computer software to model the impact of emissions on local air quality.

There are a few incinerators in Northern Ireland handling industrial waste although the incineration facilities for industrial or indeed other waste are not extensive. All such operations are required by the regulators to meet UK and European standards of operations. These standards, in particular the emission limits on discharges to air, are set at a level to ensure that there can be no meaningful impact on local air quality standards or any detriment to health. All incinerators undergo regular monitoring to ensure these standards are consistently met.

The impact of all incinerators is also assessed by the regulators as part of the process of determining applications for the environmental permits that each incinerator must hold in order to operate. For the larger incinerators this includes the use of computer software to model the impact of emissions on local air quality.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has plans to introduce compulsory recycling schemes. [82020]

David Cairns: There are no current plans to introduce compulsory recycling schemes in Northern Ireland.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Academies

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether teachers working in academies will retain their national negotiating rights on pay and conditions. [82460]

Jim Knight: Academies, as independent schools, are not bound by the School Teachers' Pay and Conditions of Service Document or by guidance on support staff pay and conditions issued by the National Joint Council, but can negotiate their own pay and conditions arrangements with staff.

Where academies replace existing schools there will in many cases be a transfer of undertakings under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 (TUPE). In such cases, staff of the closing school have the right to transfer to the academy on their existing terms and conditions, as set out in the Teachers' Pay and Conditions document.

Academies need to respond innovatively to the huge challenges they face. The ability to negotiate their own pay and conditions to meet the particular needs of the academy, its staff and students, is part of the increased flexibility they need to meet these challenges.

Adult Education

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on recent changes in the *(a)* funding and *(b)* number of adult education courses, with particular reference to (i) basic skills courses, (ii) other vocational courses and (iii) non-vocational and community education. [79888]

Bill Rammell: Our strategic priorities for adult learning which I announced on 21 October 2005 are to: support adults who lack basic skills or the platform of skills for employability; ensure a wide range of opportunities at level 3; and, ensure the continued availability of a wide range of opportunities for personal and community development (PCDL). I reaffirmed our commitment to safeguard the funding for PCDL in mainstream further education and local authority funded adult education (adult and community learning) with a budget of £210 million in 2006/07.

Overall we have increased further education funding nationally by around £2.5 billion since 1997—equivalent to 48 per cent. in real terms. Our investment in adult learning will remain broadly stable at £2.9 billion but the nature of provision will change. Colleges will provide more publicly funded long courses to meet national skills demands including a new free entitlement to a first full level 3 qualification for young adults for which we are making available new funds of £25 million. Post-16 providers, including colleges, will provide around 3.5 million adult places in 2007/08, a reduction of around 6 per cent. compared to now.

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what average hourly rate was paid by his Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81498]

Mr. Dhanda: The average hourly rate paid by the Department for staff employed through Adecco in the financial year 2005-06 was as follows:

Grade	Average hourly charge rate (£)
AA	8.59
AO	9.81
EO	12.39
HEO	17.24
Messenger	7.97
Pers sec	13.65
Snr pers sec	14.53

Black/Asian Employees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* black and Asian and *(b)* other people are employed in his Department's press office. [74355]

Mr. Dhanda: A total of 26 people are employed in the Department's press office of whom less than five are black and Asian.

Information on ethnicity is collected on a voluntary basis.

Child Care

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his policy is on the charging of top-up fees by providers of child care in receipt of monies from his Department. [82968]

Beverley Hughes: Every three and four-year-old is entitled to 12 ½ hours of free high-quality early education and care for 38 weeks of the year. The fees that providers charge parents for additional hours and services beyond the free entitlement are a private matter between providers and parents.

The entitlement must be free at the point of delivery. The funding the Government provide is not a subsidy, and should not be treated as such by providers. Providers must make no charge to parents for the funded hours accessed and must reduce their fees by the amount they would usually charge were the child not accessing a free place. Providers may not require parents to take up additional hours or services as a condition of access to a free place. To allow this practice could result in a two-tier system where real choice exists only for the well-off, and the most disadvantaged—precisely those who stand most to benefit from free provision—are excluded.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the projected budget is of CAFCASS for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [83059]

Mr. Dhanda: The decisions about CAFCASS budgets for 2007-08 and 2008-09 have not yet been made. In 2006-07 CAFCASS received additional funding of £4.69 million for one-off expenditure this year and, following royal assent to the Children and Adoption Act 2006, work is taking place to identify the resources that will be necessary to commence its provisions. I am monitoring the financial position of CAFCASS and I am in ongoing discussions with the Chair and Chief Executive.

Class Sizes

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average class size is of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school classes in England. [82456]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the following table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools: average class sizes[1, 2] as at January 2006[3] England

	Average class size
Key stage 1 classes[4]	25.6
Key stage 2 classes	27.3
Classes in primary schools	26.3
Classes in secondary schools	21.5

[1] Classes as taught during a single selected period in each school on the day of the census in January.
[2] Classes taught by one teacher.
[3] Provisional.
[4] Includes reception classes.

Source:
Schools' Census

Final 2006 class size data will be published in September.

The information provided in this response was published in April in the Statistical First Release: Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England, January 2006 (Provisional):

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000654/index.shtml

Credit Unions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if his Department will provide information and membership forms for credit unions to its employees. [79941]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government welcome the contribution made by the various savings institutions in providing for greater choice and diversity in the financial services sector.

The Government's guiding principles are to ensure impartiality and to help create a level playing field for all providers of financial services in order that their specific attributes can be properly harnessed.

It would therefore be inconsistent for a Government Department to favour credit unions above other financial institutions.

Employees are of course free to join in credit unions if they meet their relevant membership criteria and Departments may provide appropriate levels of support if employees wish to set up a credit union.

Departmental Contracts

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the value is of the contracts

his Department holds with *(a)* Capita plc and *(b)* its subsidiaries which still have a potential duration of five years or more. [83039]

Mr. Dhanda: A complete answer to this question could be supplied only at disproportionate cost. I can tell you, however, that the Department holds the following Capita contracts with a potential duration of 5 or more years:

Teachers' Pensions Administration from 2003 to 2010 value estimated £60.5 million.

National Strategies from 2005 to 2010 value estimated £180 million.

Connexions Card, which was included in the answer to your question on a similar subject on 12 June 2006, will be terminated in August 2006 and will not now have a potential duration of 5 or more years.

Departmental Pensions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will estimate the pension liability of his Department over the next 30 years. [75238]

Mr. Dhanda: The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme and individual Departments' pension liabilities are not available. Pension liabilities are estimated for individual pension schemes. HM Treasury deposited a full statement about these liabilities together with a technical note covering all the major schemes in the Library of the House on 2 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 388-390, following an oral statement in Parliament by the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

The statement and technical note provide detailed information about the size and nature of the liabilities and how they are calculated. Table 1 of the technical note shows a breakdown of liabilities per pension scheme.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list in date order *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by his Department since October 2005. [81290]

Bill Rammell: The Department has produced one Green Paper and one White Paper since October 2005. These were:

"Reducing reoffending through skills and employment" (Green Paper) published on 15 December 2005 and;

"Further education: raising skills, improving life chances" (White Paper) published on 27 March 2006.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his practice is regarding meeting, discussing and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81292]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department always seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy-making process; both informal and formal. The Department holds regular meetings with representatives of the principal stakeholder groups for our policy areas and with relevant experts. Organisations and individuals can also contribute to the Department's formal consultations which abide by the Code of Conduct on Consultation. Known stakeholders are alerted to the fact that a formal consultation is taking place. As required by the Code, the Department then gives feedback on the responses received and on how the consultation process influenced the policy decision.

Four Government Bills have been introduced to Parliament by the Department in the current parliamentary session, the Children and Adoption Bill, the Childcare Bill, the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Bill and the Education and Inspections Bill.

The Children and Adoption Bill was published in draft for pre-legislative scrutiny by a joint committee of both Houses, and the Government published their response to the report of that committee before the Bill was introduced to Parliament. Prior to that, the policy proposals on which the Bill was based were subject to full consultation through the Green Paper "Parental Separation: Children's Needs and Parents' Responsibilities". Discussions were held with key stakeholders throughout the preparation of the Bill.

Full consultation was carried out on the Childcare Bill, including discussions with stakeholders and a formal consultation from 15 July to 7 October 2005. The Department published a response to this consultation, "Report on Responses to Consultation on Legislative Proposals for the Future of Childcare and Early Years Provision in England", in late October 2005, copies of which can be found in the House of Commons Library. Regular meetings were held throughout the framing and drafting of the Bill with key stakeholders including provider organisations, children's charities and local authority representatives.

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (SVG) Bill was subject to extensive consultation prior to introduction. A range of consultations have informed the development of the centralised vetting and barring scheme for which the SVG Bill will provide the statutory framework. In April 2005 a consultation was carried out on proposals for the vetting and barring scheme (VBS). Further engagement with stakeholders on the policy detail was carried out in December 2005, and January, March and April 2006 on the Independent Barring Board (IBB). The Department continues to consult with stakeholders as the VBS systems and processes are developed in more detail.

Proposals for the Education and Inspections Bill were set out in the Schools White Paper "Higher Standards, Better Schools for All—More Choice for Parents and Pupils" published on 25 October 2005. This followed on from the DfES Five Year Strategy published in July 2004 which was extensively consulted upon. In addition, it enacts the policies that were set out in the 2005 Labour party manifesto. The Department discussed the White Paper with a very wide range of stakeholders over recent months.

Electronic Children's Database

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which public sector bodies will have access to the new electronic children's database. [83014]

Beverley Hughes: Practitioners from health, education, social care, and youth justice will be granted access to the information sharing index. Access will be granted according to the role of the practitioner. For example, in a school a small number of named designated staff, such as teachers of children with special educational needs or who have pastoral or child protection responsibilities, would have access.

We will be consulting over the autumn on draft regulations that will bring the information sharing index into operation. Among other issues, the regulations will specify the types of practitioners in the Children's Workforce whose role would make it appropriate for them to have access to the index. All practitioners with access will have appropriate Criminal Records Bureau checks and have undergone relevant training.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the *(a)* personal attributes and *(b)* fields which the electronic children's database will have the capability to hold. [83060]

Beverley Hughes: The information sharing index will contain only limited and basic information about children in England and contact details for other services working with the child or young person. It will enable practitioners to identify and contact one another easily and quickly, so that they can share relevant information about children who need services or about whose welfare they are concerned.

It will not record information on personal attributes such as children's diet, church attendance or school attainment. The Children's Act 2004 specifically prohibits the inclusion of any case information on the index. There will be no subjective opinions or observations about a child or parent, no details of assessments such as the Common Assessment Framework and no automatic triggers for action or investigation.

Information fields on the index will hold for each child or young person:

basic identifying information: name, address, gender, date of birth, and a unique identifying number based on the existing child reference number/national insurance number;

basic identifying information about the child's parent or carer;

contact details for services involved with the child: as a minimum school and GP practice, and other services where appropriate and if consent from the child or family has left obtained in respect of a sensitive service.

The facility for practitioners to indicate to others that they have information to share, have taken action, or have undertaken a Common Assessment Framework, in relation to a child; and

other information included solely for the purposes of identifying and managing the quality of data in the index, for example the date of the last update to the record.

We will consult over the autumn on draft regulations that will bring the index into operation. The draft regulations will be laid before both Houses for debate under affirmative resolution procedures. Subject to the will of Parliament, the index is expected to be available in all local areas in England by the end of 2008.

Higher Education Funding Council

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans there are for the Higher Education Funding Council to administer *(a)* Sussex university and *(b)* the University of Brighton; and if he will make a statement. [83034]

Bill Rammell: There are currently no plans for the Higher Education Funding Council for England to administer or otherwise intervene in the affairs of either university.

Holiday Play Schemes

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what qualifications are required for volunteers helping to run holiday play schemes; and if he will make a statement. [82693]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* The national standards for holiday play schemes, and other day care providers looking after children aged under eight, require that the manager of a scheme holds at least a level 3 qualification appropriate to the post; and that at least half of all staff hold a level 2 qualification appropriate to the care and development of children. Volunteers would not need to hold such qualifications if they are counted in the 50 per cent. for whom qualifications are not required.

A wide range of qualifications is acceptable for meeting the requirements of the national standards, and those at levels 2 to 4 are listed on the database of acceptable qualifications now maintained by the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC). Higher level qualifications, such as in teaching or social work, would normally be acceptable for managers.

Learning and Skills Council

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of further education Learning and Skills Council funding was spent on 19 to 25-year-olds in 2005-06; and what proportion is planned to be spent in the next two financial years. [81802]

Bill Rammell: For the most recently completed academic year, 2004/05, 27 per cent. of the adult further education budget was spent on young adults aged 19 to 25. Figures for 2005/06 are not yet available. We have not set out specific plans for the proportion of the adult FE budget to be spent on this cohort for 2006/07 or 2007/08. However, we have announced a new free entitlement to a first full level 3 for 19 to 25-year-olds from 2007/08 and an additional £25 million will be available to support this entitlement.

Modern Languages

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students *(a)* aged 14 years and over and *(b)* at university level studied modern languages in each of the last 10 years. [82352]

Bill Rammell: The available information is given in the tables.

15-year-old pupils[1] entered for a GCSE foreign language, England

Academic year	Number
1995/96	439,318
1996/97	434,054
1997/98	442,130
1998/99	499,897
1999/2000	454,574
2000/01	468,487
2001/02	456,805
2002/03	449,376
2003/04	430,397
2004/05[2]	365,320

[1] Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2] 2004/05 GCSE examinations saw the first pupils for whom modern foreign languages were not compulsory.

Pupils entered for an A-Level foreign language, England

Academic year	Number
1995/96	43,123
1996/97	41,750
1997/98	36,568
1998/99	34,484
1999/2000	30,997
2000/01	30,905
2001/02	28,252
2002/03	27,475
2003/04	27,052
2004/05	26,665

FE level enrolments

In 2004/05, 120,000 aims funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) could be classified as 'Other (i.e. non-British) languages, literature and culture'. Figures for foreign languages can not be identified separately in earlier years.

UK domiciled enrolments to modern language HE courses at English HE institutions[1]

Academic year	Postgraduate	Undergraduate	Total
1995/96[2]	2,005	35,000	37,005
1996/97	2,095	33,755	35,850
1997/98	1,955	32,020	33,975
1998/99	1,900	29,325	31,225
1999/2000	1,930	27,920	29,850
2000/01	1,770	26,675	28,445
2001/02	1,915	26,975	28,890
2002/03[3]	2,125	32,270	34,405
2003/04	2,180	31,135	33,315
2004/05	2,005	29,455	31,455

[1] Figures exclude the Open university as subject of study cannot be consistently identified across the 10 years.
[2] Figures up to and including 2001/02 include those students studying on balanced combinations within languages.
[3] Figures for 2002/03 onwards are not comparable to earlier years due to changes in recording subject of study. For 2001/02 and earlier, figures are on a major subject of study basis. For 2002/03 onwards students are apportioned between all subjects of study.
Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December (excluding those writing up, on sabbatical or dormant) and are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

New Schools

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many new schools commissioned by the local authority have been built since 2001. [82458]

Jim Knight: Information on the number of schools commissioned by Coventry local education authority that have been built since 2001 is not held by the Department.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many applications he is considering from local authorities to build new community schools. [82459]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State does not normally consider individual proposals for new schools. Proposals for additional secondary schools in a competition under the Education Act 2002 would fall to be decided by the Secretary of State, but there have been no such competitions. Following consultation and the publication of a notice followed by a representation period, proposals would normally be decided under local decision-making arrangements. The Department has been informed that currently 24 proposals for new community schools are outstanding. These are all for merged schools following reorganisation.

Local authorities receive support for capital investment through our main capital programmes. Investment decisions are largely taken locally.

Under the Education and Inspections Bill currently before Parliament, there will normally be a competition for all new schools, and the publication of proposals for new community schools from most authorities will require the consent of the Secretary of State. The proposals will be decided by the local authority or the schools adjudicator.

Personal Finance Education

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what measures are *(a)* in place and *(b)* under consideration for teaching secondary school pupils about the management of personal finances; and if he will make a statement; [82903]

(2) how much has been allocated to programmes to educate secondary school children about how to manage personal finances; and if he will make a statement. [82904]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government recognise the importance of personal finance education for all young people. The National Curriculum for Citizenship, which is compulsory at key stages 3 and 4 (11 to 16-year-olds), includes teaching pupils about how the economy functions, including the role of business and financial services. In addition, the DfES has asked the QCA, as part of the wider review of GCSE maths and the emphasis on improving functional skills, to consider including financial capability more explicitly in the maths curriculum. QCA has also developed a package of guidance for teachers of PSHE which includes two units of work on financial capability. In September 2004, we made work-related learning a statutory element of the curriculum, and from September 2005 are funding schools to develop a new focus on enterprise education, defined as enterprise capability supported by better financial capability and economic and business understanding. We are also working closely with the Financial Services Authority to take forward its Financial Capability Strategy which includes support for schools to deliver better personal finance education.

It is for schools and local authorities to decide the level of resources required to support their personal finance education programmes.

School Discipline

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what counselling services are provided for teachers who develop stress-related illnesses as a result of dealing with persistently badly behaved pupils. [82722]

Jim Knight: It is employers who have the responsibility for the health and safety of their staff and this includes access to Occupational Health Services. In addition, governing bodies and head teachers are encouraged to adopt or participate in health awareness programmes so that their staff can make full use of the welfare and counselling services available. The Department is also implementing a wide range of programmes for schools to manage pupil behaviour more effectively.

School Opt-outs

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools he estimates wish to opt out of local authority control. [82457]

Jim Knight: The Government have no proposals to allow schools to opt out of local authority control, and therefore no estimates of the number of schools which might wish to do so.

Student Safety

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* education is provided in schools and colleges, *(b)* information his Department issues and *(c)* grants are available for the purpose of advising sixth form and college students on personal safety issues. [81470]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for funding post-16 education and training in schools and colleges. The LSC does not stipulate the training that is required by each funded learner to ensure their health and safety. Each learner's complete learning programme should contain the appropriate personal health and safety training. It is a contractual responsibility of each school or college to determine what training is required and to ensure that this is delivered. Training should be in line with the result of risk assessment taking into account the environment, task, and the learner's age, experience and any special requirements.

The LSC carries out "seeking assurance" activities to satisfy itself that every funded organisation that recruits learners is fulfilling their responsibilities with regard to health and safety. In addition and to spread good practice in health and safety, the LSC maintains a good practice website—where information and teaching materials are available on ensuring learner health and safety www.safelearner.info

Sure Start

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding was allocated to Sure Start in Swindon in each year between 2002-03 and 2005-06. [82837]

Beverley Hughes: Swindon receives Sure Start funding to support the Pinehurst and Penhill Sure Start local programme (SSLP) and, as part of the General Sure Start Grant, they also receive funding to support Sure Start Children's Centres.

Allocated revenue funding for the SSLP was as follows:

	Sure Start local programme revenue (£)
2002-03	684,450
2003-04	756,100
2004-05	775,003
2005-06	794,378

In addition, the SSLP was allocated capital of £1,079,625, which was not allocated to specific financial years.

Funding for Sure Start Children's Centres began in 2004 with local authorities receiving a two year capital and revenue allocation for the period 2004-06. For this period Swindon's allocation was:

	£
Revenue	378,914
Capital	596,692

Teachers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many foreign teachers, excluding language assistants, are working in maintained *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools, broken down by nationality. [81853]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Tuition Fees

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which undergraduate university courses charge a tuition fee of less than £3,000; and how many students are attending such courses in academic year 2005-06. [82450]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* In 2006/07, institutions with an access agreement with OFFA can charge variable tuition fees of up to £3,000. Those without an access agreement can only charge the standard fee rate which will be £1,200. The following institutions are those that have an access agreement to charge variable fees and who will be charging less than £3,000:

Askham Bryan college
Barking college
Bishop Burton college
College of St. Mark and St. John
Hull college
Leeds Metropolitan university
Loughborough college
New College, Durham
New College, Nottingham
Newcastle college
Northbrook college, Sussex
Sparsholt college, Hampshire
Thames Valley university
The Grimsby Institute of further and higher education
Trinity and All Saints
University college Northampton
University of Greenwich
West Thames college
Wigan and Leigh college
Worcester college of technology
Writtle college
York St. John college

Details of access agreements are only available at an institutional level. Data are not available at an individual course level. It is therefore not possible to provide details of specific courses which will charge a tuition fee of less than £3,000 or the associated student numbers on these courses in academic year 2005/06.

Information on the amount of fees charged per student and course will be available from the Student Loans Company after the start of the 2006/07 academic year.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of students are exempt from paying tuition fees in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* constituency; and if he will make a statement. [82982]

Bill Rammell: The percentage of students from each London borough making no contribution to their tuition fees in 2004/05 is given in the table.

London borough	*Percentage of students making no contribution to fees*
Barking and Dagenham	64
Barnet	40
Bexley	39
Brent	52
Bromley	30
Camden	61
Corporation of London	50
Croydon	43
Ealing	49
Enfield	45
Greenwich	57
Hackney	76
Hammersmith and Fulham	63
Haringey	59
Harrow	38
Havering	35
Hillingdon	39
Hounslow	41
Islington	63
Kensington and Chelsea	52
Kingston upon Thames	33
Lambeth	67
Lewisham	61
Merton	41
Newham	76
Redbridge	44
Richmond upon Thames	31
Southwark	67
Sutton	30
Tower Hamlets	82
Waltham Forest	62
Wandsworth	54
Westminster	60
Total England[1]	43

[1] A figure for all English local authorities has been included in the table for comparison purposes.

Source:
Student Loans Company (SLC)

Data are not available at the constituency level.

Students on full-time undergraduate courses and their families are expected to make a contribution towards the cost of their tuition based on household income. Students from lower income backgrounds are wholly or partially exempt from paying tuition fees.

From 2006/07 upfront fees are abolished and full-time students will be eligible for tuition fee loans of up to £3,000. In addition, we expect around 30 per cent. of students to receive a maximum maintenance grant of £2,700 and an HE institution bursary of at least £300.

Overall, we expect around half of all eligible students to receive at least some maintenance grant.

University of Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* full-time equivalent lecturers and *(b)* students there were at the University of Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [82604]

Bill Rammell: The latest available figures are given in the table:

Student enrolments and academic staff at the University of Sussex

	Enrolments[1]	*Lecturers*[2]
1995/96	11,000	500
1996/97	11,715	495
1997/98	11,495	440
1998/99	11,750	445
1999/2000	10,900	440
2000/01	10,915	435
2001/02	11,080	400
2002/03	11,080	395
2003/04[3]	11,105	365
2004/05[3]	11,345	390

[1] Student numbers are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December, and exclude students writing up, on sabbatical or dormant. Figures include undergraduate and postgraduate students.
[2] Full-time equivalent staff figures are on the basis of staff with active contracts in the reporting period. Figures include senior lecturers and researchers and lecturers employed in teaching or teaching/research.
[3] Up until 2002/03 the staff record only included academic staff with a full-time equivalent greater than 25 per cent.; as from 2003/04, all academic staff were included. Therefore, the numbers for 2003/04 and 2004/05 are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student and staff record data.

Youth Opportunity Cards

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what arrangements are in place to ensure the technology is available to launch the pilot schemes for the youth opportunity cards in Sunderland during autumn 2006. [82993]

Beverley Hughes: We are currently exploring the options to ensure that the appropriate delivery vehicle is available to deliver the youth opportunity card. There is a great deal of detailed analysis to be done and it is important to take the time to ensure we get it right. The priority is to ensure that the technological solution can deliver the functionality required. We are working to the pilot schemes launch as soon as possible, although we may have to revise the original position of timescale.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 10 July 2006

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Average Temperatures

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average temperature in London has been in each month of the past 10 years. [82821]

Ian Pearson: The following table contains temperature data for London for each month of the past 10 years, collected from the Meteorological Office's London site located in Holborn, on the Clerkenwell road.

The three columns cover the average maximum temperatures recorded on each day in the month, the average of the minimum temperatures recorded on each day in the month, and the overall mean (that is, for the 24-hour period, averaged over all days in the month).

	Average maximum (° C)	*Average minimum (° C)*	*Mean (° C)*
1996			
January	7.63	4.06	5.77
February	6.84	1.51	4.19
March	8.65	3.41	6.03
April	14.07	7.02	10.54
May	14.36	7.24	10.80
June	21.69	12.88	17.29
July	22.76	14.48	18.62
August	21.89	14.75	18.32
September	18.24	12.06	15.15
October	16.15	10.62	13.38
November	10.52	4.91	7.72
December	6.82	2.87	4.84
1997			
January	6.01	1.62	3.81
February	10.64	5.41	8.03
March	13.76	6.99	10.41
April	15.04	6.80	10.92
May	18.57	9.74	14.16
June	19.73	12.62	16.18
July	23.27	15.03	19.15
August	25.98	17.77	21.87
September	20.58	13.11	16.84
October	15.77	9.08	12.43
November	12.77	8.05	10.41
December	9.66	5.34	7.50
1998			
January	9.37	4.88	7.12
February	11.88	5.92	8.90
March	12.45	6.97	9.71
April	12.94	6.85	9.89
May	19.68	10.76	15.22
June	20.02	12.87	16.45
July	21.28	13.90	17.59
August	23.26	14.28	18.77
September	20.20	13.51	16.85
October	14.52	9.67	12.10
November	10.00	5.12	7.56
December	9.98	5.13	7.55
1999			
January	9.93	5.27	7.60
February	9.04	4.16	6.60
March	12.56	6.50	9.53
April	15.22	7.95	11.59
May	19.40	11.41	15.40
June	20.37	12.52	16.45
July	24.94	15.47	20.20
August	22.76	15.27	19.01
September	21.69	14.77	18.23
October	15.92	9.65	12.78
November	11.43	7.09	9.26
December	9.01	4.11	6.56
2000			
January	8.93	4.47	6.70
February	10.73	5.40	8.07
March	12.20	6.33	9.27
April	13.50	6.77	10.13
May	18.27	10.37	14.32
June	21.52	14.00	17.76
July	21.02	13.83	17.43
August	23.46	15.45	19.46
September	20.47	13.85	17.16
October	14.92	9.70	12.31
November	11.47	6.50	9.01
December	9.40	6.06	7.73
2001			
January	7.69	3.36	5.53
February	9.42	3.89	6.66
March	9.84	4.78	7.31
April	13.04	6.63	9.83
May	19.09	9.99	14.54
June	20.80	12.77	16.79
July	24.14	15.91	20.02
August	23.62	15.68	19.65
September	18.03	11.95	14.99
October	18.04	12.63	15.33
November	11.46	6.33	8.89
December	7.75	3.08	5.41
2002			
January	10.13	5.19	7.66
February	11.53	5.99	8.76
March	12.81	6.64	9.72
April	15.85	7.50	11.67
May	17.68	10.33	14.01

	Average maximum (° C)	*Average minimum (° C)*	*Mean (° C)*
June	20.62	12.87	16.74
July	22.36	14.61	18.49
August	23.51	15.85	19.68
September	20.05	12.68	16.36
October	15.11	9.54	12.32
November	12.84	8.60	10.72
December	9.34	6.00	7.67
2003			
January	8.26	3.96	6.11
February	8.97	3.25	6.11
March	13.96	5.95	9.95
April	15.70	7.56	11.63
May	18.55	10.62	14.58
June	23.47	14.81	19.14
July	23.92	15.97	19.95
August	26.13	16.89	21.51
September	21.71	12.62	17.17
October	14.21	7.87	11.04
November	12.78	8.26	10.52
December	9.32	4.94	7.13
2004			
January	9.15	4.53	6.84
February	8.96	4.91	6.93
March	11.10	5.32	8.21
April	15.39	8.16	11.78
May	18.27	10.88	14.58
June	22.09	14.12	18.11
July	23.09	14.62	18.85
August	24.17	16.20	20.19
September	20.94	13.56	17.25
October	15.45	10.34	12.90
November	11.52	7.38	9.45
December	9.47	4.88	7.18
2005			
January	9.85	5.31	7.58
February	7.68	3.52	5.60
March	11.79	5.73	8.76
April	15.15	7.81	11.48
May	17.71	9.96	13.84
June	22.74	14.02	18.38
July	22.90	14.99	18.95
August	23.05	14.29	18.67
September	21.40	13.99	17.69
October	17.80	12.34	15.07
November	10.84	5.33	8.09
December	8.55	3.98	6.26
2006			
January	7.80	4.27	6.03
February	7.35	3.09	5.22
March	9.45	3.84	6.64
April	13.94	7.40	10.67
May	18.40	10.95	14.68
June	23.71	14.27	18.99

Note:
The values for April to June 2006 are provisional until the quality control of these data is completed.

Badgers

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment was made of the psychological effects on each badger captured in the recent field trials of badger body snares. [82468]

Mr. Bradshaw: The study follows the principles laid down in the draft EU directive on humane trapping standards. These include an assessment of the behaviour of the animals as a measure of their psychological welfare. The assessment carried out during work on these methods, in pens, included continuous video monitoring of the animals to assess their welfare and behaviour. This was conducted prior to the start of the field trials. Such continuous monitoring is not carried out during field trials. Following completion of the trials and peer review a full report will be published by the end of the summer.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made towards the target of annual reductions of 3 per cent. of carbon dioxide emissions. [77680]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not have a target to reduce emissions by 3 per cent. per year.

The policies and measures set out in the 2006 UK Climate Change Programme are currently projected to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions to 14 to 17 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2010. This would take us close to our domestic goal to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2010 and help to put us on a path towards our long-term target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by some 60 per cent. by about 2050, with real progress by 2020.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State, announced on 29 June the UK's proposal for the next phase of the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme. The proposal outlines the contribution business needs to make to help tackle climate change and save 8 million tonnes of carbon each year. A saving of this amount would equate to the emissions of 4½ million households.

Cetaceans

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* sharks and *(b)* dolphins were killed by British fishermen in each of the last 10 years. [79400]

Mr. Bradshaw: Over the past 10 years UK fisheries have landed an average of approximately 12,000 tonnes of dogfishes and sharks per year. Of these, "sharks" (pelagic and unspecified sharks) accounted for approximately 1,000 tonnes per year, although this has decreased in recent years. I do not have information on

the numbers of sharks caught because the data on landings is recorded in tonnes and it is difficult to convert this into numbers of sharks due to the wide range of species and body sizes.

Deliberate capture and killing and reckless disturbance of cetaceans is prohibited under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Bycatch of dolphins and other marine mammals does, however, occur in some fisheries. The exact number of animals that die from bycatch every year is unknown, as it is not feasible to monitor all fishing operations.

Bycatch has been monitored in the bass pair trawl fishery. An average of 180 dolphins per year were bycaught in the bass pair trawl fishery between 2000-01 and 2004-05 winter seasons. Estimates for each year are provided in the following table:

	Number
2000-01	189
2001-02	39
2002-03	114
2003-04	429
2004-05	145
Total	916

Bycatch is known to occur in gill net fisheries in the Channel and Western Approaches, but there are no recent estimates of the numbers involved. The most recent estimate dates from the early 1990s when around 200 common dolphins were being bycaught in the English and Irish gill net fishery for hake.

The long-running DEFRA-funded Cetacean Strandings Contract has shown a 13 per cent. reduction in strandings around the UK coast in 2005 (799 in 2004, 700 in 2005). Figures for the preceding four years (2000 to 2004) had shown a generally increasing trend from 420 in 2000 to 799 in 2004. A report analysing the findings was published on 6 July 2006 and is available on DEFRA's website.

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of his Department. [80088]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA's acting finance director is Ian Grattidge, pending a permanent appointment via an open competition, currently under way. Ian Grattidge joined DEFRA on 18 February 2002 and was appointed acting director on 7 November 2005.

Ian Grattidge is a Fellow of the Institute of Certified Chartered Accountants.

Prior to joining DEFRA, Ian Grattidge held finance director posts at the Food Standards Agency and the Veterinary Laboratories Agency. He has also held posts in the Finance Management Division of former MAFF and at the BBC; was Head of Finance and Business Administration at the Laboratory of the Government Chemist, DTI; financial accountant at NMI Ltd; an internal auditor for the DTI and a tax inspector for HM Customs and Excise.

Departmental Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate the Government have made of greenhouse gas emissions from *(a)* car, *(b)* aviation, *(c)* train and *(d)* ship transportation by Departments in each year since 1997. [80776]

Ian Pearson: The estimates available for greenhouse gas emissions from transport by Departments currently focus on the road car fleet. The most recent estimates for carbon dioxide emissions from this car fleet was published in November 2005 as part of the "Sustainable Development in Government (SDIG): Fourth Annual Report". This covers the period from April 2004 to March 2005. Copies are available from the Sustainable Development Commission website:http://www.sd-Commission.org.uk/watchdog/4th_Annual _Report_(final)_UPDATED_30_11_05.pdf.

All central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset since 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. Final calculations for the opening year of the scheme, 2006-07, will be carried out in April 2007.

The DEFRA-led Civil Service Travel Group has been created to help improve travel sustainability across the civil service. Its initial focus will be to work with all Departments on a voluntary basis to help them develop, and improve their own management information systems (MIS) on travel activities, alongside developing sustainable travel action plans for them to progress.

Energy Crops Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to re-run the current Energy Crops Scheme. [83269]

Ian Pearson: The Government have agreed in principle to support energy crops under the new Rural Development Programme, which will run from 2007 to 2013. We are currently considering how best to take this forward with regard to the responses to the consultation on the Rural Development Programme for England. The nature of the support may be different to that provided under the current programme.

We hope to send the new Rural Development Programme to the European Commission in the autumn for its approval.

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to encourage companies to carry out regular audits of their buildings to seek opportunities for introducing energy efficiency methods. [79685]

Ian Pearson: The Carbon Trust provides a range of tools and products designed to help companies to make an assessment of the energy they use and to understand

where changes could be made. This includes action plan tools, energy surveys, design advice and benchmarking tools. The Carbon Trust also offers small and medium-sized companies interest free loans to help them take practical energy efficiency action. In addition, the Trust's Carbon Management programme provides a systematic approach to managing the risks and realising the opportunities that climate change presents. It looks at both the revenue and cost sides of business and involves areas outside the scope of a normal energy or operational efficiency review.

Environmental Liability Directive

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the environmental liability directive on *(a)* pollution control, *(b)* water resources, *(c)* biodiversity, *(d)* wildlife, *(e)* contaminated land and *(f)* environmental protection in the UK. [81942]

Ian Pearson: Proposals for implementing regulatory measures have to be accompanied by an impact assessment. The first public consultation, to be launched later this year, will be accompanied by a detailed assessment of all costs and benefits of implementing the environmental liability directive, taking account of existing environmental protection regimes.

Environmental Management

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if he will make a statement. [81318]

Ian Pearson: On 12 June the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State announced new sustainable operations targets for the Government estate. Environmental Management Systems (EMS) are a key enabler in supporting improvements in operational performance on the estate, particularly in areas such as energy, water and waste. Therefore, the new targets included a commitment that all Departments should have an EMS in place, based, or modelled upon, a recognised system (such as ISO 14001, or the European regulation EMAS).

In terms of certification some Departments have implemented the international standard ISO 14001 and have obtained external certification. Other Departments are working towards implementation of the standard and some Departments have already put in place bespoke environmental management systems so are not certified to a recognised standard.

Departmental performance against EMS estate targets, including external certification, has been published in annual Sustainable Development in Government reports. The last report published by the Sustainable Development Commission, the independent watchdog, was in December 2005. It covered the reporting period April 2004 to March 2005 and is available at: http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/watchdog.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the total economic cost to the UK of taking part in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme relative to taking no action to control carbon dioxide emissions. [82735]

Ian Pearson: In the recently published Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) for Phase II of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme we estimate that the cost of the scheme to the UK economy could be between £80 million and £640 million per year. This cost assumes a certain level of abatement will take place within the UK and also that the UK will purchase some allowances from the market. The final cost will therefore depend on the market price of carbon.

If Phase II of the scheme was not implemented this would lead to costs predicted to be between £400 million and £1,344 million per year. These estimates are based on the conclusions of the Social Cost of Carbon Working Paper published by the Government Economic Service, and are also set out in the RIA. This cost represents the potential physical impacts of climate change.

These estimates do not take into account the significant benefits to the UK economy that the scheme may generate through the growing market for emissions abatement equipment, and for financial services associated with emissions trading.

Fish Stocks

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will undertake an inquiry into the extent to which small hydroelectric generating plants damage fish stocks in rivers in which they are placed. [83237]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* The Government have no plans to undertake such an inquiry in the near future.

The Government and the Environment Agency support the development of alternative, renewable sources of energy that are properly sustainable, taking into account wider environmental needs including protecting and improving fisheries.

The Environment Agency engaged in a workshop with the hydropower industry and representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry earlier this year. The Environment Agency plans to work with the industry to develop good practice guidance, taking into account the needs of fish stocks and fisheries. It published a fisheries research report which included best practice guidance for screening intakes and out-falls[1]. The report is relevant to protecting fish against certain impacts of hydropower schemes, and will inform future discussions.

Screening for intake and out-falls: a best practice guide (2005) R&D
Author(s): O'Keeffe, N; Turnpenny, A W H
Series Environment Agency science project (SC030231)
Environment Agency science report (W6-103/TR)
Environment Agency R&D project (W6-103)
ISBN 1844323617
Publication Bristol: Environment Agency, 2005

Flood Defences

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been made available for sea coastal defences in *(a)* Clacton-on-Sea and *(b)* Holland-on-Sea in each of the past five years; and if he will make a statement. [81016]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency is the principal operating authority with responsibility for flood risk management in England, including for flooding from the sea. DEFRA funds most of the Environment Agency's flood related work and grant-aids individual capital improvement projects and related studies undertaken by local authorities.

The following table summarises the Environment Agency's expenditure in Clacton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea from financial year 2001-02 to 2005-06, showing both capital and maintenance expenditure.

£000

	Clacton-on-Sea		*Holland-on-Sea*	
	Capital	*Maintenance*	*Capital*	*Maintenance*
2001-02	—	140	731	106
2002-03	13.4	140	10.8	106
2003-04	78.3	140	17.7	106
2004-05	52	140	110	166
2005-06	80.3	140	105.6	106

Tendring district council received support from DEFRA for their Coast Protection Strategy Plan Study in Clacton-on-Sea as follows:

£000

	Grant	*SCA/SCE(R)*
2001-02	74.4	42.6
2002-03	40.2	94.3
2003-04	—	3.6
2004-05	12.7	—
2005-06	—	—

Tendring district douncil received support from DEFRA for their Coast Protection Works in Holland-on-Sea and Seawall Below York Road, also in Holland-on-Sea, projects as follows:

£000

	Grant	*SCA/SCE(R)*
2001-02	105.7	136.0
2002-03	—	1.7
2003-04	7.0	—
2004-05	—	—
2005-06	78.5	149.5

SCA/SCE(R) represents actual spend by the council, which has been approved for long-term support through the Department for Communities and Local Government revenue funding mechanism for local authorities. This method of funding local authority flood and coastal erosion capital improvement projects has been replaced by 100 per cent. direct grant from DEFRA from April 2006.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to assess the way in which genetically modified organisms are regulated; and if he will examine the current operation of the Advisory Committee on Releases into the Environment. [83268]

Ian Pearson: The European Commission has recently undertaken reviews of the main pieces of EU legislation concerning the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms. The Government will take note of the results of these reviews.

We are, at present, satisfied with the way that the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) operates. ACRE is included in a general review being undertaken by DEFRA of its non-executive bodies.

Mobile Telephones

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on the environment of the regular recharging of mobile telephones. [81863]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) estimates that in 2005 there were nearly 140 million external power supplies of the type used to charge mobile technology such as telephones and digital music players in use in the UK.

Because the power consumed by external power supplies when charging appliances varies significantly with the type and size of appliance and the degree to which the appliance connected to it is already charged no reliable information is available on the impact on the environment of the regular recharging of mobile phones.

However, the MTP has calculated that external power supplies use around 3.4Twh annually while they remain plugged in but not connected to an appliance or when the appliance has reached full-charge. Of this total approximately 1.6Twh is estimated to be attributed to mobile phone chargers.

Encouragingly, all of the major suppliers of mobile phones are signatories of the European Commission's Code of Conduct for the Energy Performance of External Power Supplies which sets a voluntary commitment on manufacturers to supply chargers which meet a minimum level of performance in both standby and charge modes. Aside from a small percentage of older mobile phones (sold before the Code of Conduct was established) the

large majority of mobile phones are now supplied with chargers which consume 1W or under while in standby or a no-load condition. In time this will reduce the total UK standby consumption of mobile phones by over 50 per cent.

Pollution

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much carbon dioxide was released into the air by British industries in each of the past five years. [82820]

Ian Pearson: The following table shows carbon dioxide emissions in megatonnes released by British industries from 2000 to 2004. Data for 2005 is not yet available. An average annual amount of CO_2 emissions of 307.60804 megatonnes was released over five years.

	Megatonne
2000	301470.5666
2001	313224.8
2002	300358.14
2003	310629.76
2004	312356.92

Road Transport Emissions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs by what percentage carbon emissions from road transport have changed in each of the past nine years. [82344]

Ian Pearson: The following table shows changes in carbon dioxide emissions from road transport from 1997 to 2004. Data for 2005 are not yet available.

	Total emissions in carbon kilotonnes	*Percentage change between years*	*Percentage change from base line year (1990)*
1997	31,923.56	1.24	6.53
1998	31,716.86	-0.65	5.84
1999	31,965.63	0.78	6.67
2000	31,752.46	-0.67	5.96
2001	31,751.50	0.00	5.95
2002	32,412.20	2.08	8.16
2003	32,343.38	-0.21	7.93
2004	32,671.36	1.01	9.02

Single Farm Payments

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to prevent late application penalties being handed down to farmers who have not yet received their single farm payment scheme application forms. [76177]

Barry Gardiner: An EU Regulation has been adopted which provides for all 2006 SPS claims to be accepted without penalty until 15 June. This extra time above and beyond the extension to 31 May will mean that around 4,000 farmers will not now be penalised.

Applications will be accepted by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) until 10 July. However a penalty of 1 per cent. per working day will be applied to applications received between 16 June and 10 July.

Application forms may be obtained from the RPA website, www.rpa.gov.uk: RPA Drop in Centres or by telephoning the RPA Customer Service Centre on 0845 603 7777.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in how many cases claimants have disputed the full or interim Single Farm Payments made to them since April 2005. [76606]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) operates a formal appeal procedure to deal with appeals from customers about decisions reached by RPA which affect the amount of payment that they receive. To date 112 SPS related appeals have been received since payments began. In addition, the appeal procedure has dealt with 181 appeals against the Moorland Line and 280 appeals against the historic element of the SPS prior to payments being made.

RPA does not currently have separate data on the number of cases where the claimant has disputed a payment made under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme outside of the formal appeals procedure.

Water Companies

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely *(a)* environmental and *(b)* economic impact on (i) South West London and (ii) London of Thames Water's failure to meet its leakage reduction target. [81014]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for West Ham (Lyn Brown) on 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 560W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials from his Department are based in each province in Afghanistan, broken down by job function. [82733]

Hilary Benn: DFID has 16 UK officials currently based in Afghanistan. Fourteen are based in Kabul, one in Badakhshan and one in Helmand. These are listed in the following table and are broken down by job function.

One additional post in Kabul (Economist) and one in Kandahar (Development Adviser) are vacant. Two

additional official positions will move from London to Kabul in the next three months (Governance Adviser and Economist). This makes a total planned complement of 20 staff in Afghanistan. The DFID Afghanistan team also has UK officials in London, and Afghan staff in Kabul, and staff from Kabul travel regularly to other provinces (notably Helmand) to support the team there.

The Post Conflict Reconstruction Unit, for which DFID has accounting responsibility, has deployed four UK officials to Helmand at various times in advance of the arrival of other Departments' staff, and has two officials based in Kabul as part of the Strategic Delivery Unit.

DFID officials currently based in Afghanistan are as follows:

Job title	*Location*
Head of DFID Afghanistan	Kabul
Deputy Head	Kabul
Economic Programme Manager	Kabul
Programme and Strategy Coordinator	Kabul
Policy, Programme and Strategy Programme Officer	Kabul
Livelihoods Programme Manager	Kabul
Livelihoods Adviser	Kabul
State-building Programme Manager	Kabul
Conflict Adviser	Kabul
Deputy Programme Manager	Kabul
Office/HR Manager	Kabul
Transition Manager (to be replaced as Deputy Office Manager)	Kabul
Secondee to the British Embassy Drugs Team	Kabul
ISAF Development Adviser	Kabul
Development Adviser	Badakhshan
Development Adviser	Helmand

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many farmers have been offered grants to grow alternative crops to poppies in Afghanistan; and how much was paid to those farmers in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [83283]

Hilary Benn: DFID has not paid any grants directly to farmers to grow alternative crops to opium poppies in Afghanistan in 2004-05 and 2005-06. However, DFID does provide support to farmers, through programme and project support. Benefits to farmers from this support include training in new farming techniques, the introduction of alternative crops and identifying potential markets for these crops, distribution of seeds and fertilizer, and support to improve animal health and husbandry.

In recognition of the need to increase the opportunities for farmers to move way from poppy cultivation, DFID has increased its funding for alternative livelihoods from £13 million in financial year 2004-05 to £45 million in 2005-06.

At the same time as developing agricultural opportunities, DFID is also promoting the development of non-farm alternative livelihoods by supporting national programmes of the Government of Afghanistan which are helping to increase access to credit and improve infrastructure for farmers to transport their produce to markets.

Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of his Department; what commitment he has made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81056]

Mr. Thomas: Estimated carbon emissions from DFID operational activities:

	Tonnes of carbon from UK buildings	*Tonnes of carbon from air travel*
2004-05	1,046	1,792
2005-06	1,067	1,754

DFID is strongly committed to the targets set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government estate to reverse the current upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007 and to reduce emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, and by 30 per cent. by 2020.

During the refurbishment of both our UK buildings, we incorporated many energy saving mechanisms and have established Environment Management Systems in both offices. We have 100 per cent. green electricity at both UK offices and we are also currently working with the Carbon Trust to evaluate various options for renewable energy such as Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units. To reduce emissions from air travel we have significantly increased our video-conferencing facilities and actively encourage staff to use them.

Child Educational Development

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding the UK gives developing countries for child educational development. [84475]

Mr. Thomas: The Government will spend approximately £8.5 billion over the next 10 years. By 2010, we will be providing £1 billion a year in support of education in developing countries. This long-term commitment will provide poor country Governments with predictable funding against which they can prepare ambitious 10-year education sector plans to achieve the education goals. Our support will help in the development and implementation of 10-year plans, which will increase investment in schools, including recruiting and training more teachers, getting more pupils into and completing school and improving the quality of education.

Clean Water

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to improve access to clean water and sanitation in the developing world. [82720]

Hilary Benn: Our approach is to help developing country Governments to implement their own plans for provision of water and sanitation, both by direct

financing and providing technical know-how. We are also taking steps to make the international system, particularly the UN, more effective, through our support to UN-Water, and to the Joint Monitoring Programme, which measures global progress towards access to safe water and basic sanitation.

The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target of halving the proportion of people without access to safe water by 2015 is on track to be met globally, but not in sub-Saharan Africa and parts of Asia. DFID is committed to doubling spending on water in Africa to £95 million by 2008. We are now actively involved in seven African countries (Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia), up from only two years ago; and through our funding of other agencies' programmes, we reach many other countries. For example, the EU plans to provide 10 million people with access to water and a further five million to sanitation by 2010 through projects it has recently approved through the Water Facility.

DFID's Water and Sanitation strategy was set out in the 2004 Water Action Plan. I reinforced DFID's commitment to doing more during my speeches on World Water Day in March 2005, and at DFID's External Water Forum in February 2006. DFID closely monitors progress in water and sanitation and publishes regular updates on the DFID website. The latest update can be accessed on DFID's website address at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Debt Cancellation

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many African countries' debts have been cancelled in the past five years. [83120]

Hilary Benn: Since 2001, 14 African countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia) have received debt stock cancellation under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative. Another African country, Uganda, received debt stock cancellation under HIPC in 2000. All 15 of these countries have had 100 per cent. of their remaining debt stock at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank cancelled this year under the new Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). When they completed the HIPC initiative, all these countries also received 100 per cent. cancellation of any bilateral (Government to Government) debts outstanding to the UK.

A further 10 African countries are currently receiving interim debt relief under HIPC, and will receive 100 per cent. debt stock cancellation under the MDRI and on bilateral debts from the UK when they complete the HIPC initiative.

Nigeria has also received considerable debt stock cancellation in the past year as part of the deal agreed with its Paris Club (Government) creditors to resolve 100 per cent. of its debts. Overall, US$18 billion of debt stock was cancelled under the deal, and Nigeria bought back the remaining debt for $12.4 billion.

Prior to 2001, the UK also cancelled the bilateral aid debts of low income African countries.

Departmental Premises (Security)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures are in place to ensure that no illegal immigrants are employed in the manned guarding of his Department's premises. [80804]

Mr. Thomas: Guards at DFID offices are currently a combination of in-house and contracted staff. For all in-house permanent and pensionable staff, a range of nationality and identity checks are carried out at the time of recruitment, which ensure that the individual has the right of employment in the UK. Contractors are responsible for ensuring that similar checks are carried out on any staff whom they employ at any DFID offices.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly employed illegal immigrants as security guards. [80813]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not, as far as we are aware, employed either directly or indirectly illegal immigrants as security guards.

Departmental Travel Costs

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff of his Department have travelled other than in economy class on flights between Heathrow and Glasgow in each of the past 12 months. [82808]

Mr. Thomas: A total of 406 DFID staff made 949 non-economy class flights during 2005. The breakdown of flights by month were as follows:

	Number
January	59
February	105
March	80
April	84
May	67
June	146
July	77
August	74
September	77
October	67
November	75
December	38

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the most expensive flight within the UK is which his Department has booked for departmental staff in each of the past 12 months. [82809]

Mr. Thomas: The most expensive flights in 2005 were:

	£
January	367.40
February	418.60
March	366.60
April	422.50
May	422.50
June	385.70
July	426.50
August	363.90
September	386.40
October	426.50
November	355.20
December	355.20

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many official journeys between London and Glasgow have been made by staff of his Department in the past 12 months. [82810]

Mr. Thomas: 1,201 journeys were completed in 2005.

Infrastructure Building (Afghanistan/Iraq)

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress his Department has made in building economic infrastructure in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq. [83240]

Hilary Benn: Improving economic management and aid effectiveness is one of DFID's three objectives for its £102 million (2006-07) aid programme to Afghanistan. DFID is working with the Afghan Government to help improve revenue collection and financial planning, and works particularly closely with the Ministry of Finance. We are supporting them in customs and reform, which will help them to raise money from imports and exports and wealthier Afghan business and individuals, thus reducing their dependence on foreign aid. This is going well with revenues increasing by 30-40 per cent. per annum. We have also helped them improve the national budget process, with good results. The 2006-07 budget was recently approved by Parliament and further endorsed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), with the launch of a Poverty Reduction and Growth Programme.

DFID also works to build state institutions and improve the livelihoods of rural people, supporting the Afghan Government's own objectives, as set out in their Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy. Although the rebuilding of Afghanistan cannot be achieved without significant investments in infrastructure, we do not focus on this area. Given the scale of resources required, and the importance of donors working to their respective comparative advantages, we believe other donors are better placed to make these investments—in particular the USA, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Japan, all of whom are investing in Afghanistan's infrastructure sector. Part of DFID's livelihoods work does include support for small scale rural infrastructure through funding to national programmes. Through the National Rural Access Programme for example, around 6,000 km of rural roads have been rehabilitated and/or constructed since 2002.

Over 70 per cent. of our aid goes directly to the Government of Afghanistan. The UK is the largest donor to the Government's recurrent budget—covering annual costs such as salaries for teachers and health workers. This is exactly what the Afghan Government want—and is the best chance for building effective state institutions that will last.

In Iraq, DFID has committed over £417 million to specific projects since March 2003, of which over £353 million has now been disbursed. This includes a £70 million contribution in 2004 to the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI)—trust funds run by the UN and the World Bank; and 19 per cent. of EC contributions to Iraq (£67 million).

DFID has been supporting economic reform in Iraq since 2004 and has committed £13 million to support the Iraqi Ministry of Finance to lead and manage a programme of macro-economic and budget reform. Activities include help with 2007 budget preparation, policy advice on public expenditure and in particular subsidy reform, and keeping the IMF's Standby Arrangement on track. DFID also plans to provide two additional consultants to the Government of Iraq to work on structural economic reform (e.g. oil sector restructuring and financial market reforms).

Since March 2003 DFID has spent £78 million on physical infrastructure improvements in southern Iraq, to improve delivery of power and water services essential to further economic growth. These include:

repairs to power stations in the south which have added and secured enough power in total to supply over 50,000 homes, and improved electricity supplies to 1.5 million residents;

work to provide 10 small generators adding a further 15MW to the national grid;

construction of a water training centre for use by the southern Governorates

replacement of 800 km of water mains, as well as repair of 5,047 leaks across the four southern Governorates;

construction of almost 10 km of piped main drainage plus mains connections to 830 houses;

supply of technical advice for a major sewage installation in Al Amarah, providing up to half the city's population with access to a piped system and replacing open sewage channels; and

installation of new sewage treatment facilities at Mina Prison, Basra;

We have also committed a further £18 million to improve power and water infrastructure in the south includes building a new gas pumping station; essential repairs at power stations; building three new water towers; and two further water projects which will provide drinking water for 500,000 people.

Kosovo (Munitions Clearance)

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Kosovo Protection Corps clearance of UK cluster munitions in Kosovo; and when the clearance is expected to be completed. [83473]

Mr. Ingram: I have been asked to reply

The Kosovo Protection Corps has been trained to UN benchmarks in the clearance of a broad variety of mines, unexploded ordnance and cluster munitions by Handicap International. Alongside non-governmental organisations engaged in explosive ordnance disposal, they have cleared a significant number of designated dangerous areas in Kosovo in 2006 alone. It is anticipated that in 2007 the clearance of dangerous areas will have been completed. A recent report made by the United Nations Mine Action Service stated that the Kosovo Protection Corps explosive ordnance disposal teams will be capable of addressing the residual land mine and unexploded ordnance threat in Kosovo from 2007 and beyond.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many proposals the Department has received to fund clearance of unexploded UK cluster munitions in the last two years; how many related to Kosovo; and how many have been funded in each case. [83474]

Hilary Benn: DFID has received two funding applications related to unexploded UK cluster munitions. Both were for Kosovo.

DFID has not funded either of these.

DFID has spent £15 million on humanitarian landmine clearance and related work in Kosovo, including approximately £3.3 million through the Halo Trust for its work there during 1999-2001. Since 2001, we have judged, in consultation with the United Nations Mine Action Service and our own specialist adviser, that the overall threat from unexploded ordnance in Kosovo has been reduced considerably and that the capacity of the Kosovan de-mining authorities has grown sufficiently to deal with it.

DFID directs its mines action funds to worse affected, less well resourced countries, including funding the Halo Trust in, for example, Sri Lanka, Abkhazia, Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Somaliland and Sudan.

Overseas Projects

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in what projects the UK is involved in *(a)* the Palestinian Territories, *(b)* Iraq and *(c)* Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [82984]

Hilary Benn: In the Palestinian Territories, DFID support has focused on three areas: supporting the peace process, improving the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance, and helping the institutions of a future Palestinian state to be more effective, accountable and inclusive. DFID has spent £176 million on its Palestinian programme since 2001, plus our share of European Community aid. DFID projects and programmes are as follows:

Support for Palestinian refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency;

Assistance to the Negotiations Affairs Department to support progress towards a negotiated, two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

Building the capacity of the Palestinian Authority (currently suspended) and civil society organisations on governance and public administration reform;

Improved analysis of PA institutional development;

A fund to assist DFID to finance strategic interventions to support a peace process and economic development.

Until the Hamas Government agree to the conditions set out by the Quartet, UK Government aid will be channelled outside the Palestinian Authority. We expect to contribute through a new temporary international mechanism to provide support for Palestinian basic needs.

The UK also provides funding through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP), which is managed jointly by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), DFID and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Current projects in the Palestinian Territories:

Military liaison officer for the Palestinians;

Training needs analysis for national security forces (currently suspended);

Military advisor to the special envoy for disengagement (currently suspended);

Close protection support for President of the Palestinian Authority;

Appointment of a Financial Liaison Officer to the Palestinian Authority (currently suspended); and

Water pollution management in Israel, Jordan and Palestinian Authority.

The GCPP also funds a number of relevant projects with Israeli non-governmental organisations. These organisations are:

Peace Now - Settlement Watch;

Ir Amin - advocacy project on status of Jerusalem;

Economic Co-operation Foundation - Gaza disengagement;

Council for Peace and Security - advocacy work on Israeli separation;

HaMoKed/BTselem - Freedom of movement for Palestinians;

Palestinian media activities in support of the Roadmap (jointly funded with USAID); and

Ad Hoc Liason Committee - donor co-ordination.

In Iraq, the UK Government have pledged a total of £544 million for reconstruction from 2003 until 2006 (including contributions from DFID, the FCO and the MOD, the GCPP, and the UK's share of EC funding in Iraq). The UK has disbursed over £533 million.

DFID's programme for 2006-07 in Iraq focuses on four key areas of economic reform; infrastructure improvements; governance and institution building; and support for civil society and political participation. This is through the projects listed, through our work as a major contributor to the United Nations and World Bank Trust Funds for Iraq, and by helping other donors to establish programmes in Iraq. DFID is currently funding the following projects:

Iraq Infrastructure Services Project to deliver improved power and water services in southern Iraq;

Operation Ampere providing 10 generators for southern governorates;

Governorates capacity building programme (GCBP) supporting the southern provinces in planning and budgeting skills. In Basra, the UK-led provincial reconstruction team (PRT) is developing an integrated approach to governance, rule of law, economic development and infrastructure. The PRT draws together existing GCBP funding with US funding on governance (plus further programme funding from the US

of $15 million from October 2006), US military funding and Danish funds on agriculture and irrigation;

Support to the centre of Government. This programme is building communications, management and core civil service expertise in the Prime Minister's office, Council of Ministers' Secretariat and Government Communications Directorate;

Supporting Economic Reform, helping the Ministry of Finance to lead and manage a programme of macro-economic and budget reform in Iraq;

BBC World Service Trust Project, strengthening independent broadcasting in the south;

Political Participation Fund. This project seeks to encourage broad participation in national and local elections and the constitutional debate; and

Civil Society Fund. We provide funding to UK non-governmental organisations who forge mentoring partnerships with Iraqi civil society organisations to build their capacity.

In 2006-07 the Global Conflict Prevention Pool is undertaking the following projects in Iraq:

Police training and mentoring;

Prisons mentoring and support;

Ministry of Interior support to improve accountability and reduce scope for abuses and corruption;

Provision of a justice adviser.

The FCO has also allocated £100,000 for human rights support projects in Iraq.

In Afghanistan, DFID's aid programme (£102 million in 2006-7) supports three of the Afghan Government's own objectives, as set out in their Interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy: (i) building effective state institutions; (ii) improving economic management and the effectiveness of aid to Afghanistan; and (iii) improving the livelihoods of rural people. Current projects are in the following list.

State-building

Afghanistan Stabilisation Programme;

Technical Assistance to Ministry of Counter Narcotics /Ministry of Interior to strengthen Counter-Narcotics Institutions;

Support to Provincial Stabilisation;

Technical Assistance to the Civil Service Commission for Public Administration Reform;

Technical Assistance to the Office of the President's Spokesman;

Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit: Drivers of Change research;

Support to British Agencies in Afghanistan Group; and

Support to Centre of Government Institutions.

Economic Management/Aid Effectiveness

Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund;

Counter Narcotics Trust Fund;

Technical Assistance to Ministry of Finance on Tax Administration;

Technical Assistance for Customs and the Cabinet Secretariat;

Technical Assistance to Ministry of Finance on Budget Formulation;

Technical Assistance to Ministry of Commerce on Private Sector Development;

Technical Assistance to Ministry of Mines and Industry; and

Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

Livelihoods

National Solidarity Programme (Government Programme);

Micro-finance Investment Support Facility in Afghanistan (Government Programme);

Eastern Hazarajat Alternative Livelihoods Project (UN FAO);

Alternative Agricultural Livelihoods Programme (UN FAO);

Badakhshan - Aga Khan Development Network AL programme;

Research into Alternative Livelihoods Fund; and

Agricultural Input Supply Programme

Technical assistance to Ministry reconstruction and rural development and Ministry of Agriculture and animal husbandry on sustainable livelihoods.

Over 70 per cent. of our aid goes directly to the Government of Afghanistan. The UK is the largest donor to the Government's recurrent budget—covering annual costs such as salaries for teachers and health workers. This is exactly what the Afghan Government want—and is the best chance for building effective state institutions that will last.

Palestinian Authority

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial aid was given to the Palestinian Authority in each year since 2000. [83109]

Hilary Benn: DFID's support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) since 2000 has been as follows:

Financial year	*Support to the PA (£ million)*
2000-01	8.3
2001-02	13.0
2002-03	14.1
2003-04	15.2
2004-05	14.1
2005-06	13.5

This support has included technical assistance and financial aid, including budgetary support. These figures are in addition to Palestinian projects implemented outside the PA, including contributions to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for refugees.

Following Hamas' victory in the Palestinian Legislative Council elections of January 2006, and their subsequent failure to meet the Quartet principles, all direct aid to the Palestinian Authority has been suspended.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much financial aid he expects the UK will give to the Palestinian Authority in 2006-07. [83139]

Hilary Benn: Until the Hamas-led Government complies with the principles laid out by the Quartet (the United Nations, the United States of America, Russia and the European Union), direct aid to the Palestinian Authority will not be possible. The principles are that the Hamas-led Government should recognise Israel, renounce violence, and accept previous agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap.

However, DFID's programme of support to the Palestinian people will continue. In April we released £15 million to the United Nations Relief and Works

Agency which provides health, education and other basic services to Palestinian refugees.

The UK also intends to make a contribution of up to £12 million to a temporary international mechanism to provide direct support to the basic needs of the Palestinian people.

School Construction (Africa)

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many schools have been built in the past 12 months in African countries. [83119]

Hilary Benn: The Education for All Global Monitoring Report is the primary source of data on country progress towards the Millennium Development Goal of universal primary education. It does not include data about the building of new schools. For DFID bilaterally to collect such data across Africa would involve a disproportionate cost. We are, however, tracking data on the numbers of girls and boys in school and on progress towards meeting the universal primary education and gender equality Millennium Development Goals.

Skill Sharing

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the ways in which the UK is sharing skills with African countries, with particular reference to plumbers and electricians and training young people. [83118]

Hilary Benn: DFID does not provide any specific vocational training for trainee plumbers and electricians. However, DFID's Higher Education Links programme has facilitated training for many young people. For example, a link between the University of Natal in South Africa and the University of Ulster has enabled the training of community youth workers to work in poor communities.

Following a review of the Links programme, DFID recently launched a new £15 million programme, Development Partnerships in Higher Education (DelPHE) that will run until March 2013. The DelPHE, managed by the British Council, will support a variety of partnerships between higher education institutions, enabling them to collaborate on activities linked to sustainable development, science and technology, and the reduction of poverty.

TRANSPORT

A303 Stonehenge

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects a decision to be made on the review of the A303 Stonehenge Improvement Scheme. [84344]

Dr. Ladyman: The cross-Government steering group, which has been reviewing the options for the A303 at Stonehenge, will be producing a report to Ministers in the summer. This will set out the results of the public consultation and a detailed assessment of the shortlisted options. We will need to carefully consider this report before deciding on a way forward.

Antisocial Behaviour (Trains)

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains were *(a)* delayed and *(b)* cancelled because of vandalism on the tracks in the past 12 months, broken down by region. [77780]

Derek Twigg: The information is as follows:

(a) The information on delays is not available in the format requested.

(b) The following table shows the percentage of all train cancellations, resulting from vandalism, listed by Network Rail route, from April 1 2005 to March 31 2006.

Network Rail (NR) route	*Percentage of cancellations due to vandalism per NR route*
Anglia	0.88
Kent	0.65
London North East	0.22
London North West	2.85
Scotland	0.33
Sussex	0.98
Wessex	1.32
Western	0.14

Boats (Blood Alcohol Limits)

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Government have any plans to introduce a maximum blood alcohol limit for *(a)* recreational mariners and *(b)* those in charge of a boat. [83515]

Dr. Ladyman: Following a consultation in 2004 and more recent evidence given to us, including two Marine Accident Investigation Branch recommendations, we are now working with interested parties to see what appropriate measures should be taken to implement the relevant provisions of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment the Government have made of the results of the 2004 consultation into a maximum blood alcohol limit for recreational mariners. [83516]

Dr. Ladyman: We are currently reassessing all the views in the light of the Marine Accident Investigation Branch recommendations delivered earlier this year and will make an announcement once that exercise is complete.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment the Marine Accident Investigation Board has made of the number of people *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured in (i) recreational and (ii)

non-recreational marine craft in each of the past five years; and in how many of these cases alcohol was identified as a contributory factor. [83517]

Dr. Ladyman: The Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 2005 only place a requirement to report accidents involving recreational craft if they are being commercially operated. However, the Chief Inspector of Marine Accidents may investigate accidents involving privately-owned craft if they are brought to his attention.

Details of all accidents reported to the Marine Accident Investigation Branch are contained on its database. Statistics for deaths and injuries for both recreational and non-recreational craft for the past five years are shown in the following table:

	Recreational craft (non-commercial)		*All other vessels*	
	Deaths	*Injuries*	*Deaths*	*Injuries*
2001	3	2	23	651
2002	8	4	27	647
2003	12	10	22	673
2004	3	25	22	647
2005	24	35	22	551

The second table contains numbers of deaths and injuries where alcohol was positively identified as a contributory factor:

	Recreational craft (non-commercial)		*All other vessels*	
	Deaths	*Injuries*	*Deaths*	*Injuries*
2001	2	—	2	12
2002	—	—	—	14
2003	1	—	1	18
2004	—	3	—	14
2005	5	3	5	17

Dangerous Vehicles

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department *(a)* has undertaken, *(b)* plans to undertake and *(c)* has evaluated on the number of vehicles driven in a dangerous condition; and if he will make a statement. [83768]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) carries out fleet compliance surveys on an annual basis. Vehicles are stopped randomly at the roadside and any found to be in a dangerous condition are issued with an immediate prohibition notice which prevents the vehicle from being driven any further until the defects have been rectified.

As vehicles are stopped and checked at random, we can use the results of the survey to estimate the proportion of vehicles in the entire fleet that may be being driven in a dangerous condition.

The data compiled from the fleet compliance surveys is published in VOSA's Effectiveness Report (tables A1.19, A2.11 and A3.7) which can be found on the VOSA website.

Foreign Nationals (Driving)

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how long foreign nationals may use the driving licences of their home country to drive on UK roads; and if he will make a statement. [83126]

Dr. Ladyman: The length of time that a foreign licence holder may drive on UK roads is dependent on where the licence was obtained. Full details are available on the website:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/Motoring/DriverLicensing/DrivingInGbOnAForeignLicence/fs/en.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether registered asylum seekers are able to apply for British driving licences. [83127]

Dr. Ladyman: Asylum seekers are eligible to apply for a provisional driving licence provided they meet the requirements specified in legislation. This requires applicants to complete an application, provide a photograph and acceptable supporting evidence of identity.

Government Car Service

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles in the Government Car Service are leased to HM Treasury, broken down by *(a)* make and model and *(b)* vehicle excise duty band. [83586]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government Car and Despatch Agency leases no vehicles directly to HM Treasury. The Agency does provide six allocated cars and drivers to HM Treasury for Ministers and senior officials. These cars are from the Rover 75, Vauxhall Omega, Ford Mondeo and Toyota Prius ranges. All these cars are in band F except for the Toyota Prius, which is in band B.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many motor cars are owned or leased by the Government for the use of Ministers and Government staff; [75616]

(2) how many of the vehicles owned or leased by the Government for the use of Ministers and Government staff are claimed by their manufacturers to produce average carbon dioxide emissions in quantities of less than *(a)* 120g, *(b)* 140g and *(c)* 225g per kilometre travelled; [75617]

(3) which vehicle in the Government's motor car fleet produces the highest level of carbon dioxide emissions; and to what purpose this vehicle is put. [75618]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) provides transport for Ministers and senior officials in accordance with the arrangements set out in Chapter 10 of the Ministerial Code, and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers".

GCDA has 191 vehicles in its car fleet. Of these: *(a)* 38 emit 120 grams per kilometre (g/km) or less of carbon dioxide; *(b)* five emit between 120 g/km and 140 g/km; and *(c)* 84 emit between 140 g/km and 225 g/km. The three vehicles emitting the highest level of carbon dioxide are 4.0 litre Jaguars which produce 285 g/km. These vehicles are presently unallocated.

Green Light Warning Beacons

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will seek to extend the legislative provision that allows employment of a green light from a warning beacon fitted to a vehicle by a medical practitioner attending an urgent incident to cover *(a)* coastguards, *(b)* lifeboat crews and *(c)* mountain and cave rescue teams. [83333]

Dr. Ladyman: Green lights are currently reserved for vehicles which are occupied by medical practitioners registered by the General Medical Council and which are being used in an emergency. Users of these lights are not permitted exemptions from road traffic law: for example a doctor is not permitted to exceed a speed limit or to treat a red traffic light as a 'give way' sign.

The use of flashing warning lights needs to be limited in order to prevent their impact being diminished.

The Transport Committee has already recommended that official mountain and lowland search and rescue vehicles should be able to use blue lamps. The Department has accepted this recommendation. Any extension of the use of green lights would need to be discussed on a national basis and would require convincing justification.

Leisure Craft (Accidents)

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the Marine Accident Investigation Board (MAIB) records accidents involving leisure craft; whether reporting of such incidents is mandatory; what estimate the MAIB has made of the number of (i) serious and (ii) minor accidents on leisure marine craft that go unreported in a year; and whether MAIB sets out *(A)* reported and *(B)* estimated accidents in its published reports. [83534]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport's Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) powers are defined in the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations 2005. These regulations place a requirement on skippers and operators of leisure craft that are being operated commercially to report accidents to the MAIB. Details of these accidents are recorded on the MAIB's Marine Incident Database System.

There is no statutory requirement to report accidents and incidents involving privately owned leisure craft, but skippers are encouraged to do so voluntarily so that accident levels and trends may be identified, and others may learn important safety lessons via articles published in the MAIB's Safety Digest.

The MAIB makes no estimate of the number of leisure craft accidents that are unreported in either the commercial or non-commercial sectors. In its annual report, the MAIB presents accident statistics for leisure craft derived from reported accidents recorded on its database.

Lorry Parks

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities to provide secure lorry parks with appropriate facilities for drivers. [83407]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department for Transport has published guidance on how to set up and run Freight Quality Partnerships (FQPs).

FQPs are a means for local authorities, businesses, freight operators, environmental groups, the local community and other interested stakeholders to work together to address specific freight transport issues, including provision of secure parking and facilities for the drivers.

DfT has brought together the road haulage trade associations, motorway service area providers, the Highways Agency and the Home Office to seek a common understanding of how best to increase and improve provision of lorry parking. The Department will then follow this up with local authorities to raise awareness of issues facing road haulage operators including access to lorry parking and driver rest areas.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely impact of providing secure lorry parks on *(a)* crime and *(b)* road safety; and if he will make a statement. [83408]

Dr. Ladyman: While no formal assessment has been made of the impact more secure lorry parking might have on levels of crime, Home Office experience of safer parking facilities for cars indicates it would be a useful tool for reducing crime and the fear of crime. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), owner of the Safer Parking Scheme, is currently preparing guidance specifically to address the type of crime affecting light and heavy goods vehicle parking facilities.

The Department has undertaken no specific assessment on the impact on road safety but encourages drivers to make use of such facilities so that they can rest properly and reduce the risk of sleepiness while driving.

Low Carbon Buses

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his Department's announcement of 23 September 2003, how many demonstration low carbon buses have been produced using the funding announced. [82560]

Gillian Merron: The allocated funding for demonstration low carbon buses was subject to state aid approval by the European Commission. A review of this programme was undertaken during the state aid notification process and a decision was taken not to proceed with the programme. I refer the hon. Member to the written statement "Transport grant and advice programmes" made by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Transport on 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 30-32WS, about that decision.

Motorcycles

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of road accidents in each of the past five years which involved children of primary school age or below travelling as passengers on motorcycles. [83287]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of personal injury road accidents reported to the police involving at least one child casualty aged 0 to 11 travelling as a passenger on a two wheeled motor vehicle (TWMV) in each of the past five years is given in the following table.

Accidents involving at least one child casualty (aged 0 to 11) travelling as a TWMV passenger: 2001-05

	Number
2001	60
2002	71
2003	68
2004	65
2005	44

Motorways

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made with the introduction of motorway rest areas. [83348]

Dr. Ladyman: Currently under section 112 of the Highways Act 1980 the Secretary of State is not permitted to establish a picnic area on land adjacent to a motorway. An amending clause is included in the Road Safety Bill which is currently before Parliament. Subject to the acquisition of the necessary powers and funding the Government will consider the establishment of a pilot picnic area.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent on current motorway safety programmes; and if he will make a statement. [83243]

Dr. Ladyman: A large proportion of the Highways Agency's 2006-07, £2.2 billion programme budget contributes either directly or indirectly to road safety initiatives. It is not possible to separate specific spend on motorway safety programmes.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what obligations the Highways Agency is under to remove litter from motorway embankments and verges; and how often this *(a)* should be and *(b)* is done on the area surrounding the M57 and M58 motorways. [83467]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency is obliged, by the Environmental Protection Act 1990, to remove litter from motorways, including the central reservations, verges, and embankments. This arrangement has regard to the nature and use of the highway, and the need to limit disruption to traffic. To comply with the Act, which specifies, through a supplementary code of practice, standards of cleanliness and response times, the Agency undertakes a regime of sweeping and litter-picking on the M57 and M58 motorways.

Litter-picking on the verges and embankments is undertaken at regular three-monthly intervals. The offside lanes and central reserves are routinely swept and litter-picked every six months, and the hard shoulders are swept every three months. Where the Agency's daily routine inspections identify a particular problem, additional litter-picking and sweeping is undertaken.

Outer London Orbital Road

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for an outer London orbital road that would include the part of the A130/A131 in the West Chelmsford constituency. [84076]

Dr. Ladyman: The Secretary of State for Transport has no plans for an outer London orbital road.

Pedestrian Accidents

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pedestrians were *(a)* killed and *(b)* injured by vehicles in West Lancashire in each of the past 10 years for which figures are available. [83643]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of pedestrians killed and injured in personal injury road accidents reported to the police in the local authority of West Lancashire from 1996 to 2005 are given in the table.

Pedestrian casualties in West Lancashire local authority, 1996 to 2005

	Fatal	*Injured*[1]	*All casualties*
1996	1	57	58
1997	1	54	55
1998	1	40	41
1999	2	51	53
2000	1	34	35
2001	1	41	42
2002	2	42	44
2003	1	30	31
2004	0	49	49
2005	2	38	40

[1]Injured includes serious and slight casualties.

Railways

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the role of the Office of Rail Regulation is in the determination of fare levels. [82501]

Derek Twigg: The Office of Rail Regulation has no role in setting fare levels.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is his policy that cheap day return rail fares should apply all day. [82504]

Derek Twigg: Cheap day returns have never been valid all day, only after the morning peak. As these tickets are unregulated, the validity of these tickets is determined by train operators.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the amount by which fares would need to rise to reduce overcrowding by 10 per cent. on the 10 most overcrowded rail routes. [82506]

Derek Twigg: Although we have examined, and continue to monitor, the relationship between fares and demand, the Department has not conducted the specific research to answer this question.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding allocations are planned under the Railways for All small schemes fund. [81938]

Derek Twigg: We have received 43 separate bids covering 106 stations totalling £3.2 million. These bids are currently being assessed. Once this process is complete we will publish details of all the successful bids on our website.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements are in place for funding projects other than those at stations from the Railways for All small schemes fund. [82047]

Derek Twigg: Access for All Small Schemes funding is intended to support innovative and locally focused solutions to access problems as well as schemes that demonstrate improvements to integrated accessible transport solutions. If projects other than those at stations can demonstrate that they meet the criteria for funding, including the requirement to provide match funding, they will be considered for funding in the same way as schemes for individual stations.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport why the match funding requirement has been introduced for the Railways for All small scheme fund; how the requirement will be operated; and whether the requirement applies to all projects. [82048]

Derek Twigg: The match funding requirement for Small Schemes bids is intended to ensure that the funding is spread across as many schemes as possible. It also ensures that bidders are committed to the schemes and that those schemes have reached a credible stage of development.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations have bid for Railways for All small scheme funding. [82049]

Derek Twigg: We have received bids from 16 different organisations. These bids are currently being assessed. Once decisions on which schemes are to receive funding have been finalised, details of the successful bidders will be published on the Department's website.

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps will be taken to promote bids for Railways for All small scheme funding from as broad a range of organisations as possible. [82050]

Derek Twigg: We are keen to attract bids from as many sources as possible. For future bidding rounds, in addition to any publicity on the Department's website and in the press, the Department will again be writing to a range of industry, local authority and disability organisations to advise them of the fund and the bidding process.

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure that his Department's Access for All small schemes funding delivers improved accessibility for disabled rail passengers at Clapham Junction station. [82941]

Derek Twigg: Clapham Junction is one of the first 47 stations to be targeted for Access for All funding in the first three years of the Railways for All project. Officials from the Department are working closely with Network Rail and other stakeholders to ensure that an effective design is developed to deliver a step free route that is compatible with any future developments planned for Clapham Junction.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many train services *(a)* were scheduled to run and *(b)* ran in each of the last 12 months, broken down by region. [82561]

Derek Twigg: That data is not held in full in the format requested.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many assaults there have been on railway station staff in each of the past five years, broken down by police authority area. [82441]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held by the Department for Transport, in the specific format requested. However, I refer the hon. Member to my answer on this subject of 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1267W. Information relating to assaults on railway station staff is held by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden road, London NW1 9LN.

Road Traffic Accidents

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people died as a result of road traffic accidents in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* constituency in each of the last five years, broken down by age; and if he will make a statement. [82952]

Dr. Ladyman: A table showing the number of fatalities in road accidents in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* national constituency, broken down by age group in each of the past five years has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many traffic accidents in the last year for which figures are available involved drivers who were foreign nationals. [83125]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available.

DEFENCE

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advertising campaigns his Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81911]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence, my right hon. Friend the Member for Islwyn (Mr. Touhig) gave on 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 899-900W, to the hon. Member for Wealden (Mr. Hendry).

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of Operation Mountain Thrust on the likely outcome of the NATO International Security Assistance Force mission in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. [82732]

Mr. Ingram: The aims of Operation Mountain Thrust are to: help stabilise the security situation in the south in advance of transfer of authority to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force; and to create conditions in which reconstruction activities can take place across the region to improve the lives of ordinary Afghans, extend the authority of the Afghan Government and extend the rule of law.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent assessment is of the adequacy of levels of personnel and equipment available to NATO forces in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [82855]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* The levels of personnel and equipment have been constantly reviewed by NATO Defence Ministers since the Alliance took command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on 11 August 2003. The UK has been fully engaged with this process and has endorsed the robust force package provided.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the request for additional *(a)* fixed-wing aircraft, *(b)* helicopters and *(c)* personnel made by Lieutenant-General David Richards, Commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan is supported by the Chief of the General Staff; when Ministers will decide what proportion of additional vehicles will be supplied by the UK; and if he will make a statement. [82861]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* Force generation for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) is the responsibility of NATO. The UK responds to requests from NATO for additional resources as and when received, based on military advice, including from the Chiefs of Staff. The force package the UK has deployed to the South of Afghanistan in support of ISAF expansion was fully endorsed by all the Chiefs of Staff, as was the deployment of HQ ARRC, which Lieutenant-General Richards commands, to command ISAF. A statement will be made in the House should we decide to commit further forces to Afghanistan.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions the Prime Minister has had with *(a)* his counterparts in other NATO countries, *(b)* the NATO Secretary-General and *(c)* his counterparts in other non-NATO countries on force generation for deployment in Helmand Province, Afghanistan in the past three months; what the outcome of these discussions has been to date; whether they are ongoing; and if he will make a statement. [82862]

Des Browne *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* My right hon. Friends and I, including the Prime Minister, have regular discussions with our counterparts in NATO and other ISAF troop-contributing nations regarding the deployment of forces into Afghanistan.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there are plans for International Security Assistance Force personnel to become involved in the interdiction of narcotics production of Afghanistan. [83216]

Mr. Ingram: International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) personnel do not have a direct role in targeted interdiction operations or in the eradication of poppy fields. Under the terms of NATO's operational plan for Afghanistan, ISAF forces can provide, within means and capabilities, training and operational support to Afghan Counter Narcotics forces.

Agencies Merger

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Defence Procurement Agency and the Defence Logistics Organisation are to merge; and if he will make a statement. [82702]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 27-29WS.

Armed Forces Abroad (Telecommunications)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to negotiate with telecommunications service providers preferential rates for family members telephoning members of the UK armed forces serving abroad. [82977]

Mr. Watson: The telecommunications market is one of the most competitive and dynamic sectors of the UK economy, with a comprehensive range of services to suit a wide variety of needs. There is no likelihood that Ministry of Defence intervention in this market in general would provide any additional flexibility. However, for service personnel, their families and the defence community in particular, the Defence Discount Directory is continuing to work with the major service providers to explore what special discounts they might be able to offer. Also, service literature and websites give advice to families on general communications issues, with contact options that include telephone, e-mail, e-bluey and the British Forces Post Office system among others.

British Armed Forces Federation

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings he has had with the newly formed British Armed Forces Federation. [82695]

Mr. Watson: No meetings have taken place.

Clansman Radio

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for withdrawing the Clansman radio from service with the UK armed forces. [81850]

Mr. Ingram: The planned out of service date for Clansman is April 2008.

Darfur

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to provide troops for United Nations peacekeeping operations in Darfur; and in what capacity they would serve. [83136]

Mr. Ingram: One UK military officer is currently deployed to the United Nations (UN) Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO), in New York, to help develop UN plans for Darfur.

There are presently no plans to deploy any further military personnel.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his practice is regarding meeting, discussing and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81287]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence always seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy-making process; both informal and formal. The Department holds meetings with representatives of the principal stakeholder groups for our policy areas and with relevant experts. Organisations and individuals can also contribute to the Department's formal consultations which abide by the code of conduct on consultation. Known stakeholders are alerted to the fact that a formal consultation is taking place. As required by the code, the Department then gives feedback on the responses received and on how the consultation process influenced the policy decision.

Departmental Premises (Security)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly employed illegal immigrants as security guards. [80815]

Mr. Watson: I am aware of one instance in which the Ministry of Defence recruited a security guard who was later identified as an illegal immigrant. The man concerned provided false documentation and references on recruitment. Upon detection later by the Ministry of Defence police, his employment was immediately terminated.

I am not aware of any illegal immigrants being indirectly employed by the MOD as contract security guards.

Diabetes/Depleted Uranium

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research has he *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* evaluated and *(c)* received from other sources on possible links between the incidence of diabetes and exposure to depleted uranium; and if he will make a statement. [83759]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence has not commissioned, evaluated or received any research on possible links between the incidence of diabetes and exposure to depleted uranium.

Diego Garcia

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what requirement there was on the US Administration to inform the UK Government that mines were stored on ships in UK territorial waters surrounding Diego Garcia; and if he will make a statement. [82347]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

The Exchange of Notes between the United States and the United Kingdom concerning the availability for defence purposes of the British Indian Ocean Territory 1966 and subsequent Exchange of Notes between the two Governments do not require the United States to provide this kind of information. It is important to note that the territorial sea surrounding Diego Garcia is the territorial sea of the British Indian Ocean Territory, an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the British Government has requested a catalogue of military equipment, arms or munitions held on US ships in the UK territorial waters surrounding Diego Garcia, pursuant to its obligations under the Ottawa Treaty in the past five years. [82348]

Dr. Howells: I have been asked to reply.

The UK is not obliged under the Ottawa Convention to request such a catalogue from the United States and has not done so. The Ottawa Convention, moreover, applies only to anti-personnel landmines. The territorial sea surrounding Diego Garcia is the territorial sea of the British Indian Ocean Territory, an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom.

Equal Opportunities

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff are assigned to equal opportunities investigation teams, broken down by rank; how many investigations have been undertaken by the teams since their establishment; and how many disciplinary cases have been initiated as a result. [79916]

Mr. Watson: I will write to my hon. Friend and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

EU Emission Trading Scheme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost of *(a)* administering and *(b)* buying allocations for each military establishment included in the EU Emission Trading Scheme was in its first year of operation. [82736]

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which installations within his responsibilities are registered with the European Union Emission Trading scheme; and what the cost of carbon credits for each installation was in 2005-06. [83370]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) is registered as the operator of 29 sites under the European Union Emission Trading Scheme, with a further four sites registered where the facilities management contractors act as operator on behalf of the MOD.

The table details the cost of carbon credits and administrating and buying additional permits for each of the establishments registered within the first year of operation of the EU Emission Trading Scheme.

£

Site	*Registration/ licence fee*	*Subsistence charge*	*Verification charges*	*Additional permit costs*	*Variation permit*	*Total cost*
RAF Lossiemouth	530	2,110	1,116	—	240	3,996
RAF Fylingdales	530	2,110	1,116	—	0	3,756
RAF Brize Norton	530	2,110	1,116	—	480	4,236
RAF Wyton	530	2,110	1,116	—	0	3,756
RAF Waddington	530	2,110	1,116	—	240	3,996
RAF Halton	530	2,110	1,116	—	240	3,996
RAF Lyneham	530	2,110	1,116	—	480	4,236
Turners Generation—Fylingdales	530	2,110	1,138	—	0	3,778
DCAE Cosford	530	2,110	1,116	—	240	3,996
RAF High Wycombe	530	2,110	1,116	—	240	3,996
RAF Marham	530	2,110	1,116	—	240	3,996
RAF Aldergrove	530	2,110	1,116	—	0	3,756
3AF Kinloss	530	2,110	1,116	—	240	3,996
RAF Stafford	530	2,110	1,116	—	480	4,236
RAF Cottesmore	530	2,110	1,116	—	240	3,996
RAF Honington	530	2,110	1,116	—	240	3,996
RAF Coningsby	530	2,110	1,116	—	240	3,996
RAF St. Athan	530	2,260	1,116	—	240	4,146
RAF total permits bought[1]				165,250		165,250
RNAS Culdrose	530	2,260	1,429.59	20,417.40	240	24,877.00
HMS Collingwood	530	2,260	1,429.59	24,691	0	28,911.00
RNAS Yeovilton	530	2,110	1,429.59	22,914	240	27,224.00
HMS Sultan	530	2,110	1,429.59	0	0	4,070.00
RMA Sandhurst	530	2,500	1,220	17,520	—	21,770
Wattisham Airfield	530	2,500	1,220	9,708	—	13,958
Prince Phillip Barracks	530	2,500	1,220	16,487	—	20,737
Colchester Garrison	530	2,500	1,220	4,770	—	9,020
Aldershot Military Power Station	530	2,260	1,220	0	—	4,010
Brompton Barracks	530	2,500	1,220	0	—	4,250
Bicester Garrison	240	2,110	4,712	17,238	240	24,540
Donnington	240	2,110	4,712	79,000	—	86,062
HMNB Faslane Babcock Naval Services Ltd.	510	2,110	4,250	0	—	6,870

Site	Registration/ licence fee	Subsistence charge	Verification charges	Additional permit costs	Variation permit	£ Total cost
RNAD Coulport - Babcock Naval Services Ltd.	510	2,110	4,250	0	—	6,870
HMNB Portsmouth - Fleet Support Ltd.	1,230	2,110	2,500	0	—	5,840
						526,119

[1] Permits allocated to individual RAF stations as required.

Registration/licence fee
Fee for permit to operate under the scheme.
Subsistence charge
Annual subsistence charges, payable to the regulatory body (Environment Agency/SEPA) to cover costs of regulation.
Verification charge
Charge for annual verified emissions report carried out by regulatory body approved verifiers.
Additional permit costs
Cost of buying additional permits/allowances above initial free allocation.
Variation permit
Cost payable when installation varies its permit by, for example, adding or removing generating plant that would effect the total emissions.

Falklands War Commemoration

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy that events sponsored by the Government to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Falklands war include Argentine representatives and the families of those killed in the conflict; and if he will make a statement. [81871]

Mr. Watson: The events commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Falklands war in 2007 will remember and honour those who fought and those who died on both sides. No decisions have yet been made on attendance.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83630]

Mr. Watson: No Defence Minister has attended any of the FIFA World Cup 2006 matches in Germany.

FRES

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the *(a)* armoured personnel carriers and *(b)* other armoured platforms being considered for the future rapid effects system offer significant mine and improvised explosive device protection. [82571]

Mr. Ingram: The ability to achieve the required level of protection is a key factor in the assessment of the future rapid effects system, candidate systems and technologies and will be taken fully into account in deciding which option to take forward.

Future Aircraft Carrier

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contingency plans his Department has developed for the Future Aircraft Carrier project if the UK is unable to negotiate access to US stealth technology and flight control software for the Joint Strike Fighter. [82694]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* As I said in my answer to the hon. Member on 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 535-36W, we remain fully committed to the Future Aircraft Carrier programme and are optimistic that our negotiations with the US administration on the transfer of technology and software for the Joint Strike Fighter will be successful. None the less, appropriate actions have been and will continue to be undertaken to ensure that we have the necessary contingency plans should circumstances change. We are not prepared to discuss those in any more detail.

Gurkhas

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research his Department has undertaken into the living conditions of Gurkhas who have completed their service and are living *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* abroad. [82277]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* No specific research has been carried out. Ex-Gurkhas living in the United Kingdom are covered by similar after-care arrangements to those of their colleagues in other Army regiments. Headquarters Brigade of Gurkhas works with Gurkha Regimental Associations, the Veterans Agency and organisations such as the Royal British Legion, and any issues concerning ex-Gurkhas' living conditions that are relevant to their former service, would be brought to my attention through these sources.

Traditionally, Gurkhas retire to Nepal, where they live as Nepalese citizens in their own country and their living conditions are primarily the responsibility of their own Government. The Gurkha Welfare Trust, whose work is supported by my Department, maintains a network of welfare centres throughout Nepal providing individual and community assistance, and provides any information we require. Additionally, we assess economic conditions in Nepal every year to inform the annual review of Gurkha pension rates.

We know that ex-Gurkhas work in a number of other countries, but it is neither practical nor appropriate for us to seek information on their living conditions there.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the number of Gurkhas who have completed their service who are living *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* abroad. [82278]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* We do not monitor the movements of ex-Gurkhas after they have left the Army, therefore we can only provide information based on pension statistics. As of today, 20,426 Gurkhas are in receipt of service pensions. Of these, all are drawing their pensions in Nepal except for 99 drawing them in the United Kingdom and 15 in other countries. The Gurkha Welfare Trust pays pensions to a further 10,542 ex-Gurkhas who are not entitled to service pensions.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of Gurkha pension payments in each year since 1997; and what the additional cost would be of providing pensions to Gurkha soldiers on the same terms as British servicemen and women. [82370]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* We pay over 26,000 Gurkha service pensions to retired soldiers and their dependants amounting last year to some £33 million. The figures for earlier years as far back as 1997 are not centrally held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The option of transferring Gurkhas to the armed forces pension scheme is being explored as part of the wider review of Gurkha Terms and Conditions of Service, which was announced on 11 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 10WS, and which is due to be completed later this year. The scope of the review is however restricted to current members of the Brigade of Gurkhas and those who retired on or after 1 July 1997.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost would be of compensating all living Gurkhas, who have completed their service, for pension payments received below levels provided to British servicemen and women serving at the same time. [82371]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* Gurkha soldiers are members of the Gurkha pension scheme, which reflects their unique terms and conditions of service and is not comparable to the armed forces pension scheme. This position was vindicated by a judicial review in 2003. Compensation would not therefore be appropriate.

Hawk Fighter Jets

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effectiveness and *(b)* employment relations impact of the Babcock contract for service and repair of Hawk Fighter Jets at RAF Valley in north Wales. [81961]

Mr. Ingram: The effectiveness of Babcock Defence Services in relation to the multi-activity contract at RAF Valley is regularly monitored and evaluated. The Ministry of Defence maintains good relations with Babcock which has met and continues to meet the outputs specified in the contract. Employment relations within Babcock are a matter between the company and its work force. We currently have no concerns regarding their impact on the delivery of the contract.

Helicopter Searches

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 40W, on helicopter searches, what arrangements exist between the Chiltern Air Support Unit and RAF Benson for the use of facilities at RAF Benson by *(a)* police helicopters and *(b)* other aircraft operated by the Chiltern Air Support Unit; and what such arrangements existed in July 2003. [81216]

Mr. Ingram: A single police helicopter of the Chiltern Air Support Unit has been located at RAF Benson Station since March 1998. This arrangement is undertaken through an operating agreement between the police and RAF Benson. This agreement is in conjunction with a ground lease which has allowed Thames Valley Police to locate their own temporary building at the site. RAF Benson charges the Chiltern Air Support Unit the standard Government departmental charge for aviation fuel. The unit used a Squirrel helicopter at RAF Benson until April 1999, when it was superseded by an EC 135. No other police helicopters or any other aircraft operated by the Chiltern Air Support Unit have ever been located at RAF Benson.

Helicopters

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK helicopters are deployed in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; what requests have been made by commanders for further helicopter support; and if he will make a statement. [82834]

Des Browne: We regularly review force levels, in consultation with commanders and based on military advice, and amend our plans as necessary. However, it has been the general policy of successive Governments not to divulge details of the military capability, including numbers of specific vehicle assets, deployed on operations, since to do so would reveal the strength and capability of UK forces operating in operational theatres, which could have bearing on our operational security, and thereby place our servicemen and women in additional unnecessary danger or potential harm. Where Ministers have, upon occasion, seen fit to release details of military capability in operational theatres, this has been in circumstances where such additional risk is judged not to apply, and greater detail can be offered in order to better inform the parliamentary debate.

Holocaust

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the work of his Department in assisting organisations who aim to enable veterans and survivors of *(a)* war and *(b)* the holocaust to share their experiences with children and young people; [79833]

(2) what support his Department gives to organisations that aim to enable veterans of *(a)* war and *(b)* the holocaust to share their experiences with children and young people. [79834]

Mr. Watson: There are a number of programmes designed to enable veterans to share their experiences with young people. Funding has been made available to support such programmes through the Veterans Challenge Fund and through regional funding for Veterans Day events. As part of its "Their Past Your Future" programme linked to the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the end of the second world war, the Big Lottery Fund has also provided money to facilitate world war two veterans sharing their war experiences with children and young people.

We are currently discussing with the Holocaust Education Trust how we might bring together veteran liberators and holocaust survivors as part of future Veterans Day events.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to commemorate the courage and sacrifice of British servicemen made during the second world war, with particular reference to the saving of victims of the holocaust. [79852]

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to commemorate the role of British servicemen during the second world war in saving victims of the holocaust. [80256]

Mr. Watson: We owe a debt of gratitude to all those servicemen and women who served our country during world war two. The events in 2005 to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of that war provided a national commemoration of their service and sacrifices. Notable among the achievement of the armed forces was the role they played in liberating and caring for victims of the holocaust. This milestone in the war was marked in one of the commemorative booklets which the Department published on world war two under the title "The Liberation of the Death and Concentration Camps, Europe, June 1944 - May 1945." Copies are still available by request to the Veterans Helpline (08001692277)

The launch this year of an annual Veterans Day on 27 June to celebrate the contribution made by all veterans has provided another opportunity to commemorate such important events in the history of our nation. In future years we hope to bring together veteran liberators and holocaust survivors as part of Veterans Day commemorative events.

Injured British Servicemen (Treatment)

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many armed forces personnel in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Air Force and *(c)* the Royal Navy who were medically discharged from the armed services for injuries sustained in Iraq in each year since 2003 are being treated at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak hospital, Birmingham; [82462]

(2) how many armed forces personnel in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Air Force and *(c)* the Royal Navy who have been medically discharged from the armed services for injuries sustained in Afghanistan in each year since 2002 are being treated at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak hospital, Birmingham. [82464]

Des Browne: None. Once an individual is discharged from the armed forces the responsibility for continued medical care transfers to the NHS.

Iraq

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has carried out strategic analyses of the experiences from the use of improvised explosive devices by the counter-insurgency in Iraq; whether he has made an assessment of whether the tactics used by the insurgents in that theatre are likely to be met elsewhere in future British Army deployments; and what the implications are for *(a)* force structures, *(b)* equipment, *(c)* tactics and *(d)* training for (i) medium-weight armoured formations and (ii) other formations intended for deployment as a rapid reaction force. [82514]

Mr. Ingram: We constantly assess all threats to UK forces deployed in theatre at the strategic, operational and tactical level, including evaluating whether these threats are likely to migrate to other theatres in the future.

The Ministry of Defence has an established process to review operational experiences, which provides the primary mechanism whereby we can translate lessons and best practice into enhanced capability. As a result force structures, for both deployed and reaction forces, equipment, tactics and supporting training are continuously evolving in order to meet counter-insurgency threats in the most effective manner. The MOD does not comment in detail on specific measures taken in order to preserve operational security, and to protect the effectiveness, capability and security of UK and coalition forces.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the costs to the UK of security operations in Iraq since 2003. [83372]

Des Browne: The cost of military operations in Iraq for the years 2002-03 to 2004-05 are:

£ million

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Operations in Iraq	629	1,051	747
Expenditure on capital equipment	218	260	163
Total	847	1,311	910

This gives an overall total of £3,068 million.

The costs of operations are calculated on a net additional basis and audited figures are published each year in the Ministry of Defence's Annual Report and Accounts.

The MOD requested resources of £1,098 million for 2005-06 in the Spring Supplementary Estimates published in February. Final figures will be published in the MOD's 2005-06 Annual Report and Accounts later this year.

Iraq Medal

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which journalists who were not employed directly as media personnel by the Ministry of Defence have *(a)* applied for, *(b)* received, (c) not yet received and *(d)* declined the Iraq medal. [81902]

Mr. Watson: In June 2004, media organisations with employees who deployed as war correspondents with United Kingdom forces during Operation Telic were informed of their entitlement to the award of the campaign medal in accordance with DCI Gen 170/04. As a result, the Ministry of Defence received 74 requests for the medal with clasp from entitled media personnel, of which 62 had been distributed to the recipients as at 3 June 2006. The remaining 12 are held pending collection or confirmation of required postal address. Five entitled war correspondents notified the MOD that they did not wish to be considered for the award.

The term war correspondent includes media support staff as well as journalists and broadcast reporters; thus, camera/sound crew, producers, editors, photographers and other support staff are included in the definition. These personnel are also entitled to the medal as detailed in the DCI and are included among the 74 requests made to the MOD.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of his Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80472]

Mr. Watson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Kandahar Airport

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many aircraft are based at Kandahar airport, broken down by type; and what radar capability each type possesses. [80937]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the announcements made in the House on 26 January and 25 April 2006, the details of which remain correct. Coalition aircraft are based in Kandahar, but I am withholding the current locations and specific capabilities of each asset deployed as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the security of the armed forces.

Lyons Review

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations of the Lyons review; what the targets are for the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [81424]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence is committed to relocating 3,900 posts out of the south-east as a result of the Lyons review, and is on target to meet this obligation. To date, 1,870 posts have been relocated.

The MOD does not set interim targets for the numbers of posts to be redistributed, but other relocation projects, which will allow us to meet our Lyons commitment by the deadline of 2010, are at varying stages of maturity. Where appropriate, the details of these will be announced in due course.

Helicopters

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will purchase a quantity of light observation helicopters similar to the Kiowa type used by the US armed forces, for use as routine convoy and ground vehicle patrol escorts in Iraq. [82509]

Mr. Ingram: British forces in Iraq have Lynx light utility helicopters which can be used for escort duties if commanders judge that appropriate. There are currently no plans to purchase Kiowa helicopters.

Ministerial Engagements

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 164W, on engagements, on which occasions Ministers from his Department *(a)* met and *(b)* otherwise communicated with officers from Thames Valley police between 1 July 2003 and 31 August 2003. [83605]

Des Browne: No Ministry of Defence Ministers met any officers from the Thames Valley police between 1 July and 31 August 2003, nor is there any record of any other communication.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* his and *(b)* each of his Ministers' official engagements were for Monday 3 July 2006. [82997]

Mr. Watson: The Defence Secretary was engaged on constituency business. His engagements included surgeries at Muirkirk, Logan, Lugar, Auchinleck, Sorn and Catrine.

The Minister for the Armed Forces spent the day visiting staff at the Defence Procurement Agency in Bristol and the Defence Logistics Organisation in Bath to brief them on changes announced in the House that day, 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 27WS.

The Minister for Defence Procurement had one meeting in his office in London with officials before conducting media interviews. He then travelled to

Bristol to join the Minister for the Armed Forces before returning to London to repeat the Afghanistan statement in the House of Lords.

I attended the House for an urgent question, for which I prepared by meeting officials in the Ministry of Defence. Following the urgent question, I held a meeting with an MOD official and a meeting with my hon. Friend the Member for Dudley, North (Mr. Austin).

Osprey Body Armour

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of troops serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have been issued with Osprey body armour. [77613]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* All troops deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan are issued with Enhanced Combat Body Armour (ECBA) as standard. The delivery of Improved Performance Body Armour (known as 'Osprey') sets to Iraq and Afghanistan is well under way, and will be provided in addition to ECBA to all personnel who require it. Delivery to both theatres is expected to be substantially complete by late autumn. I am not prepared to comment on detailed percentages as to do so would reveal the present strength and capability of UK forces and potentially compromise operational security by placing our servicemen and women in additional unnecessary danger or potential harm.

Oxfordshire Coroner

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contacts took place between departmental *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials and the Oxfordshire Coroner between 17 July 2003 and 31 March 2004. [83886]

Des Browne: No departmental Minister or official had contact with the Oxfordshire Coroner between 17 July 2003 and 31 March 2004 in connection with Dr Kelly. Liaison between the Oxfordshire Coroner and Government on this matter was through the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Personnel and Equipment Requests

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether requests from the heads of each of the armed forces for *(a)* personnel and *(b)* equipment for deployment in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan have been refused since the start of the present deployment. [81965]

Des Browne *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* Chiefs of Staff collectively consider and endorse force packages for the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan as part of the Department's process of regular review. Ministers have agreed every recommendation made by the Chiefs of Staff in relation to present deployments in either theatre of operations.

Peugeot Vehicles

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Department has spent on Peugeot motor vehicles in each of the past 10 years. [81413]

Mr. Ingram: The Department's non-operational vehicles are provided under the terms of two separate contracts, one for the United Kingdom and one for Germany. For the UK a contract was placed in 2001 with Lex Defence Management Ltd (LDM) now known as VT Land (White Fleet Management) Ltd, and for Germany in 1996 with Ryder plc. The vehicles are not owned by the Department and are provided by service contracts in output terms rather than by a specific vehicle model. A breakdown of individual model types for these contracts is not therefore available.

Information prior to the award of these contracts is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

PO Contracts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for which services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81717]

Mr. Watson: British Forces Post Office (BFPO) has an arrangement with Post Office Counters Ltd for the provision of services at Forces Post Offices counters deployed overseas. This includes the sale of postage stamps, postal orders, National Savings and investment transactions, and payments of allowances etc. in deployed forces post offices. BFPO receives a commission for providing this service. The agreement, which came into force on 24 May 1995, has now expired, although the service continues to be provided. A new contract is being re-negotiated with Royal Mail Group.

RAF Northolt

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civilian movements are authorised at RAF Northolt; how many such movements have taken place in each of the past five years; and whether he plans to change the maximum number. [82609]

Mr. Watson: The following table shows the total number of civil commercial aircraft movements at RAF Northolt in the past five calendar years:

	Number of civilian commercial aircraft movements
2005	7,001
2004	6,999
2003	6,989
2002	7,002
2001	Below 7,000

Notes:
Specific figures for 2001 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Civil commercial aircraft movements at RAF Northolt are subject to a self-imposed limit of 7,000 per calendar year which has been in place since the 1980s.

As expressed by my right hon. Friend the Member for Airdrie and Shotts (John Reid), the then Minister of State for the Armed Forces when he informed the House on 30 June 1998, *Official Report*, columns 272-3, any changes to the number of civilian commercial aircraft movements would be subject to full consultation with the local authority and all interested parties.

Rarden Cannon

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the life expectancy is of the 30 mm Rarden cannon; [82430]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of rounds which can be fired by the 30 mm Rarden cannon before the barrel needs to be replaced; [82431]

(3) how many 30 mm Rarden cannons are used by the *(a)* Warrior, *(b)* Scimitar and *(c)* Sabre vehicles; [82432]

(4) how many of the 30 mm Rarden cannons in use by the British military will need to be replaced in the next two financial years; and at what estimated cost. [82477]

Mr. Ingram: The Rarden cannon is planned to be withdrawn from service in 2025 and there is currently no requirement to replace any cannons over the next two years. There are currently 575 cannons fitted to Warrior and 329 fitted to Scimitar. Sabre was removed from service in 2004. Each Rarden cannon barrel is changed after 3,750 effective full charges have been fired.

Service Housing

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to improve service housing. [82961]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* A Housing Prime Contract valued at some £700 million over seven years has recently been awarded which provides for the repair and maintenance of the Ministry of Defence's housing in England and Wales. Together with the Regional Prime Contract in Scotland, the Housing Prime Contract will ensure improved maintenance of housing and provide better value for money through efficiencies. The MOD expects to spend around £25 million in the current financial year to upgrade some 1,200 properties to the highest standard of condition across the United Kingdom. Our aim is to deliver a minimum of 900 upgrades per year over the subsequent four years.

Overseas, there is a major project in Cyprus, valued at £58 million, to construct 269 new service families accommodations (SFA) between April 2007 and March 2011. In addition, a rolling project valued at £20 million will refurbish SFA throughout Gibraltar, and a further project is set to deliver 12 new SFA in the Falkland Islands by the end of 2007. There is also a major project, funded by the Sultan of Brunei, to provide new SFA for the British garrison in Brunei which will run in two five-year phases from mid 2006.

Shoeburyness Ranges

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcomes were of the review of activities at the Shoeburyness Ranges; and whether he plans to relocate any of these activities elsewhere. [82455]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* The review into demilitarisation activities at Shoeburyness was completed on schedule by the end of March 2006. I have given initial consideration to all the conclusions made by officials, including the potential for relocating some demilitarisation activities. I have asked for additional advice to inform a more detailed consideration of all the options identified by the review. When that has been completed, I will present the way forward to MPs and the public. I expect to be able to do this shortly.

Territorial Army (Records)

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Reserve Training and Mobilisation Centre records include information on the units to which members of the Territorial Army are mobilised. [45456]

Mr. Watson: The Reserve Training and Mobilisation Centre records include information on the units to which mobilised members of the Territorial Army are initially posted. They do not, however, include information on subsequent postings to other units.

Thames Gateway

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what departmental land in Kent has been earmarked for release to facilitate the implementation of the Thames Gateway project; what the timetable is for release; what the forecast capital receipts are: and if he will make a statement. [83699]

Mr. Watson: It is Ministry of Defence (MOD) policy that the defence estate should be no larger than necessary for operational purposes. Land and buildings, for which there is no present or future requirement, are disposed of as soon as possible in line with Treasury guidelines. A major MOD rationalisation project that could potentially provide land for redevelopment in Kent involves the Royal School of Military Engineering private finance initiative (PFI). Their preferred bidder, Holdfast Training Services, has identified a number of sites for potential release between 2006 and 2012, primarily within the Thames Gateway. Options for taking the PFI forward are under consideration and MOD is liaising with other Departments and stakeholders. It is too early to make any decision on what land might eventually be released.

It is not our practice to release disposal valuations in advance of completion of sale, as to do so could influence the market and would not be in the interests of the taxpayer generally.

Training Exercises

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of training exercises have been cancelled in each of the past five years. [83703]

Mr. Ingram: The Defence Exercise Programme has recorded the following percentage of cancelled exercises in each of the past five years:

Financial year	*Percentage*
2001-02	20
2002-03	43
2003-04	34
2004-05	20
2005-06	14
2006-07 (to date in financial year)	5

While specific reasons for cancellation are not available in many cases, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost, the programme continues to be affected by competing operational priorities.

Trident

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the Trident nuclear weapons programme cost in each of the past five years. [83114]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 713W, to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone).

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Academies

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of academies' educational achievement in areas of educational deprivation. [82742]

Jim Knight: We have commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to carry out an independent five-year evaluation of the academies programme. The third annual report is due to be published later this month. The 2005 report concluded that there is a "significant difference in the learning culture in new Academies, compared to their predecessors" and that 97 per cent. of staff think that the principal really believes that the academy can make a difference to the pupils' learning whatever their family background. It also highlighted:

- A generally positive endorsement of the sponsors' role, particularly in terms of establishing a vision for academies and bringing to bear additional resources and expertise.
- Strongly positive feedback, particularly amongst pupils, of the role played by academy principals in terms of transforming the learning culture and raising pupils' aspirations
- Clear evidence of innovative approaches being adopted by academies to the curriculum, staffing, teaching and learning and timetabling
- Evidence of the new academies impacting positively on some aspects of pupil behaviour; and
- innovative approaches being adopted in relation to the design of new academy buildings, and broadly positive feedback from staff, pupils and parents about the overall impact of the new buildings on teaching and learning.

In 2005, academies improved results by nearly 8 percentage points compared to 2004. This is three times the national average increase of 2.4 percentage points. The average five or more A*-C GCSE results of the 14 academies with pupils sitting GCSEs was 36.4 per cent. in 2005, compared to an average 21 per cent. in their predecessor schools in 2002.

David Bell, formerly Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools said last year about standards in academies that "in some cases, what has been achieved in a short time is nothing less than remarkable".

Adult Learners

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research his Department has commissioned into the social profile of adult learners in West Lancashire. [83545]

Bill Rammell: The Department has not commissioned research into the social profile of adult learners specifically in West Lancashire. However, we do have some social profile information on West Lancashire adults who have been taking part in learning funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). The following information is based on providers' returns to the LSC's Individual Learner Record database for the 2004/05 academic year.

A total of 6,196 adults (aged 19+) from the West Lancashire constituency took part in LSC-funded further education courses in the 2004/05 academic year. In addition, 478 West Lancashire adults took part in work-based learning courses; and 2,079 West Lancashire adults took part in adult and community learning courses. The breakdown of these adults in terms of gender, age, ethnicity and disability is shown in the following tables.

Table 1. Participation by gender

	Percentage	
	Women	*Men*
Further education	65	35
Work-based learning	54	46
Adult and community learning	78	22

The proportion of women in West Lancashire who took part in work-based learning is higher than the national average. The proportion of women who took part in further education is also slightly higher than the national average, whereas the proportion of women in adult and community learning is the same as the national average.

Table 2. Participation by age band.

			Percentage
	19-24	*25-59*	*60 and over*
Further education	15	73	11
Work-based learning	97	3	0
Adult and community learning	4	61	35

The age profile of students in West Lancashire in these three types of learning is very similar to the national age profile of students in these three types of learning.

Table 3. Participation by ethnicity

Percentage

	White British	Any other white background	Non-white background	Not known/not provided
Further education	92	2	2	4
Work-based learning	96	0	2	2
Adult and community learning	94	0	1	5

The proportion of West Lancashire people from non-white backgrounds in all three types of learning is much lower than the national average. This reflects the low proportion of non-white people in the West Lancashire constituency.

Table 4. Participation by disability

Percentage

	Learner has a disability or learning difficulty	Learner does not have a disability or learning difficulty	No information provided by the learner
Further education	11	79	10
Work-based learning	8	90	2
Adult and community learning	8	88	4

The proportion of disabled adults in West Lancashire who took part in these three types of learning is close to the national average. Note that these learners reported their own disability status and were not assessed.

Many other aspects of the social profile of adult learners are analysed on a national basis in the Department's National Adult Learning Survey. The latest version (for 2002)[1] is available from the House of Commons Library, and the Department plans to publish the 2005 version in September.

[1] Fitzgerald R, Taylor R & LaValle I. National Adult Learning Survey 2002, DfES Research report RR415.

A-levels

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many A-levels, on average, were achieved by pupils whose parents *(a)* both have A-levels and *(b)* have none in the last period for which figures are available. [84208]

Jim Knight: The following table shows estimates from the Youth Cohort Study (YCS) of the average number of A/AS-levels held by young people at academic age 18 broken down by the number of their parents who are qualified to at least A-level.

A/AS-level of attainment by academic age 18 by parental attainment

Number of parents reported as qualified to at least A-level	Average number of A/AS levels[1] attained by young person
None	0.9
One	1.6
Two	2.0

[1] AS-levels count as 0.5 A-levels

Source:
Youth Cohort Study, Cohort 11, sweep 3, spring 2004

British Empire

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the draft changes to the key stage 3 curriculum about the British Empire; and whether there are plans to extend these changes to teach more on the British Empire at *(a)* key stage (i) 1 and (ii) 2 and *(b)* GCSE. [83111]

Jim Knight: The key stage 3 review is still in the early stages and these are early drafts of the new curriculum which will need further work before they are agreed. A formal consultation on the new curriculum will not begin until February 2007 and the new curriculum is not due to be implemented in schools until September 2008. It would be inappropriate to comment on the detail of any draft proposals until the QCA has carried out this further work and submitted formal advice to the Department.

There are no plans to make changes to key stage 1 and 2 or GCSE history at the moment.

Bullying

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding is planned to be made available to schools in West Lancashire for anti-bullying campaigns in each of the next five years. [83561]

Jim Knight: The Department does not make funding available to individual schools for anti-bullying purposes. However, in the current financial year we propose to make £1.4 million available to support anti-bullying initiatives. All of the organisations involved in taking forward these initiatives will be working with local authorities and other partners to help embed effective practice in schools. Budgets beyond the current financial year have yet to be decided.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will require schools to monitor and record incidents of homophobic bullying. [84209]

Jim Knight: We have no plans to require schools to monitor and record incidents of bullying, including incidents of a homophobic nature. Schools are, however, required to record details of any racist bullying incidents which occur.

Many individual schools and local authorities do record incidents of bullying, and we welcome this as best practice within our anti-bullying guidance to schools, "Don't Suffer in Silence". Furthermore, in line with commitments outlined in the White Paper, "Higher Standards, Better Schools for All" (October 2005), we shall be issuing guidance to schools in spring 2007 on how to prevent and tackle homophobic bullying.

Child Abuse

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what national records he keeps of child abuse incidents. [82085]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills collects information annually about children's social care from all 150 local authorities with social services responsibilities in England. Information is collected and stored on the number of children who are referred to social services departments, assessments made of whether the child is in need of any services and the number subsequently placed on the child protection register. A child is placed on the child protection register when it is decided that further action to safeguard their welfare is required as the child is at a continuing risk of harm.

Class Sizes

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average class size is in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in West Lancashire constituency. [83560]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the following table:

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: average class size[2] 2006[3] position in January, West Lancashire parliamentary constituency

	Average class size
Primary	24.7
Secondary	21.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Classes taught by one teacher during a single selected period on the Census day in January.
[3] Provisional.

Final 2006 class size data will be published in September.

Classroom Heating

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school classrooms are unheated. [84219]

Jim Knight: We are not aware of any classrooms that are unheated. There are requirements for all classrooms to be heated to a minimum temperature of 18° C in the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 (www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si1999/99000202.htm#16) and The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2003.

Community Family Trusts

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills under what programme he envisages future funding for community family trusts to be provided; whether such trusts are eligible for funding from the Children, Young People and Families Grant scheme for national programmes; and what the criteria are for the scheme. [83397]

Mr. Dhanda: Community family trusts will continue to be eligible to apply for funding under the Children, Young People and Families Grant programme. The criteria for the scheme in 2007/08 have yet to be announced, but details will shortly be placed on www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/voluntaryandcommunity/cypfgrant/.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which community family trusts received funding for 2006-07; and under what grant programme such funding was made available. [83398]

Mr. Dhanda: Time for Families received funding in 2006-07, under the Children, Young People and Families Grant programme.

Deaf Children

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to raise the educational attainment of deaf children in *(a)* West Lancashire and *(b)* Lancashire. [83558]

Mr. Dhanda: The Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice provides advice to local authorities, and schools on their statutory duties to identify, assess and make provision for children who have special educational needs, including children who are deaf. The code sets out a graduated approach to providing support. Many children who are deaf will have statements of SEN. All statements must be reviewed at least annually. The purpose of the review is to consider a children's progress, to ensure they are achieving desired outcomes and, if necessary, to amend their statements to reflect newly identified needs and provision.

In addition, the development of the new relationship with schools brings a focus on how well schools meet the needs of all their pupils. All schools will carry out an annual self-evaluation and publish a single plan setting out their priorities for improvement in which they will need to show how all their pupils are achieving. This process will highlight any gaps in achievement between different groups of children, which will then be discussed with a locally appointed school improvement partner.

The White Paper "Higher Standards, Better Schools for All" published in October 2005, which builds on "Removing Barriers to Achievement" published in February 2004, promotes a more effectively tailored education for all children with special educational needs by increasing the sharing of expertise between special and mainstream schools, by equipping the

workforce with appropriate skills, knowledge, awareness and confidence and by promoting more effective measurement of, and accountability for, the progress made by pupils with SEN across a wide range of abilities. The White Paper also set out our plans for personalised learning; these include providing targeted support for groups of children who are at risk of under achieving, including those with SEN. We will spend an additional £565 million by 2007-08 to support schools to tailor teaching to the needs of all their pupils.

Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of his Department; what commitment he has made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81061]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's most recent data on carbon emissions covers the period April 2004 to March 2005.

Carbon emissions for the Department's five main headquarter buildings in 2004/05 were 31 kgC/M2[1].

The Department's Sustainable Development Action plan commits us to achieving the targets set out in the Framework for Sustainable Development on the Government Estate (the Framework) The Department aims to achieve this through:

Embedding Sustainable Development into all DfES operational activity thereby demonstrating more effective delivery, reduced costs and improved progress against Government targets; and

Increasing awareness of sustainable development to gain wider buy-in and commitment from DfES staff.

[1] The figure presented above is based on kilograms of carbon emitted per square metre of lettable area in our HQ buildings. This figure excludes carbon emissions from road vehicles used for Government administrative operations as this information is not currently held.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what draft Bills have been produced by his Department since October 2005; how many were *(a)* examined and *(b)* are planned to be examined by (i) a departmental Select Committee and (ii) a Joint Committee; which draft Bills are still to be produced by his Department; when each is expected to be published; how many clauses each has; and if he will make a statement. [81291]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills has not produced any draft Bills for pre-legislative scrutiny since October 2005. Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be indicated in the Queen's Speech.

Education Finance

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding Swindon received for *(a)* primary, *(b)* secondary and *(c)* further education in each year between 1996-97 and 2006-07. [82743]

Jim Knight: The Department does not have any figures prior to 1997-98. However, the following table sets out the total funding received by Swindon local education authority for its primary and secondary schools for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06. The Department does not collect figures for further education.

£ million

	Total funding	
	Three to 10-year-olds	*11 to 15-year-olds*
1997-98	40.1	32.0
1998-99	41.8	33.6
1999-2000	45.6	36.0
2000-01	49.2	39.8
2001-02	51.8	41.6
2002-03	52.7	42.8
2003-04	56.9	45.3
2004-05	58.3	47.0
2005-06	61.7	48.8

Notes:

1. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged three to 10 and 11 to 15 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment/Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Where responsibility for funding a school has transferred from an authority, related funding no longer appears in the series.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million. Real terms at 2004-05 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 23 December 2005.
5. 2003-04 to 2005-06 figures are provisional as some grants have not yet been finalised/audited.

The following figures are taken from the new Dedicated Schools Grant. They are not comparable with those for the earlier years.

£ million

2005-06 Baseline	92.985
2006-07 DSG	99.650

Notes:

1. The figures from 1997-98 to 2005-06 are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which forms the Education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This is an assessment of what local authorities need to fund education rather than what they spend, in 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which is based largely on an authority's previous spending.
2. The DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS was made of both a schools and an LEA block to cover LEA central functions. DSG only covers the schools block, LEA block items are still funded through the Local Government Finance Settlement and cannot be separately identified. This means the two sets of figures are not comparable. A new funding series is currently being developed by the Department.
3. There are other grants that support the schools budget. These are not included in the provided DSG figures as some of these grant figures are not yet available.
4. Figures are in cash terms and include the pensions transfer.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of students receiving the education maintenance allowance have gone on to study in higher education. [83133]

Mr. Dhanda: The national education maintenance allowance (EMA) scheme was rolled out to 16-year-olds in the 2004/05 academic year and therefore these

young people will not be entering higher education (HE) until the 2006/07 academic year at the earliest. Some young people may also take three years in post-compulsory education to achieve the qualifications necessary to enter higher education, or may defer entry. As a result, no data is currently available on the progression of these students into HE.

The Learning and Skills Council (which operates the scheme on behalf of DfES), is commissioning evaluation that will, when appropriate data becomes available, examine the impact of EMA on subsequent application to, and participation in, higher education.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been paid through the education maintenance allowance scheme. [83134]

Mr. Dhanda: The total amount of education maintenance allowance (EMA) payments made to students from the start of the EMA pilots in September 1999 up to the end of the financial year 2005-06, is £996.98 million.

Ergonomic Classroom Facilities

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what requirements his Department is placing on school planners to install ergonomic classroom facilities in schools under the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [83451]

Jim Knight: The Department does not place any specific requirement on school planners to install ergonomic classroom facilities in schools under the Building Schools for the Future programme, or its other capital programmes. This is a matter for local decision-making.

However, good quality design is given a high priority within Building Schools for the Future. This includes designing all classrooms to meet the ergonomic needs of all staff and pupils, including those with special needs and disabilities, by providing adequate space and appropriate furniture and equipment.

The Department has issued a number of guides on school design including one on furniture and equipment. It has also supported the development of a school furniture website which advises on ergonomic issues in schools and it ran a furniture design competition in 2002 with the Design Council to encourage innovative designs for classroom furniture. A forthcoming guide will provide advice on all aspects of designing for pupils with special needs including furniture and equipment.

Examination Marking

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the number of newly qualified teachers marking *(a)* A-level and *(b)* AS-level papers in subjects that they have never taught; and if he will make a statement. [83606]

Jim Knight: The regulation of the examinations system is a matter for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). However, it does not collect or hold data relating to the backgrounds of the examiners who are employed by the awarding bodies to mark GCE A and AS-level scripts.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83616]

Mr. Dhanda: Ministers from the Department for Education and Skills have not attended any FIFA World Cup matches in Germany.

Fire Risk Assessments

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of schools have trained their staff to deal with fire safety risks. [82045]

Jim Knight: We do not have this information. However we issued guidance for schools and local authorities in our Managing Schools Facilities Guide "Fire Safety". This outlines the training that school staff should receive. See www.teachernet.gov.uk/fire.

Freedom of Information (Trust Schools)

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether trust schools will be covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [84218]

Mr. Dhanda: As is the case with all maintained schools, the governing bodies of trust schools will be covered by the Freedom of Information Act.

Grammar Schools

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were educated at grammar schools in each year since 1997. [84245]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table.

Maintained Secondary Schools: Number (headcount) of pupils[1, 2], England

	Grammar schools		*All maintained secondary schools[3]*
Position in January, each year: 1997 to 2006[4]	*Number of pupils[5]*	*Percentage of pupils[5]*	*Number of pupils*
1997	128,710	4.2	3,041,580
1998	130,320	4.2	3,072,820
1999	140,880	4.5	3,121,900

Maintained Secondary Schools: Number (headcount) of pupils[1, 2], England

	Grammar schools		All maintained secondary schools[3]
Position in January each year: 1997 to 2006[4]	*Number of pupils[2]*	*Percentage of pupils[5]*	*Number of pupils*
2000	141,390	4.4	3,181,810
2001	142,340	4.4	3,231,830
2002	146,190	4.5	3,264,090
2003	149,910	4.5	3,308,030
2004	152,610	4.6	3,324,950
2005	154,070	4.6	3,316,050
2006[4]	155,480	4.7	3,306,780

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] All maintained secondary schools, includes grammar schools. Excludes academies and city technology colleges.
[4] Provisional.
[5] The number of pupils in grammar schools expressed as a percentage of pupils across all maintained secondary schools.
Source:
Schools' Census.

Higher Education

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the future higher education needs of West Lancashire; and if he will make a statement. [83565]

Bill Rammell: The Department works mainly through the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on matters relating to the expansion of higher education provision in England.

HEFCE has undertaken a number of reviews, in consultation with interested bodies, of higher education provision in the north. Emanating from this has been a number of proposals for the expansion of HE provision within the Lancashire and Cumbria areas. I expect an announcement to be made later this year on these proposals, including those specific to my hon. Friend's constituency, West Lancashire.

Lockers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many secondary schools in *(a)* England and *(b)* Sutton have locker facilities for every pupil; and if he will make a statement; [83452]

(2) what plans he has to ensure that each pupil from Years 7 to 11 has access to locker facilities; and if he will make a statement. [83430]

Jim Knight: We do not collect information about provision of pupil locker facilities. The Department requires school buildings to have facilities for storing pupils' clothes and other belongings, and the Department's recommended area standards for secondary school buildings include an appropriate allowance. Schools make their own decisions about the best way to provide storage; many choose to provide lockers.

Ofsted Early Years

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many out of school services were registered with Ofsted Early Years in Lancashire in each year since 1997. [81765]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector of schools, Maurice Smith, has written to the hon. Gentleman and a copy of his reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Maurice J Smith, dated 7 July 2006:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked how many out of school services were registered with Ofsted Early Years in Lancashire in each year since 1997.

In response, the table overleaf shows two sets of figures:

1. The number of providers who registered each year who offered out of school provision.

2. The total number of active providers who provided out of school care at the end of each year.

Ofsted only took over responsibility in September 2001, thus the first full year of data shown is for 2002. The total ODC figure for 2002 is not included as we do not have published figures that go back to this time.

Information on ODC providers in Lancashire local authority

	Number of ODC providers registered each year to provide this type of care[1]	*Number of active ODC providers who provide this type of care at the end of each year[2]*
2002	48	—
2003	49	229
2004	62	271
2005	70	294

[1] Data is based on a snapshot of Ofsted's Regulatory Support Application (RSA) taken on 6 April 2006. Data relates to when providers are eligible to offer out of school provision.
[2] Data is based on unrounded December Quarterly Childcare Statistics.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Beverley Hughes and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Olympics

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which officials in his Department *(a)* are responsible for Olympics-related activity and *(b)* sit on the inter-departmental steering group for the Olympics. [81561]

Jim Knight: Helen Williams, director, Curriculum and Pupil Wellbeing, is responsible for Olympics-related activity within the Department for Education and Skills, and is the representative on the inter-departmental group.

Parent and Children Services

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures are *(a)* in place and *(b)* planned to ensure that public services for parents and children recognise and meet the needs of fathers. [84168]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government recognise the importance of involving both fathers and mothers in the public services for children and families. We are making progress on supporting fathers. For example:

we have issued guidance to local authorities that sets out our expectations of the way that Sure Start children's centres should personalise services for fathers, offering the support and opportunities they need to engage fully with their parenting role;

in the national service framework for children, young people and maternity services a marker of good practice is that primary care trusts and local authorities provide targeted information and support for fathers as well as mothers; and

as part of our work to encourage schools to work more closely with parents, we will particularly focus on the importance of involving fathers.

The Department will be working closely with the Equal Opportunities Commission in the future to ensure that, as local authorities and other partners plan their services for children, young people and families they are fully aware of the gender equality duty and ensure that fathers and other male carers receive the support they need to achieve the best outcome for children.

Personal Finance Education

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with the Financial Services Authority on how it plans to introduce content on personal finance education into the school curriculum in 2008. [83257]

Jim Knight: Ministers and senior officials hold regular discussions with the Financial Services Authority about personal finance education in schools, including the content of personal finance education. DfES continues to work closely with the FSA on the development of it national strategy for promoting financial literacy.

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 312W, on Private Members' Bills, what estimate he has made of the cost of answering the question; and if he will make a statement; [82629]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 103W, on the Education and Skills Committee, what estimate he has made of the cost of answering the question; and if he will make a statement. [82630]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not keep a central record of the information requested. An assessment of the staff time and associated costs required to provide answers was estimated to be significantly in excess of the disproportionate cost threshold of £600.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many public appointments are within his patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83184]

Mr. Dhanda: The numbers of public appointments made by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills and the remuneration attached to each of the chair and board member appointments of bodies sponsored by my Department are set out in the following table. There are a total of 21 chair and 249 board member appointments. The information is correct as at 1 April 2006 and covers those bodies that fall under the remit of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

The Department for Education and Skills came into existence in 2001. Comparable figures for appointments made to bodies by the Secretary of State of the Department's predecessors in 1986 and 1996 can be found in public bodies, the annual Cabinet Office publication, prepared by the agencies and public bodies team in the Cabinet Office. Copies are available in the House of Commons Library.

Executive NDPBs

Public body	*Remuneration of chair annual unless stated otherwise (£)*	*Number of Board members*	*Remuneration of board members (annual unless stated otherwise (£)*
Adult Learning Inspectorate	10,044	7	Unpaid
British Educational Communications and Technology Agency	30,000	7	Unpaid
Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	523 per day	9	270.30 per day
Construction Industry Training Board	21,420	20	Unpaid
Engineering Construction Industry Training Board	16,580	26	Unpaid
Higher Education Funding Council for England	43,959	13	5,000
Investors in People UK	Unpaid	12	Unpaid
Learning and Skills Council for England	51,000	16	4,000
Learning and Skills Council for England – 47 Local Chairs	5,000	47	0
National College for School Leadership	41,120	—	Unpaid
Office for Fair Access	50,000	0	0

Public body	Executive NDPBs: Remuneration of chair annual unless stated otherwise (£)	Number of Board members	Remuneration of board members (annual unless stated otherwise (£)
Office of the Children's Commissioner	130,000	0	0
Partnerships for Schools	25,000	7	5,000
Qualifications and Curriculum Authority	Does not draw remuneration	14	Unpaid
Quality Improvement Agency	25,000	—	Unpaid
School Food Trust	15,000	16	Unpaid
Sector Skills Development Agency	42,881	13	300 per day
Student Loans Company	68,000	5	5,000
Training and Development Agency for Schools	44,037	13	300 per day
Advisory NDPBs			300 per day
Independent Advisory Group on Teenage Pregnancy	15,000	9	114 per day
School Teachers Review Body	350 per meeting	9	300 per day
Teacher's TV	55,000	6	10,000 per day

Pupil Absence

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in each London borough missed at least half a day due to unauthorised absence in *(a)* primary schools, *(b)* secondary schools, *(c)* special schools and *(d)* pupil referral units in the last year for which figures are available, expressed as a percentage of pupils of compulsory school age. [81714]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Pupil Referral Units

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many places are available at pupil referral units in *(a)* West Lancashire and *(b)* Lancashire; what their occupancy rate is; and if he will make a statement. [83562]

Jim Knight: The information on pupil referral units (PRUs) in Lancashire and West Lancashire is set out in the table.

	Number
Number of PRU places in Lancashire[1]	709
Number of PRU places in West Lancashire[1]	40
Number of pupils attended PRUs in Lancashire[2]	248
Number of pupils attended PRUs in West Lancashire[2]	27

[1] The number of places available is reported to the Department when a local authority registers a PRU. This denotes the capacity of the PRU.

[2] Pupil numbers are collected via the annual school census and they relate to the 2005 census. The figures relate to the number of pupils on the PRU register on the day of the census.

In addition to educating pupils in PRUs, the local authority make use of other types of alternative educational provision available in the private and voluntary sector to meet the needs of other pupils who are unable to attend mainstream and special schools.

Data collected from local authorities in January 2005 showed that 947 pupils in Lancashire were benefiting in this way.

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by his Department or public bodies for which he is responsible in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was in each case. [83185]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is not available in the format requested. To gather the information in such a way would incur disproportionate costs.

School Funding

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what funding his Department has made available for improvements to school sports facilities in *(a)* West Lancashire, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each year between 1997 and 2005; [83438]

(2) what funding his Department has made available for improvements to school music facilities in *(a)* West Lancashire, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each academic year since 1997. [83439]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills allocates capital funding on a local authority basis, and on a financial year basis commencing 1 April. It then relies on the local authority to spend its allocation on improving school sports facilities, music

facilities and other school assets in accordance with priorities set out in the local asset management plan. Accordingly, an analysis by type of expenditure is not held centrally.

Capital allocations to *(a)* Lancashire county council and *(b)* England in each financial year since 1997 have increased significantly in the period 1997-98 to 2006-07, and are set out in the following table:

	Lancashire	*£ million England*
1997-98	13.3	800
1998-99	19.5	1,100
1999-2000	36.8	1,400
2000-01	42.2	2,100
2001-02	36.0	2,400
2002-03	55.5	3,300
2003-04	62.6	4,164
2004-05	44.2	4,873
2005-06	38.1	5,515
2006-07	51.2	5,755

The peaks in Lancashire funding in the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2006-07 are due to successful Targeted Capital Fund bids.

School Confederations

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the creation of school confederations; what assessment he has made of the willingness of schools to enter into confederations; what incentives exist to encourage this initiative; and what benefits he expects to accrue to schools that choose to participate. [83609]

Jim Knight: We know that successful partnerships can be a very effective way of improving a school at all levels and we expect that schools will wish to work with others to benefit from the partnership dividend. Schools are free to enter into a wide range of partnership arrangements, including federations. It is for individual schools' governing bodies to decide whether it is in the best interests of their schools to enter into partnerships, therefore we do not hold detailed information centrally about the number of schools involved in every type of partnership with schools or with public, voluntary and private sector organisations.

The Government are committed to promoting partnership working through Education Improvement Partnerships (EIPs) or other types of collaboration where it will deliver improved standards and increased opportunities. We are encouraging partnerships to consider local needs and determine how best to meet these through collaboration.

All schools can benefit from reciprocal support, sharing best practice, pooling resources and offering wider ranges of opportunities to children and staff. However, there is no separate dedicated revenue grant for partnership and funding for school improvement is now part of the School Development Grant.

School Discipline

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support his Department provides to teachers in dealing with badly behaved pupils. [82721]

Jim Knight: We are implementing a wide-ranging national programme to help schools manage behaviour effectively. This includes:

providing all schools with high-quality staff training materials;

giving all secondary schools access to expert advice from behaviour management consultants;

providing additional resources for schools facing the greatest challenges. These are being used to fund a range of additional support including learning mentors, in-school learning support units and multi-agency behaviour support teams; and

legislating to give school staff a clear statutory power to discipline pupils, extend the use of parenting contracts and orders for bad behaviour and provide a more effective exclusions regime.

School Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average expenditure was per pupil in Yeovil constituency in the *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2005-06 financial year. [83391]

Jim Knight: The information requested is collected at local education authority level. The Yeovil constituency falls within the local authority area of Somerset local authority and the information supplied is reported at the LA level.

	£ per pupil
1996-97	2,610
2004-05	3,780

Notes:

1. The combined LA and school based expenditure includes all expenditure on the education of children in LA maintained establishments and pupils educated by the LA other than in maintained establishments. This includes both school based expenditure and all elements of central LA expenditure except youth and community and capital expenditure from revenue (CERA).
2. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the ODPM to the section 52 form from the DfES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) to schools and the associated restructuring of the section 52 outturn tables.
3. Pupil figures include all pre-primary pupils, including those under 5s funded by the LA and being educated in private settings, pupils educated in maintained mainstream schools and other LA maintained pupils. The pupil data for pupils attending maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools are taken from the DfES Annual Schools Census. Private voluntary and independent (PVI) under 5 pupil numbers are taken from the Early Years census but are only included from 1999-2000 onwards. Also included are other LA maintained pupils which includes all pupils attending schools not maintained by the authority for whom the authority is paying full tuition fees, or educated otherwise than in schools and pupil referral units under arrangements made by the authority drawn from the form 8b submitted to the DfES. Also included as other LA maintained pupils are all pupils attending pupil referral units who are not registered at a maintained mainstream school drawn from the DfES Annual Schools Census. All pupil numbers are adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
4. Figures prior to 1999-2000 exclude any expenditure on service, strategy and regulation.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Cash terms figures as reported by Somerset LEA as at 5 July 2006.

School Pupils (Weapons)

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many incidents there were of pupils found on school premises in possession of *(a)* a knife, *(b)* a firearm, *(c)* an explosive and *(d)* another weapon in each of the past three years. [84143]

Jim Knight: Sixty-six people (of all ages) were convicted of possessing a blade or offensive weapon on school premises in 2004, 43 people in 2003 and 36 in 2002. There are no records of whether or not these convictions were incurred by pupils. Possession of firearms or explosives are not school specific offences, so no records are kept of whether or not they were committed by pupils or in school.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what further security measures are being considered for schools; [82723]

(2) whether the Department has considered introducing metal detectors in schools. [82724]

Mr. Dhanda: We propose to enable schools to search, without consent, a pupil they suspect is carrying a knife or other weapon. Guidance on the power to search will include advice on what equipment schools could use in searching, including metal detectors.

Skills for Life

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, Column 256W, on skills for life, which particular skill sets staff members regarded as requiring skills for life courses needed; how the requirements were identified; what grade each staff member who attended a course received at annual review *(a)* before and *(b)* after attending; and what course was taken. [82160]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's skills for life strategy targets literacy and numeracy skills for adults who have few or no qualifications and these are the skills sets the Department has identified for its skills for life provision. The skills for life course is run by a local provider, tailored to the requirements of the Department.

Learning requirements are identified by line managers in discussion with staff as part of regular development planning discussions. These discussions are a requirement of the Department's performance management arrangements and identify the development staff need to support delivery of their work objectives.

The information requested on recent annual review grades can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. But annual reviews take into account many aspects of performance and a skills for life course alone would not affect the overall grade.

Staff Development

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total cost was of *(a)* staff away days and *(b)* staff team building exercises in his Department in each of the last three years. [69039]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is committed to helping staff to reach their full potential and believe that staff away days and team building exercises are beneficial in helping them achieve that.

Swimming

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he plans to remove swimming from the national curriculum in primary schools. [83708]

Jim Knight: The national curriculum for physical education requires that all pupils should be taught to swim at least 25 metres by the end of key stage two. There are no plans to remove swimming from the national curriculum in primary schools.

Teachers

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will make a statement on the nature of the errors and inconsistencies in the provisional Teacher Assessment data published in his Department's Statistical First Release 32/2005; [76492]

(2) what assessment he has made of the accuracy of provisional Teacher Assessment data published in his Department's Statistical First Release 32/2005; [76494]

(3) how many local authorities were affected by errors and inconsistencies in the provisional Teacher Assessment data published in his Department's Statistical First Release 32/2005. [76495]

Jim Knight: The Teacher Assessment results published on a provisional basis in SFR 32/2005 were based on data provided by schools to the National Assessment Agency's data collection contractor. When these data were made available to local authorities the Department became aware of errors. These errors may have been introduced at any point in the collection and validation process including in the original data supplied by schools. These errors are known to affect up to a third of schools spread across almost all local authorities. However in the majority of cases the error is known to be very small, and serious errors occur in less than 1 per cent. of all cases.

Prior to provision to the DfES both the National Assessment Agency and its contractor perform quality checks and data cleansing exercises on the data. However, the nature of the errors was such that they would not be easily identifiable from inspection of the data. Only when the data were made available to local authorities were they able to identify these issues. As soon as the errors were notified to the Department, they were investigated and a warning note was added to the Department's statistical website. The National Assessment Agency has already put in place system changes for data entry in 2006 such that these errors can not happen again.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers have been dismissed since 1997. [81904]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on what the estimated retention levels are of *(a)* newly-qualified and *(b)* existing teachers; and what the average number of years served by existing teachers is. [81852]

Jim Knight: Provisional estimates show that of the 20,580 newly qualified teachers in full-time regular service in the maintained sector in England in March 2003,1,800 were no longer in full-time regular service in March 2004. This is a retention rate of 91 per cent. The equivalent retention rate for all full-time regular teachers in the maintained sector in England for the same period is 89 per cent.

The average number of years served by full-time regular teachers in the maintained sector in England, as at March 2004, was 14.

Newly-qualified teachers are those that gained qualified teacher status in the calendar year 2002. The information is from the Database of Teacher Records and the latest information available from this source is for March 2004.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers have *(a)* retired and *(b)* been recruited in each year since 1997. [81907]

Jim Knight: Information on movements out of and into teaching for 1997-98 to 2003-04 is given in the following table. This includes those who have retired and those who have been recruited.

Teacher flows. Maintained schools sector. 1997-98 to 2003-04[1]: Qualified teacher entrants and wastage by type and destination[2]—England

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03[1]*	*2003-04[1]*
Full-time							
Entrants to full-time teaching in the maintained schools sector							
Newly qualified entrants[3]	18,010	16,820	17,630	16,780	18,330	20,580	21,800
New to maintained sector[4]	5,770	5,320	5,900	7,060	7,500	5,940	5,400
Returner to maintained sector[5]	5,300	5,410	5,870	7,070	8,710	7,610	6,390
Total entrants	29,080	27,550	29,400	30,910	34,540	34,130	33,600
Joiners from part-time service[6]	4,910	4,630	4,790	5,440	4,950	4,910	4,040
Movement from full-time teaching in the maintained schools sector							
Out of service[7]	15,660	18,560	19,150	21,080	21,050	21,760	20,920
Retired	13,810	5,700	6,080	6,650	6,540	6,640	7,270
Total wastage	29,470	24,260	25,230	27,730	27,590	28,400	28,190
Leavers to part-time service[8]	6,910	6,780	7,440	8,190	9,710	9,750	10,470
Part-time							
Entrants to part-time teaching in the maintained schools sector							
Newly qualified entrants[3]	890	840	810	600	570	750	960
New to maintained sector[4]	2,750	2,910	3,170	3,720	3,680	3,680	4,050
Returner to maintained sector[5]	5,190	5,110	4,850	5,520	5,550	4,720	4,430
Total entrants	8,820	8,860	8,830	9,840	9,800	9,140	9,430
Joiners from full-time service[9]	6,910	6,780	7,440	8,190	9,710	9,750	10,470
Movement from part-time teaching in the maintained schools sector							
Out of service[7]	6,820	7,590	7,650	7,620	7,730	9,120	8,750
Retired	2,750	2,360	2,510	2,610	2,240	2,440	2,620

Teacher flows. Maintained schools sector. 1997-98 to 2003-04[1]: Qualified teacher entrants and wastage by type and destination[2]—England

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03[1]	2003-04[1]
Total wastage	9,580	9,950	10,160	10,230	9,970	11,550	11,370
Leavers to full-time service[6]	4,910	4,630	4,790	5,440	4,950	4,910	4,040

[1] Provisional estimates.
[2] 10-20 per cent. of part-time teachers may not be included in the data.
[3] Teacher qualified in the previous calendar year.
[4] Teacher has no known service in the English maintained schools sector, and qualified before the previous calendar year.
[5] Teacher was not in service last year, but has some previous service in the English maintained schools sector.
[6] Full-time joiners from part-time service are equivalent to leavers from part-time to full-time service. They are not included in total entrants or total wastage.
[7] Teacher is no longer in service in the English maintained schools sector and is not receiving a pension. May be teaching in FE/HE sectors or Wales.
[8] Part-time joiners from full-time service are equivalent to leavers from full-time to part-time service. They are not included in total entrants or total wastage.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records.

Tuition Fees

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when the independent commission on tuition fees is expected to be appointed; when the review is planned to take place; when the commission is expected to report back to Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [84181]

Bill Rammell: We have nothing to add at this stage to the commitments we gave during the passage of the Higher Education Act 2004. Our intention is that the commission will report to Parliament by the end of 2009. The commission's terms of reference are already in the public domain.

It is important that there is public confidence in the commission's work, and the Government will keep Parliament informed as practical arrangements are decided.

Young Offenders (Education)

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people of school age are in custody; and what education they receive. [84276]

Mr. Dhanda: Youth Justice Board figures show that as at 7 July 2006 there were 1,356 children aged 16 and under held within custody. The specification set by the Youth Justice Board requires that all young people in custody are provided with a 25-hour a week programme, and this rises to 30 hours in secure children's homes and secure training centres, with a broad and balanced curriculum, reflecting the requirements of the national curriculum for those of school age. All young people are assessed upon entry to custody to ascertain their literacy and numeracy levels and whether they have special needs. There is specific provision for those with special needs determined by the requirements of their individual learning plan.

Youth Sport Trust

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what grants his Department has made to the Youth Sport Trust in each of the past five years. [82799]

Jim Knight: Over the past five years, the Department for Education and Skills has funded the Youth Sport Trust for work in connection with a range of programmes, as follows:

	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Sports Colleges	340,422	532,450	851,858	1,453,990	1,982,725
School Sport Partnerships	563,700	906,115	788,232	2,670,000	3,993,200
Academies	30,700	27,500	54,000	73,626	168,050
Millennium Volunteers	195,000	128,000	—	—	—
Commonwealth Games Education Programme	200,000	140,000	—	—	—
Family Learning	—	32,400	—	—	—
Inclusion	—	26,000	—	—	—
Gifted and Talented	60,000	100,000	670,000	1,825,000	2,030,000
International work	—	89,624	—	117,364	50,000
Sporting Playgrounds	50,000	50,000	—	100,000	50,000
Living for Sport/Changing Lives	—	—	—	40,000	110,000
National Council School Sport	—	—	—	30,000	50,000
Pedometers	—	—	—	40,000	32,500
Total	1,439,822	2,032,089	2,364,090	6,349,980	8,466,475

In addition, the Youth Sport Trust is part of the consortium (the Association for Physical Education, Sports Coach UK and the Youth Sport Trust) which successfully tendered, via an open competition, to manage the delivery of the national PE and School Sport Professional Development programme. The total value of this contract is £24 million.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Local Authority Electoral Reviews

Dr. Pugh: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission when the Electoral Commission will publish its conclusions following last year's consultations on the Commission's policies and procedures for the conduct of local authority electoral reviews in England. [84669]

Mr. Malins: The Electoral Commission informs me that it published its conclusions on 3 July 2006. The aim of electoral reviews is to ensure that, within each local authority area, the number of electors represented by each councillor elected to the council is as nearly as possible the same, taking into account local circumstances. In addition to proposing a number of procedural changes to the review process, the Commission has also proposed certain changes to legislation. Details are set out in its findings document, copies of which have been sent to all Members and placed in the Library of the House.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what advertising campaigns her Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81925]

Mr. Lammy: Since July 2004, expenditure on advertising has been as follows:

£

	BBC Charter	Licensing
2004-05	20,987	—
2005-06	—	139,578

Athletics

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Exchequer funding has been given to athletics in the UK in the past three years. [83705]

Mr. Caborn: For the financial period 2003-04 to 2005-06, Sport England and UK Sport made Exchequer payments to athletics of £7,180,000 and £6,988,447 respectively.

Sport in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter. Funding to athletics in the home countries may also have been provided by the relevant Home Country Sports Council.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Lottery money has been given to athletics in the last three years. [83706]

Mr. Caborn: For the financial period 2003-04 to 2005-06, Sport England and UK Sport made lottery payments to athletics of £35,050,000 and £3,081,656 respectively.

Sport in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is a devolved matter. Funding to athletics in the home countries may also have been provided by the relevant Home Country Sports Council.

Commonwealth Institute

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what correspondence she has written to *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* governors of the Institute and *(c)* other non-departmental public bodies on the subject of the Commonwealth Institute building in the past 12 months. [82038]

Mr. Lammy: It is a long standing convention that information relating to ministerial communications is not disclosed. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has written on one occasion to the chairman of the Commonwealth Institute. Additionally I have written on five occasions to the chairman of the Commonwealth Institute and once to the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 404W, on correspondence, what estimate she has made of the cost of answering the question; and if she will make a statement. [82634]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to separately identify the average cost of officials' time in replying to letters from hon. Members and members of the public. Such correspondence is often of a varied and complex nature. Therefore any exercise to determine the average cost in officials' time in responding to letters would incur disproportionate cost.

It is not possible to identify seperately stationery and postage costs for the Department when replying to correspondence from hon. Members and members of the public.

Deposited Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list deposited papers placed in the Library by her Department since 2000; and when they were published. [81276]

Mr. Lammy: I am depositing in the Library a list of documents deposited by the Department from January 2000 to 26 April 2006. Unfortunately our records do not give the date of publication for each document.

European Sports Review

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library a copy of the Independent European Sports Review, published in May; and where copies of the Review may be obtained. [83709]

Mr. Caborn: I am placing a copy of the Independent European Sport Review in the House Libraries. The Review can be seen online at www.independentfootball review.com.

Football

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what schemes have been funded by the Football Foundation in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* West Lancashire constituency since it was established. [83435]

Mr. Caborn: In Lancashire 608 projects received Football Foundation grants from all its funding streams. These include the Capital Projects Scheme, the Goalpost Safety Scheme, the Community and Education Scheme, the Small Grants Scheme and the Junior Kit Scheme.

In West Lancashire the Football Foundation has provided one grant from the Goalpost Safety Scheme, two grants from the Small Grants Scheme and 19 grants from the Junior Kit Scheme. The Foundation is currently considering the first application from the area for a major capital project.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the possible loss of income stream generated by the sale of fixture lists following the European Court of Justice ruling based on the 1996 European Database Directive; and if she will meet representatives of the Football League to discuss intellectual property rights and fixture lists. [84148]

Mr. Caborn: I have met with representatives of the Football League on a number of occasions to discuss this issue, most recently last month.

The professional Football Leagues reports that the European Court of Justice ruling will cost in excess of £6 million from lost income. The Government are working with the leagues to help them identify sources of replacement funding.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with *(a)* the football authorities and *(b)* sports governing bodies on the effect of the September 2004 European Court of Justice judgment on database rights on their organisations. [84263]

Mr. Caborn: I have met with representatives of the Football League on a number of occasions, most recently last month. I have also discussed this matter in detail with the British Horseracing Board. The Government are working with the football authorities to help them identify sources of replacement funding.

Government Art Collection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what items of art are on loan from the Government Art Collection to HM Treasury; who the artist is in each case; and what the estimated value is of each item. [83585]

Mr. Lammy: A list of works of art on loan from the Government Art Collection to HM Treasury (1 Horse Guards Road and 11 Downing Street) is provided in a separate document. I am arranging for copies of this document to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

It is not possible to give an accurate valuation of each item. The current monetary value of a work of art can be accurately assessed only at the time of purchase or sale or by professional valuation. In the former case, the collection is not actively traded; in the latter, it would not be justifiable expenditure of public funds to have the works from the collection valued professionally.

Licensing

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many establishments have licences for 24-hour drinking; [82825]

(2) what assessment she has made of the *(a)* local and *(b)* social effects of the introduction of 24-hour drinking. [82826]

Mr. Woodward: Through the Department's scrutiny council initiative and feedback from other local authorities, local communities are engaged in the licensing process to an unprecedented level. We are confident that pubs, clubs, bars, restaurants, theatres, cinemas and other establishments covered by the new regime are now better able to respond to the demands of their customers. We estimate that around 0.5 per cent. of licensed premises (or about 1,000) have obtained a 24-hour licence to sell alcohol, the majority of which are supermarkets, hotels, off-licenses and similar premises. It is too early to determine the full impact of the Licensing Act 2003; but it is unlikely that the effect of 24-hour licences is significant given the numbers and types of premises involved. The licensing reforms are part of the Government's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, the focus of which is to improve identification and treatment, raise awareness of the sensible drinking message and to work with industry, ending irresponsible promotions and irresponsible alcohol retailing.

Licensing Legislation

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to include key stakeholders and residents in her Department's licensing legislation consultation and review process. [82674]

Mr. Woodward: Stakeholders and residents are being consulted on every aspect of the licensing reforms.

An independent Licensing Fees Review Panel was established by the Government in May last year to consider whether fees had been set at the right level for community groups, businesses and local authorities. The panel—which is chaired by Sir Les Elton—published its interim findings on 5 December 2005. The panel is continuing to work closely with all stakeholders in order to gather the evidence that will inform their final report, which is due to be published in the autumn.

Under the recent Scrutiny Council Initiative, officials from my Department worked with council officers and through them with local police and other responsible authorities, residents' groups, businesses and other stakeholders, to gather information about how the new regime is working on the ground.

In addition, we are conducting a review of the guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003. A comprehensive formal review of the guidance including a full public consultation will be completed by autumn 2006 and a revised version of the guidance will be laid before Parliament by the end of 2006.

Listed Buildings

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions since 1985 Ministers have taken decisions to de-list buildings previously listed by English Heritage. [82039]

Mr. Lammy: Decisions on whether buildings are listed or de-listed are taken by the Secretary of State. English Heritage, as the Secretary of State's statutory adviser on the historic environment, provides advice to inform these decisions.

According to records held by English Heritage, 781 buildings were de-listed between 1 January 1996 and 31 December 2005. Neither we, nor English Heritage, hold a central record of de-listings earlier than this period.

Local Authority Lotteries

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which local authorities are operating lotteries; and what revenue has been produced by each one since they came into existence. [83769]

Mr. Caborn: There are currently no local authority lotteries registered with the Gambling Commission.

Rail Franchises

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations her Department has received from organisations in the south-west region on the impact on tourism of the proposed changes to the Cross Country rail franchise. [83076]

Mr. Woodward: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not received any such representations. However, the Department for Transport (DfT) is conducting a consultation on the new franchise, which will commence in November 2007. One response has been received so far from the south-west region which relates to tourism, from Torbay borough council. DfT welcomes further responses before the deadline of 7 August 2006.

Temporary Event Notices

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times a chief constable has given an objection notice in response to the issue of a temporary event notice under the Licensing Act 2003 in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area (i) since its inception and (ii) since July 2005. [83381]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many temporary event notices have been issued in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area under the Licensing Act 2003 (i) since its inception and (ii) since July 2005. [83383]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not held centrally.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many complaints from the public there have been concerning events held under temporary event notices since they came into force; [83809]

(2) how many temporary event notices have been granted since they came into force. [83809]

Mr. Woodward: This information is not held centrally.

World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which matches *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83632]

Mr. Caborn: Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I attended a number of games during the 2006 World Cup in Germany having received personal invitations from FIFA.

My right hon. Friend attended, in her official capacity as Secretary of State, the England *v.* Sweden Group B match. In my official capacity as Minister for Sport, I attended the Germany *v.* Costa Rica Group A match, the England *v.* Paraguay Group B match, the England *v.* Trinidad and Tobago Group B match, the England *v.* Ecuador second round match and the England *v.* Portugal quarter final match.

All travel and accommodation was arranged in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

The total cost of our visits to Germany including officials was £13,752.

Youth School Games

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration she has given to including Blaenau Gwent in forward planning for the schools Olympics. [83670]

Mr. Caborn: The UK School Games (UKSG) will form an annual part of the preparations leading up to the Olympic Games in 2012, with the first event being staged in September 2006 in Glasgow.

On 21 June 2006, the Millennium Commission invited cities across the UK to bid to host the UKSG from 2007 to 2011. The closing date for applications for cities bidding to host the 2007 UKSG is 14 August 2006. All applications will be assessed against demanding criteria to achieve the highest quality sporting occasion. It is our hope that the successful cities will represent a good regional/country spread across the UK. It is envisaged that the successful location for the 2007 Games will be announced at the UKSG in Glasgow.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many schools in *(a)* London, *(b)* Lambeth and *(c)* Vauxhall constituency are involved in the UK Games to be held in September. [83714]

Mr. Caborn: This information is not available in the requested format. The UK School Games 2006 is a high level competition for talented school age young people. They will be selected by the relevant national governing bodies through their competition framework which is based around a nation or regional structure. The selection process for some of the sports involved in the 2006 games has not yet been completed.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what outside agencies have been contracted to run the youth school games to be staged in 2006; [82802]

(2) how much has been allocated to date for the youth school games to *(a)* the Youth Sport Trust and *(b)* other outside agencies; [82803]

(3) whether the contract awarded to the Youth Sport Trust for the UK school games to be staged in Glasgow for 2006 has been subject to open tendering under the provisions of the EU procurement directive for public service contracts; [82805]

(4) how much fast track is being paid to run the UK games in September; [83710]

(5) how the expenditure on the UK games in September will be monitored; [83711]

(6) whether the British Olympic Association was considered as the co-ordinating body for the UK games. [83712]

Mr. Caborn: The organisation of the UK school games this September is a matter for the Millennium Commission. In my other capacity as chair of the commission, I will write to my hon. Friend and arrange for copies of my reply to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration was given to involving the *(a)* British Paralympic Association, *(b)* British Olympic Association and *(c)* national governing bodies for (i) athletics, (ii) table tennis, (iii) swimming, (iv) gymnastics and (v) fencing in the running of the 2006 Youth School Games. [82804]

Mr. Caborn: The Youth Sport Trust has held discussions with the British Olympic Foundation, the charitable arm of the British Olympic Association and the British Paralympic Association to integrate and embed the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games' ideals and values into the UK School Games (UKSG).

The National Governing Bodies (Swimming, Fencing, Athletics, Table Tennis and Gymnastics) have all been involved in the arrangements for the games from the outset. They are responsible for the competition format, team selection and technical requirements of their sport in this event, as well as assuming responsibility for the developmental work around the National Competition Framework and engaging the National School Sport Associations in that process.

Youth Sport Trust

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what experience the Youth Sport Trust has in running competitive *(a)* multi-sports events and *(b)* disability sports events. [82801]

Mr. Caborn: The Youth Sport Trust (YST) is managing the roll out of a new competitive sport structure for schools which includes the appointment of competition managers who will cover all School Sport Partnerships by 2010. The competitive sport structure in schools includes multi-sport events and disability sport.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if she will list the contracts awarded to the Youth Sport Trust by the Department over the last three years; what the value was of each contract; and whether there was an open tendering process in each case; [82806]

(2) whether the Department has sought legal advice as to whether its contractual arrangements with the Youth Sport Trust fall under the EU Procurement Directive for Public Service Contracts. [82807]

Mr. Caborn: There have been no contracts awarded to the Youth Sport Trust by the Department over the past three years. Therefore it has not been necessary for the Department to seek legal advice on any contractual arrangements.

Sport England has awarded over the past three financial years (2004-07) the following funding to the Youth Sport Trust to deliver programmes within the National School Sport Strategy.

Step into Sport—£5.7 million

Multi-skill Clubs—£880,000

WALES

Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of his Department; what commitment he has made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81050]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office in conjunction with the Department of Constitutional Affairs is committed to reducing carbon emissions, and will be working towards the Government's targets for sustainable development announced on 12 June 2006 by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. We are working with the Carbon Trust, which is auditing our energy use and will suggest where we can improve. The car leased by the Wales Office for ministerial travel is dual fuel and has very low emissions. We have committed from 1 April 2006 to the Carbon Offset scheme for any air travel.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83629]

Mr. Hain: None.

Police Houses

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Home Secretary on the merits of the reintroduction of police houses on housing estates in Wales. [83672]

Mr. Hain: None.

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out wholly or partly at public expense on behalf of or by his Department in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was of each. [83166]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office was established in July 1999 and since that time have carried out none.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

10 Victoria Street

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to his answer of 5 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1002W, on 10 Victoria street, what progress has been made in re-letting the property. [83067]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Of the nine floors in the building, all but two have been sublet.

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what average hourly rate was paid by his Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81490]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The arrangements for employing temporary agency staff in the Department are delegated to local line management units. Managers must follow central guidance on the use of temporary agency staff, and where appropriate, use centrally agreed frameworks.

We do not hold information centrally on the average cost of temporary agency staff. This information could be made available only at disproportionate cost.

Bankruptcy

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the numbers of farmers who went bankrupt in *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset and *(c)* the South West region in each of the last five years. [82182]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The closest available estimate for bankruptcies among self-employed farmers is that for bankruptcies falling under the category "agriculture" according to the Insolvency Trade Classification.

Regional insolvency statistics are only available on the basis of the locations of Official Receivers offices, each of which cover a group of county courts where the cases are heard and the courts having jurisdiction over these. The following table provides the statistics considered to be closest to those requested, but they should not be treated as a precise measure of these. In particular, the Exeter and Bristol offices will cover many but not necessarily all of the cases in the county of Somerset; they will also include cases from neighbouring counties:

Bankruptcies in England and Wales for Agriculture, 2001-05

	Yeovil County Court	Exeter OR's Office[1]	Bristol OR's Office	South West Region (OR-based)
2001	1	2	11	25
2002	4	9	3	26
2003	4	4	3	38
2004	0	3	10	37
2005	5	10	5	50

[1] Exeter OR's Office covers the following county courts: Barnstaple, Exeter, Newton Abbot, Shaftsbury, Torquay and Yeovil

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many individuals entered into bankruptcy in each quarter since 2001, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [82130]

Mr. McCartney: Bankruptcy statistics are not available by parliamentary constituency; they are broken down by Official Receivers (ORs) offices and broad regional groupings of these. Quarterly bankruptcies for England and Wales for each financial year from 2001-02 to 2005-06 are provided on the table placed in the Libraries of the House.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many and what proportion of people aged between 16 and 24 years declared themselves to be bankrupt in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [82912]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Official bankruptcy statistics are not routinely analysed by age group and to provide the information requested would incur disproportionate cost.

However, the Insolvency Service published the report "Characteristics of a bankrupt" in March 2006 which included an analysis of bankruptcies by broad age groups for the financial years 2001-02 to 2004-05 and is available from http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/insolvency professionandlegislation/policychange/cob.pdf It should be noted that the nearest age band in this report to that requested is for those aged 18-29; the following table provides a summary based on this information.

Bankruptcies in England and Wales, 2001-02 to 2004-05, for those aged 18-29

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Total bankruptcies in year	23,426	25,177	29,633	37,562
Total bankruptcies with age recorded	21,530	23,279	27,816	34,852
Bankrupts aged 18-29	1,681	2,496	4,116	6,520
Bankrupts aged 18-29 as percentage of all bankrupts with age recorded	7.8	10.7	14.8	18.7
Population of England and Wales aged 18-29 from 2001 census	7,806,310	—	—	—
18-29 as percentage of total population aged 18 and over	19.4	—	—	—
Bankrupts aged 18-29 as percentage of population aged 18-29	0.02	—	—	—

Biomass Energy Generation

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what grant funding is available for *(a)* micro domestic combined heat and power units which are run on biomass, *(b)* on-farm power generation which uses biomass and *(c)* town-size power plants using locally-produced biomass. [80269]

Malcolm Wicks: Grants for a number of microgeneration technologies producing heat and electricity are available to householders under the new Low Carbon Buildings Programme (LCBP). Stream One of the LCBP provides grant support for householders and applications are now being taken. The LCBP is managed on behalf of the Department by the Energy Savings Trust and full details are available on the LCBP website at www.lowcarbon buildings.org.uk.

Support for small biomass CHP schemes may also be available from The Big Lottery Fund. The fund has £2.6 million available to support the installation of heating systems and small-scale combined heat and power systems fuelled by solid biomass. End users of the systems must be either public sector or commercial organisations. Domestic installations are not eligible for support. The closing date for applications is 31 July 2006 and further details can be found on the fund's website at:

http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_renewable_energy .htm?regioncode=-uk&country=UKWide&status=theProg.

There are presently no grants specifically for on-farm biomass power generation—however on-farm power generation may be an eligible renewable source under the Renewables Obligation.

There is currently no capital funding available for town-size power plants. Funding for such projects had been available under the Bioenergy Capital Grants Scheme, which is supporting the construction of projects with an installed capacity of at least 30 MW in Lockerbie and in Teesside. Town-scale biomass projects may also be eligible for the Renewables Obligation and grants under DEFRA's Energy Crop Scheme.

Business

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department has taken to increase enterprise in Hartlepool constituency since 1997. [80548]

Margaret Hodge: The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has, over the last nine years, initiated and been closely involved with a wide range of measures aimed at creating the best possible environment for business success in the UK. Each year the Department directly invests over £400 million nationally in grants, loans and subsidised consultancy to stimulate enterprise and assist business growth. The Department—directly, through public sector agencies and in association with the business community—delivers a comprehensive suite of business support measures including direct grants for investment and R and D, subsidised loans and encouragement of collaboration, knowledge transfer and the adoption of best practice.

The Enterprise Act, which received Royal Assent in 2002, covers a range of measures designed to enhance enterprise. It strengthens the UK's competition framework, transforms our approach to bankruptcy and corporate rescue, and empowers consumers. The Act builds on the progress made by the Competition Act 1998, recent insolvency reforms and measures already implemented in the 1999 White Paper "Modern Markets: Confident Consumers".

As well as actively promoting measures to address competition, the burden of regulation and company law, the Department has been closely involved with a significant number of initiatives to promote an enterprise culture and to help with business funding. These include the establishment of the Task Force on Women's Enterprise, the commitment of over £100 million for Enterprise Capital Funds, the Schools Enterprise Education Network and the Enterprise Promotion Fund.

Specific responsibility for economic development and increasing enterprise in the North East of England falls to regional development agency One NorthEast. The agency administers a number of business support schemes on behalf of the DTI, and has worked with regional partners to create a single regional Business Link network that will deliver top quality business support services and will be easy to access and easy to use. The agency is also developing and delivering a significant programme aimed at bringing about a lasting cultural change in attitudes towards entrepreneurial activity across the North East of England, including raising aspirations of the region's young people, and under-represented groups. One NorthEast is also a key supporter of the Launch Pad initiative being developed through the North East Enterprise Bond. The Bond is an innovative, private sector led, initiative which will provide proactive support towards stimulating a greater enterprise culture in communities across the North East of England.

Although there are no specific DTI initiatives aimed at promoting enterprise in Hartlepool, the national and regional initiatives mentioned—along with other public funding being used to establish of business incubator units and provide business start-up advice and tailored local business support measures—will contribute to stimulate enterprise within the town.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what effect he expects the provisions of the Company Law Reform Bill to have on directors' duties in respect of the human rights of employees and the local community in relation to their operations in Zimbabwe. [77690]

Margaret Hodge: Clause 158 of the Company Law Reform Bill requires directors to have regard to the interests of the company's employees and the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment in promoting the success of the company for the benefit of its members collectively. The duty applies regardless of where the directors are and regardless of the location of the employees or the location of the local community affected by their decisions.

Clause 399 requires all companies, other than those subject to the small companies regime, to produce a business review as part of the directors' report. Information on the company's employees and the local community in which the company operates must be included in the review where relevant to provide a balanced and comprehensive analysis of the company's business consistent with the size and complexity of the business.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many businesses in Bexley borough *(a)* started up and *(b)* ceased trading in each of the last nine years; and if he will make a statement. [81946]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) registrations and de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures. DTI data on the number of VAT registrations and de-registrations in Bexley borough in each year from 1997 to 2004 are shown in the following table. Data for 2005 will be available in autumn 2006. For comparison, the start of year stock of VAT-registered businesses is also given.

VAT de-registrations and registrations 1997 to 2004

Bexley borough	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Registrations	650	580	560	590	620	540	570	535
De-registrations	490	490	435	505	505	475	535	560
Start of year stock	4,415	4,575	4,665	4,795	4,875	4,995	5,060	5,100

Note:
Due to rounding, the stock at the beginning of the year, plus registrations during the year, minus de-registrations during the year, may not exactly match the stock at the start of the next year.

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994 to 2004, Small Business Service, available from the Library of the House and also at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/vats.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register will not necessarily have closed. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million businesses (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

In Bexley borough VAT registrations exceeded de-registrations every year except 2004. The proportional increase in the stock of VAT registered businesses from 1997 to 2004 was bigger for Bexley (16 per cent.) than for England as a whole (13 per cent.).

Regional disparities in start-up and closure rates can have their root in the different economic history and different opportunities available in each region. The Government's aim is for every region to achieve success and good economic growth, which is why increasing resources have been put at the disposal of each Regional Development Agency.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many firms have ceased trading in *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset and *(c)* the South West in each year since 1997. [82139]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) registrations and de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures. DTI data on the number of VAT registrations and de-registrations in *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset county and *(c)* the South West in each year since 1997 are shown in the following table. For comparison, the start of year stock of VAT-registered businesses is also given.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register will not necessarily have closed. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million businesses (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

VAT registrations, de-registrations and start of year stock, 1997 to 2004

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Yeovil constituency								
Registrations	250	250	210	220	245	240	240	270
De-registrations	205	185	215	225	215	205	245	230
Start of year stock	2,840	2,885	2,950	2,950	2,945	2,975	3,015	3,005
Somerset county								
Registrations	1,505	1,540	1,505	1,555	1,425	1,555	1,610	1,605
De-registrations	1,275	1,255	1,305	1,325	1,320	1,300	1,545	1,575
Start of year stock	17,595	17,830	18,110	18,310	18,540	18,645	18,900	18,965
South West GOR								
Registrations	15,840	15,600	15,285	15,340	14,350	15,445	16,380	15,310
De-registrations	12,660	12,545	12,960	13,535	12,745	13,205	14,455	14,970
Start of year stock	154,285	157,465	160,520	162,845	164,650	166,255	168,500	170,430

Note:
Due to rounding, the stock at the beginning of the year, plus registrations during the year, minus de-registrations during the year, may not exactly match the stock at the start of the next year.
Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2004, Small Business Service, available from the Library of the House and also at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/vats.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of independent retail shops which *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in Yeovil constituency in each year since 1997. [82140]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) registrations and de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures. DTI data on the number of VAT retail business registrations and de-registrations in Yeovil from 1997 to 2004 are shown in the following table. For comparison, data on the stock has been provided.

VAT registrations, de-registrations and stock in retail[1] in Yeovil, 1997 to 2004

	Registrations	De-registration	Stock at end-year
1997	30	40	340
1998	30	20	345
1999	15	35	325
2000	25	30	320
2001	35	25	335
2002	30	30	335
2003	35	30	340
2004	25	30	335

[1] Standard Industrial Classification 52, retail trade (except of motor vehicles), repair of personal and household goods.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 for data protection reasons.
Source:
Small Business Service figures based on data from the ONS Inter Departmental Business Register.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity.

Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register may not have closed. In the retail sector 63 per cent. of enterprises in the UK (200,000 out of 320,000) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

Cigarettes

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether his Department had any discussions on ignition propensity in cigarettes at the European General Product Safety Directive Committee on 13 and 14 June. [84358]

Mr. McCartney: I refer the hon. Member to my answer given to the hon. Member for North-West Leicestershire (David Taylor) on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 863W.

Company Law Reform Bill

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the percentage of British companies which will be required to make reports on *(a)* environmental matters, *(b)* employee relations, *(c)* social and community issues and *(d)* relations with suppliers under the Business Review provisions of the Company Law Reform Bill. [80873]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 28 June 2006]:* The Company Law Reform Bill provides that all companies, apart from small companies, will continue to be required to produce a Business Review. Quoted companies (approximately 1,300 companies) will need to include certain defined information to the extent

necessary for an understanding of the development, performance or position of the company's business. They will need to report on the main trends and factors likely to affect the future development, performance and position of the company's business. They will need to report on *(a)* environmental matters (including the impact of the company's business on the environment), *(b)* the company's employees, and *(c)* social and community issues. Directors will judge whether to report on their relationships with suppliers where this is necessary to provide a balanced and comprehensive analysis consistent with the size and complexity of the company's business.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether it is his intention that lobbying of members of a company regarding the policies of the company by non-members should be a proper purpose for requesting a copy of the company's register of members under Clause 115 of the Company Law Reform Bill. [82698]

Margaret Hodge: It is likely that a court would consider proper any communication which is made for a lawful purpose and is relevant to either the holding of interests recorded in the register or the exercise of rights attached to them. Those who lobby others, whether or not they are members of a company, need to avoid straying into intimidation, harassment or blackmail, and to bear in mind relevant legislation such as the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 and sections 145-148 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005.

Compensation

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the average damages recovered by the 10 law firms with the greatest volume of claims were in the vibration white finger and chronic bronchitis and emphysema schemes. [83122]

Malcolm Wicks: The average damages recovered by the 10 solicitors with the most claims submitted for each scheme are set out in the following tables:

Vibration white finger scheme

Solicitor	*Claims submitted*	*Average damages paid (£)*
Thompsons	21,050	12,322
Browell Smith and Co.	16,467	9,236
Beresfords	11,632	8,469
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	11,537	9,354
Raleys	11,280	9,232
Hugh James	10,638	9,035
Graysons	8,699	10,400
Moss	7,295	8,641
Watson Burton	5,936	11,197
AMS Law	5,383	8,547

Respiratory disease scheme

Solicitor	*Claims submitted*	*Average damages paid (£)*
Beresfords	80,915	2,302
Thompsons	57,794	8,763
Hugh James	56,483	8,349
Raleys	47,748	6,833
Browell Smith and Co.	32,649	6,879
Avalon	30,638	1,822
Mark Gilbert Morse	25,682	6,281
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	16,739	3,261
Barber and Co.	14,106	2,560
Watson Burton	14,074	4,151

Credit Unions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if his Department will provide information and membership forms for credit unions to its employees. [79937]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government welcome the contribution made by the various savings institutions in providing for greater choice and diversity in the financial services sector.

The Government's guiding principles are to ensure impartiality and to help create a level playing field for all providers of financial services in order that their specific attributes can be properly harnessed.

It would therefore be inconsistent for a Government Department to favour credit unions above other financial institutions.

Employees are of course free to join in credit unions if they meet their relevant membership criteria and Departments may provide appropriate levels of support if employees wish to set up a credit union.

Electricity Transmission System

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which body is responsible for carrying out strategic environmental assessment of plans to upgrade the electricity transmission system in the UK. [84129]

Malcolm Wicks: The EU directive on strategic environmental assessment applies to authorities who are required to produce plans or programmes which set the framework for future development consent of projects. No such plans or programmes for overhead lines have been produced.

Energy Policy

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 223W, on energy policy, if he will add to the information available the results of the polling and focus group research conducted in preparation for the publication of the Energy White Paper in March 2003. [81975]

Malcolm Wicks: The consultation on the Energy White Paper included a range of public opinion sampling exercises that included: focus groups, deliberative workshops, web-based stakeholder consultation, and an energy policy questionnaire used at a "Tomorrow's World" Roadshow. Reports from all these activities were freely available on DTI's website until May this year when the website was re-designed and some of the older material removed.

I am placing copies of these reports in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research he has conducted into the competitiveness of *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other industrial economies in terms of (i) energy costs and (ii) government subsidies. [83155]

Malcolm Wicks: April 2006 estimates suggest that:

Industrial electricity prices in the UK including taxes were above the EU15 median for all consumers except the smallest, where they were around the median.

Industrial gas prices including taxes in the UK were below the EU15 median for small consumers, but above the EU15 median for medium and large consumers. UK domestic electricity and gas prices for medium consumers remained below the EU median.

However, historically prices to industrial users have been below the EU median, and right up to October 2005 industrial prices were no higher than the EU median except for the very largest energy consumers. (Source: DTI Quarterly Energy prices; http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file30734.pdf).

Independent research by Oxford Economic Research Associates shows that in 2004 the UK had the most competitive electricity and gas markets in the EU and G7. The extent to which markets are assessed as competitive is based on factors such as the degree of market opening, the market shares of suppliers and the separation of transmission and distribution activities. This report is available at:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file28425.pdf.

We have not conducted any in depth research into the competitiveness of the UK and other industrial countries in terms of government subsidies in the energy sector. The UK's experience shows that by giving clear investment signals to market players, competitive energy markets are the best way of maintaining secure and sustainable energy supplies, increasing efficiency and improving services for customers.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the cost to households in the UK of the EU not implementing its energy policy in relation to gas. [82975]

Malcolm Wicks: The lack of a liberalised gas market in Europe has had a detrimental impact on the UK gas market recently. Without a liberalised market European energy companies face gas prices linked to oil prices, and dulled incentives for investment in infrastructure, balancing supply and demand efficiently, competitive pressures to compete and ability to export in response to price signals.

In a Global Insight report commissioned by Centrica and published in the summer 2005, it was estimated that the lack of effective liberalisation and the dominance of oil-linked long-term supply contracts in Europe would cost UK end-consumers (household and industrial) some £10 billion over following year (see www.centrica.com/index.asp?pageid= 799&newsid=743). It was estimated that £4.3 billion of these costs would be borne by households.

In addition, Ofgem analysis suggests that the cost to UK consumers of Interconnector flows not always being in line with price signals during the last winter was £1.5 billion, and would cost £3 billion if repeated during the coming winter (www.ofgem.gov.uk/temp/ofgem/cache/cmsattach/14649_Sonia_10_April_Final_notes_version.pdf?wtfrom=/ofgem/work/index.jsp&section=/areasofwork/wholesalemarketmonitoring).

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what state subsidy other European countries give to help companies who are intensive users of energy. [83156]

Mr. McCartney: Direct support for energy costs is normally illegal under European state aid rules. However, companies which happen to be energy intensive users can legitimately benefit from a variety of aids, for example regional aid or aid for research and development, as long as these aids have been duly notified to and approved by the European Commission.

Details on aids granted by other member states can be found in the Commission's State Aid Scoreboard at:

http://ec.europa.eu/comm/competition/state_aid/scoreboard/2006/spring en.pdf.

Methyl Tertiary Butyl

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of potential carcinogenic effects from the use of methyl tertiary butyl ether as a fuel additive. [80820]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 25 June 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

This has been transferred to the Department for Work and Pensions for reply. The toxicology of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) has been considered extensively by various Expert Groups reporting to the European Commission's Directorates-General for Environment, Employment and Social Affairs and the Joint Research Centre, and globally by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). All these Committees have considered the data concerning the potential carcinogenic properties of MTBE and have concluded that it is not carcinogenic in humans. My Department has not directly assessed the potential carcinogenicity of MTBE.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he has any plans to visit Bexley borough. [83483]

Malcolm Wicks: I have no immediate plans to visit Bexley.

Mobile Phones

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what guidance has been issued to the mobile telecommunications industry on the provision of information on handset specific absorption rates *(a)* at all points of sale, *(b)* with each telephone and *(c)* via other means including the internet. [79585]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* In 2000 the mobile operators and telecommunications industry received guidance based upon the Stewart report "Mobile Phones and Health, May 2000", published by the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (IEGMP).

The Government agreed with the Stewart report's recommendations, which complies with international exposure guidelines that consumers should be able to get information about specific absorption rates (SAR) when:

purchasing a phone at point of sale;
online via the internet; and
in or on the product's packaging.

The Government then agreed with the mobile operators and telecommunications industry that the provision of such information should be the responsibility of the mobile phone manufacturers.

In September 2005, the Department of Health produced advice about SAR levels in their two leaflets on "Mobile Phones and Health", which said that users might wish to take account of relative SAR values when choosing a mobile phone, while pointing out that all models sold in the UK already meet the international exposure guidelines. The leaflets are available from: http://www.dh.gov.uk/ Exposure from mobile phones and the provision of information on SAR values was also discussed in the follow up publication to the Stewart report "Mobile Phones and Health 2004" (http://www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/publications/documents_of_nrpb/abstracts/absd15-5.htm para 61-68 page 28-29).

In 1998, a European body called the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) first issued international exposure guidelines on limiting people's exposure to electromagnetic fields. The ICNIRP is an independent international scientific organisation formally recognised by the World Health Organisation.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended that EU member countries that had no specific regulations on SAR levels for their mobile telecommunications industry, should voluntarily adopt the standards recommended in the ICNIRP guidelines. The UK's mobile network operators accepted this approach.

The Mobile Manufacturers Forum, a European industry body representing most large manufacturers, publishes SAR levels for handsets on its website http://www.mmfai.org/

Nuclear Power

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what contribution the UK has made to the discussion of nuclear policy options in the Energy Position Paper being drafted for the G8 meeting in St. Petersburg in July. [82096]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK has been fully involved in all discussions on energy security with our G8 partners, recognising that there is a range of positions within G8 on nuclear energy and that the UK's position is subject to the outcome of the Energy Review.

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent assessment he has made of the safety of *(a)* the Hinkley Point nuclear power station and *(b)* similar stations. [84119]

Malcolm Wicks: None. The UK's independent safety regulator, HSE's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, is responsible for carrying out such assessments.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will reply to question number 70906, on EU committees, tabled by the right hon. Member for Wells on 11 May 2006. [81514]

Mr. McCartney: The question was answered on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 857-58W.

Paternity Leave

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to make a decision on the implementation date of new rights for additional paternity leave. [82403]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is the Government's intention to introduce additional paternity leave and pay alongside the extension of statutory maternity pay, maternity allowance and statutory adoption pay to 52 weeks and our aim would be to do so by the end of this Parliament. This will provide an opportunity for an equal division of paid leave between mothers and fathers and allow an equal responsibility for caring for their child during its first year.

The Work and Families Act 2006 takes broad powers to provide certain employees (generally fathers) with a new entitlement to take leave to care for a child and a new entitlement to receive pay while on leave, if certain conditions are met.

We recently consulted on the detail of the additional paternity leave and pay scheme and are currently analysing the responses received. We have had a large number of responses from a variety of interested parties and our aim is to publish a Government response setting out the next steps in the near future.

Personal Debt

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advice and support services are available for people aged between 16 and 24 years for dealing with personal debt; what steps he is taking to raise awareness of such services; and if he will make a statement. [82916]

Mr. McCartney: We are taking action to help those with personal debt problems as outlined in the Governments 2004 "Tackling Over-indebtedness: Action Plan" and the subsequent 2005 annual report. Examples include the recently launched £45 million Face-to-Face Debt Advice Project, that will result in hundreds of new debt advisers and the £1 million per annum support given to the National Debtline phone service. Such assistance is open to people of all ages.

Photovoltaic Solar Panels

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the cost of converting each *(a)* new house, *(b)* existing house, *(c)* new office and *(d)* existing office to photo-voltaic solar panels. [79696]

Malcolm Wicks: In addition to the Major PV Demonstration programme with a budget of £3½ million, the Government have spent £10 million on photovoltaic field trials since 2000, which will provide information on operating performance, reliability and the maintenance of building-integrated PV. However, specific information on the likely costs of installing photovoltaic panels on all new and existing homes and offices was outside the scope of this work. As a rough estimate the costs to install 1 kW of photovoltaic solar panels is in the region of £6,000 and electricity usage of a typical house would require 4.5 kW of PV. In terms of an office, it is difficult to provide similar estimates, as it would depend on the size, occupancy, equipment used and other variables.

Pistol Exports

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment was made of compliance with the UK Government's obligations under the Wassenaar Agreement before the approval of the re-export of 20,000 Italian Beretta pistols to Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [82429]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are satisfied that it was fully compliant with its Wassenaar obligations in this case.

Post Office

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices closed in *(a)* Yeovil constituency and *(b)* Somerset in each of the last 10 years. [82145]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The question the hon. Member has asked relates to operational matters for which Post Office Ltd. is directly responsible. Post Office Ltd. have provided the following figures relating to the numbers of post office branches in the Yeovil and Somerset constituencies.

Number of Post Office® branches open

	Yeovil constituency	*Somerset area*
2001-02	40	218
2002-03	39	215
2003-04	35	205
2004-05	35	195
2005-06	35	194

Information relating to post office branches for each parliamentary constituency is placed in the Libraries of the House on an annual basis.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices closed in *(a)* Edinburgh West constituency and *(b)* other Edinburgh parliamentary constituencies in the last five years. [82706]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The question the hon. Member has asked relates to operational matters for which Post Office Ltd. is directly responsible. Post Office Ltd. have provided the following figures relating to the numbers of post office branches in the constituencies that are a part of the City of Edinburgh.

Area	*Number of Post Office® branches*		
City of Edinburgh	*2001-02*	*2003-04*	*Closures*
Edinburgh East and Musselburgh	21	18	3
Edinburgh North and Leith	22	17	5
Edinburgh South	17	14	3
Edinburgh West	21	21	0
Edinburgh Pentlands	15	14	1
Edinburgh Central	20	18	2

Area	*Number of Post Office® branches*		
City of Edinburgh	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Closures*
Edinburgh East	17	17	0
Edinburgh North and Leith	16	16	0
Edinburgh South	12	12	0
Edinburgh South West	19	19	0
Edinburgh West	17	17	0

Note:
The constituencies changed in 2004-05

Information relating to post office branches for each parliamentary constituency is placed in the Libraries of the House on an annual basis.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for which services contracts with the Post Office are held on a Government-wide basis; and what the *(a)* start and *(b)* termination date is of each contract. [82156]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Post Office Ltd. (POL) provides services to Government through commercial contracts with individual Departments and local authorities. POL views these contracts as commercially confidential.

The services offered by POL on behalf of Government Departments and the network of branches through which they are available are.

Service	Network
Benefit payments through the Post Office Card Account and exceptions service	All branches
Motor Vehicle licensing	4,700 branches
Photocard Driving Licence Application Checking service	700 branches
BBC TV licensing including budget card payments and refunds (contract ceases at end of July 2006)	All branches
Rod licensing	All branches in England and Wales
Passport check and send service	2,500 branches
European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) check and send service and application form distribution	All branches
Game licences	Available through all branches but stocked based on demand
Benefit payments for Asylum seekers	Selected branches
Local authority services including rent and rates bill payments and travel schemes	Local authority specific

Privacy and Electronic Communications Directive

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department takes to ensure that charities comply with the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003. [81588]

Margaret Hodge: My officials hold frequent discussions with the Information Commissioner's Office, which is responsible for the enforcement of the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003.

The Information Commissioner's Office publish guidance on their website (http://www.ico.gov.uk/eventual.aspx?id=96) covering the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003, this includes guidance for charities. The Information Commissioner's Office respond to complaints about charities breaching the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003 in the same way that they respond to complaints about other companies.

Shops

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of independent retail shops that have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in Beverley and Holderness in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [82498]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) registrations and de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures. DTI data on the number of VAT retail business registrations and de-registrations in Beverley and Holderness constituency from 1997 to 2004 are shown in the following table. For comparison, data on the stock have been provided.

VAT registrations and de-registrations in retail[1] in Beverley and Holderness, 1997-2004

	Registrations	De-registrations	End of year stock
1997	25	40	355
1998	25	25	360
1999	35	35	355
2000	25	30	355
2001	25	40	340
2002	30	35	335
2003	35	35	335
2004	35	35	340

1 Standard Industrial Classification 52, retail trade (except of motor vehicles), repair of personal and household goods.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 for data protection reasons. Due to rounding, the stock at the beginning of the year, plus registrations during the year, minus de-registrations during the year, may not exactly match the stock at the start of the next year.

Source:
Small Business Service figures based on data from the ONS Inter Departmental Business Register.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register may not have closed. In the retail sector 63 per cent. of enterprises in the UK (200,000 out of 320,000) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

The number of VAT registrations and de-registrations in Beverley and Holderness across all sectors from 1997 to 2004 is shown in the following table. Since 1997 the overall stock of businesses in Beverley and Holderness has risen by 7 per cent.

VAT registrations and de-registrations and start of year stock in Beverley and Holderness (all sectors), 1997-2004

	Registrations	De-registrations	End of year stock
1997	230	230	2,845
1998	215	190	2,875
1999	200	195	2,875
2000	245	205	2,915
2001	230	220	2,930
2002	265	230	2,960
2003	275	205	3,025
2004	260	250	3,035

Note:
Due to rounding, the stock at the beginning of the year, plus registrations during the year, minus de-registrations during the year, may not exactly match the stock at the start of the next year.

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2004, Small Business Service, available from the Library of the House and also at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/vats.

Business closures are part of the functioning of a dynamic economy and represent an increased willingness among the business population to take risks or the displacement of less productive and innovative firms by more productive ones. Research indicates that improvements in productivity and economic growth are more likely to come from higher levels of both business entry and business exit.

Regional disparities in start-up and closure rates can have their root in the different economic history and different opportunities available in each region. The Government's aim is for every region to achieve success and good economic growth, which is why increasing

resources have been put at the disposal of each Regional Development Agency.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the number of independent retail shops that have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in the Stroud constituency in each year since 1997; and what percentage each figure represents of the total number of independent shops in the constituency in each year. [82036]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) registrations and de-registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures. DTI data on the number of VAT retail business registrations and de-registrations in Stroud, and as a percentage of the stock from 1997 to 2004 are shown in the following table. For comparison, data on the stock have been provided.

VAT registrations, de-registrations and stock in retail[1] in Stroud, 1997 to 2004

Stroud	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Registrations	45	35	35	25	25	35	30	35
De-registrations	45	25	40	30	35	30	25	30
Stock at end-year	360	370	365	360	355	360	365	370
Registrations/stock (percentage)	13	10	10	7	8	9	8	10
De-registrations/stock (percentage)	12	7	11	8	10	8	7	8

[1] Standard Industrial Classification 52, retail trade (except of motor vehicles), repair of personal and household goods.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 for data protection reasons.

Source:
Small Business Service figures based on data from the ONS Inter Departmental Business Register.

The number of VAT registrations and de-registrations in Stroud across all sectors from 1997 to 2004 is shown in the following table below. Since the end of 1997 the overall stock of businesses in Stroud has risen by 10 per cent.

VAT registrations, de-registrations and stock in Stroud (all sectors), 1997 to 2004

Stroud-all businesses	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Registrations	405	370	395	320	335	385	385	335
De-registrations	285	270	310	300	285	300	325	345
Stock at end-year	3,845	3,945	4,030	4,050	4,105	4,190	4,250	4,245

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2004, Small Business Service, available at http://www.sbs.gov.uk/vats.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register may not have closed. In the retail sector 63 per cent. of enterprises in the UK (200,000 out of 320,000) were registered for VAT at the start of 2004.

South West Regional Development Agency

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* estimated costs of running the South West Regional Development Agency are for 2006-07; and how many civil servants are employed by the agency. [82123]

Margaret Hodge: The 2006-07 grant in aid budget for the South West of England Regional Development Agency is £159 million and their approved budget for administration costs is £21.2 million. The agency employs 277 public sector workers.

Sustainability

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the work which has been carried out under the aegis of the DTI Sector Sustainability Challenge to embed the principles of sustainable consumption and development across the commercial sector; and if he will make a statement. [82480]

Malcolm Wicks: The £100,000 Sector Sustainability Challenge was jointly funded by DTI and DEFRA. The challenge provided funding for organisations to promote, develop and implement sectoral sustainable development in ways that stimulate practical actions that will lead to improved performance.

My officials are currently reviewing the Sector Sustainability Challenge with DEFRA and the Sustainable Development Commission. We will consider running a further challenge once the evaluation is complete.

The Sustainable Consumption and Production Action Plan which is due to be published later this year, will look at work already done on Sustainable Consumption and Production and consider what more needs to be done, including continuing engagement with business to push the agenda forward.

Tidal Lagoon Electricity Generation Project (Swansea)

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the viability of the proposed tidal lagoon electricity generation project in the Swansea bay area; and if he will make a statement. [83479]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI has previously commissioned an independent assessment of a proposed tidal lagoon scheme in Swansea Bay available at:

www.dti.gov.uk/files/file30617.pdf?pubpdfdload=06%2F1051

Trade Descriptions Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the operation of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968; if he will list the statutory instruments that have been made under this Act; and what recent representations he has received on the operation of the Act. [82890]

Mr. McCartney: The following statutory instruments have been made under the Trade Descriptions Act:

SI 1981/1223 Trade Descriptions (Country of Origin) (Cutlery) Order 1981

SI 1980/1150 Trade Descriptions (Sealskin Goods) (Information) Order 1980

SI 1996/2757 Trade Descriptions (Place of Production) (Marking) Order 1988

SI 1996/2757 Trade Descriptions (Place of Production) (Marking) (Revocation) Order 1996

The Department has received no recent representations about the operation of the Act as such. However, the Department's recent consultation on the implementation of the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive canvassed a number of options for the Act, including amendment and repeal. The responses to this consultation are at present under consideration.

United Utilities

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many firms have been recorded by Ofgem as having been made to wait longer than a month by United Utilities for *(a)* an electricity connection, *(b)* a water connection and *(c)* a gas connection; how many of those firms have had to wait longer than (i) one to three months, (ii) four to six months, (iii) seven to 12 months and (iv) 12 months; if he will ask the regulator to encourage United Utilities to consider compensating the most severely affected firms; and what plans the regulator has to work with the company to resolve the situation. [82992]

Malcolm Wicks: As the hon. Member notes in his question, standards of performance measures are for the independent regulators of the respective markets, Ofgem for electricity and Ofwat for water. I have sent a copy of this question to the Chief Executive of both organisations.

Waste to Energy Incinerator

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what waste conversion processes will be used for the energy from the waste power station to be built in Belvedere, south east London. [84524]

Malcolm Wicks: It will be a reciprocating grate incinerator design.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received following his decision to approve the Waste to Energy Incinerator in Belvedere; and if he will make a statement. [82719]

Malcolm Wicks: Four letters have been received criticising the decision.

Wind Energy

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will arrange for *(a)* the report on wind energy development in the West Midlands commissioned jointly by the Government Office and Advantage West Midlands from TNEI Services Limited in 2004 and *(b)* the appendix to that report entitled Urban Wind Energy Sites in Staffordshire to be (i) published, (ii) sent to the hon. Member for Newcastle-under-Lyme and (iii) placed in the Library. [83741]

Margaret Hodge: The Government Office West Midlands has consulted with colleagues within Advantage West Midlands and can confirm that the full report published in June 2004 is held on the Government Office website. Please follow link

http://www.gos.gov.uk/gowm/docs/177226/394405/Wind_Capacity_Study_-_West1.pdf

It should be noted that the appendices referred to in the final report do not refer to Urban Wind Energy Sites in Staffordshire and that to the best of ours and Advantage West Midlands knowledge no such appendix exists.

Work and Families Bill

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to publish draft regulations on the definition of carer in the Work and Families Bill. [82259]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We ran a consultation on the draft regulations on flexible working, which closed on 25 April 2006. We will bring forward the draft regulations towards the end of this year. The new law is due to come into force from April 2007.

NORTHERN IRELAND

2011 Census

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when a decision will be taken about the inclusion of questions on knowledge of Irish and Ulster Scots in the 2011 census in Northern Ireland. [82879]

Mr. Hanson: Proposals for the 2011 census, including the topics and questions to be included will be brought forward in a White Paper, currently planned for the autumn of 2008. These proposals will take account of consultation with users, the testing and evaluation of options and the balancing of different requirements. The final content of the census will ultimately be determined through the legislative process in the form of a census order and census regulations, probably around 2010.

Asbestos-related Illness

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has been made of the number of individuals who have been diagnosed with asbestos-related illness in the Province in each of the last 10 years. [83782]

Paul Goggins: The number of people diagnosed with asbestos-related illness in Northern Ireland is not available.

Information is available on the number of those admitted as inpatients to hospitals in Northern Ireland, with a diagnosis of asbestos-related illness.

The following table details the number of admissions[1] to hospital with a primary or secondary diagnosis of asbestos-related illness, for each year between 1995 and 2004 (the latest calendar year for which data is available). It should be noted that any individual could have been admitted to hospital more than once over the course of a year or over a number of years and would therefore be counted more than once in the table.

Hospital Admissions—Northern Ireland

	Number
1995	106
1996	124
1997	123
1998	156
1999	166
2000	181
2001	208
2002	237
2003	233
2004	280

[1] Discharges and deaths are used as an approximation to admissions.

Source:
Hospital Inpatients System DHSS and PS

Cancer

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been diagnosed with cancer in Northern Ireland in the last three years; what estimate he has made of how many of them have experienced a consequent loss of income; what the estimated average loss of income experienced by cancer patients was in the same period; what financial support is available to cancer patients; and what steps his Department has taken to inform cancer patients of the support available to them. [83043]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the incidence of all cancers (ICD-10 COQ-D48) in Northern Ireland for 2001-03, the most recent three year period for which data are available.

	All cancers	*All cancers (excluding non-melanoma skin cancer[1])*
2001	8,667	6,510
2002	9,114	6,737
2003	9,219	6,805
Total	27,000	20,052

[1] Non-melanoma skin cancers which have an excellent prognosis and are rarely fatal, are frequently excluded when quoting incidence statistics

This information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry.

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety has made no estimate of the number of cancer patients experiencing a loss of income following their diagnosis or the average loss of income. Many people find that a diagnosis of cancer affects them financially and, depending on their individual circumstances, they may be entitled to financial assistance in the form of state benefits. Current practice in the HPSS is for nursing staff to discuss these issues with cancer patients and, where appropriate, to refer them to social work staff who will provide advice on social security benefits and sources of information.

The Social Security Agency's Disability and Carer's Service contact centre assists with applications for disability living allowance (DLA), attendance allowance (AA) and carer's allowance. People affected by cancer can also avail of the special rules scheme within DLA and AA which enables terminally ill patients to have their applications fast-tracked. An award of either benefit under special rules will mean the patient will receive the highest rate payable for help with personal care.

The Social Security Agency has worked, in conjunction with Macmillan Cancer Support, to identify and address the barriers facing cancer patients when they need to access benefits. This work has resulted in enhanced cancer awareness training for Agency staff; an information booklet for patients and carers "Help with the Cost of Cancer" was launched in March 2005; and an outreach service of Specialist Benefit Advisers for those with cancer has been piloted.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will estimate the total cost *(a)* of screening for cervical cancer, *(b)* arising from management of those with abnormal cervical findings and *(c)* of treating patients with cervical cancer in the Province in 2005-06. [83723]

Paul Goggins: The total cost of screening for cervical cancer in 2005-06 was planned to be £856,000.

Information is not readily available on the costs of managing those with abnormal cervical findings or for treating those patients with cervical cancer. These would have been included in the £40.4 million planned expenditure for all types of cancer.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make provision for docetaxel to be made available on the NHS to those with late stage prostate cancer in Northern Ireland. [83754]

Paul Goggins: Additional funding of £21 million has been allocated for specialist drugs in 2006-07 and 2007-08. Of this sum, £6 million has been earmarked for cancer drugs. It is for health and social services boards, as commissioners of services, to prioritise how funding is used, taking into account the competing demands and pressures in their areas and the strategic objectives and priorities of my Department. Health and social services boards' investment plans for 2006-07 include proposals to fund the introduction of docetaxel for the treatment of late stage prostate cancer at a projected cost of £195,000 per annum.

Chief Electoral Officer

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the recruitment process for the new Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland; and on what date *(a)* the post was advertised, *(b)* the post was offered to the successful candidate and *(c)* the appointment was approved by him. [68553]

Mr. Hanson: The recruitment of the Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland was by a full and open competition. The appointment was based on merit and applicants both at the sift stage and at the interviews had to satisfy the essential competences required for the post.

The post was advertised in the press and on the Northern Ireland Office and Cabinet Office websites on 12 December 2005.

It is not Government practice to disclose information relating to when appointment decisions were taken and when successful candidates were notified as the disclosure of such information could inhibit the frankness and candour of future internal discussions.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many candidates *(a)* applied and *(b)* were shortlisted for the post of Northern Ireland Chief Electoral Officer; and how many of those candidates were (i) women and (ii) from an ethnic minority community. [68557]

Mr. Hanson: Fourteen candidates applied for the post of Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland; three of the applicants were women.

Six candidates were shortlisted; two of the shortlisted candidates were women. There were no applications from an ethnic minority community.

Child Services

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the plans are for the expenditure of the funds allocated for *(a)* Child and Adolescent Crisis Response Teams under Theme 5: Child Protection and *(b)* Rapid Response Child Protection Teams under Theme 6: Children with Special Needs and Disabilities in 2006-07; and what the timetable is for the expenditure in each case. [83688]

Paul Goggins: An outline structure for Rapid Response Child Protection Teams under Theme 5 of the Children and Young People Funding Package has now been developed through a cross health and social services board and trust working group led by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. An approach to implementation of this revised structure is currently being agreed with a view to immediate rollout. An investment of £1.85 million has been allocated to establish teams and expenditure will begin to be incurred following agreement to the implementation strategy in September 2006.

Health and social services boards are developing proposals on the allocation of £0.5 million in 2006-07 and £1.0 million in 2007-08 to establish Child and Adolescent Crisis Response Teams under Theme 6 of the Children and Young People Funding Package. The Department expects to receive the final proposals within the next few weeks to allow the recruitment process in each board area to begin in the autumn.

Departmental Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* each Department in Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Northern Ireland Office in each of the last three years. [70460]

Mr. Hanson *[pursuant to the reply, 17 May 2006, Official Report, c. 1009W]:* I should inform the hon. Gentleman that the figures provided for four Northern Ireland Departments were incorrect. The figures for DOE, DFP and DHSSPS were transposed—the amounts stated were correct but attributed to the wrong Departments. In the case of DSD, an incorrect figure was given. I apologise to the hon. Gentleman for this error.

The correct information is as follows:

The following amounts were spent on advertising in each of the Northern Ireland Departments and the Northern Ireland Office, in (A) 2003-04 and (B) 2004-05:

	Expenditure (£)	
Department	*(A) 2003-04*	*(B) 2004-05*
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	324,053	191,800
Agriculture and Rural Development	371,573	371,227
Culture, Arts and Leisure	24,758	11,517
Education	80,266	73,137
Employment and Learning	149,210	498,570
Enterprise, Trade and Investment	154,656	88,420
Environment	977,821	1,333,024
Finance and Personnel	298,260	280,789
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	355,141	347,494
Regional Development	24,282	22,364
Social Development	107,793	98,766
Total	2,867,813	3,317,108
Northern Ireland Office	192,978	279,697
Grand total	3,060,791	3,596,805

These figures are compiled using the total media spend for all forms of advertising.

The figures requested for (C) the remaining year have not yet been completed and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the introduction of discrete capital values in relation to domestic rates will be revenue neutral. [83012]

Mr. Hanson: The revaluation of domestic properties in Northern Ireland in the form of discrete capital values is not in itself about increasing revenues, rather it is about redistributing the rating burden among households in a fairer way. Domestic rate increases usually apply every year in line with Budget plans, however, in the year of revaluation, 2007-08, the Government have set a 6 per cent. increase for the regional rate, which is significantly below the recent trend increases. District rate increases are a matter for the individual district councils.

EU Membership

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the effects on Northern Ireland of UK membership of the EU since 1997. [64599]

Mr. Hanson: The EU has had a positive benefit for Northern Ireland since 1997. I have placed in the Library an overview of the main effects of membership of the European Union across the wide range of Northern Ireland's main sectoral policy areas. However, it is apparent that the social, economic and environmental fabric of the region has clearly benefited from EU legislation, EU funds and the Internal Market.

For example, NI exports to EU countries accounted for 54.2 per cent. of all manufacturing exports in 2004-05. Over the period 1997-98 to 2004-05, manufacturing exports to the European Union as a proportion of total manufacturing sales increased from 17 per cent. to 18.3 per cent.

From 1997-98 to 2003-04, NI manufacturing companies' export sales in constant prices to the European Union were estimated to have increased by 32 per cent. from £1.7 billion to £2.3 billion. In 2004-05, following the accession of 10 candidate countries, export sales to the European Union rose to £2.4 billion. NI exports to the new member countries were estimated to be worth £54.3 million in 2004-05.

In addition approximately £1.821 billion in Structural Funds between 1997 and 2006 has co-financed large-scale infrastructure projects such as the North-West gas pipeline, significant investments in roads and rail services, support for business creation and development, training and education measures, promotion of tourism and cultural heritage, urban and rural development, information technology infrastructure, as well as support for the agriculture and fisheries sectors.

While the provision of £775 million up to 2006 under the PEACE programme has enabled many thousands of economic and community-based social inclusion projects to directly address the legacy of the conflict and to take the opportunities arising from peace.

Ministerial Visits (Accommodation)

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers in each Northern Ireland Department, including the Northern Ireland Office, stayed overnight in (i) five star, (ii) four star and (iii) three star hotels in each of the last three years. [69230]

Mr. Hanson: Departments use a hotel booking agent to book hotel accommodation for civil servants and special advisers. The information held does not identify the rating of the hotel. Information in relation to 2003-04 is not available however, the average cost of an overnight stay over the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2006 was:

	Average rate per night (£)
2004-05	88.51
2005-06	91.91

Procurement

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will take social considerations into account in procurements by his Department and its agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [80986]

Mr. Hanson: Northern Ireland Procurement Policy applies to all Government Departments, their agencies, non-departmental public bodies and public corporations.

The procurement process is governed by 12 guiding principles, one of which requires procurement policy to pay due regard to economic and social policies, rather than cut across them.

The Central Procurement Directorate issued procurement guidance, in 2004, approved by the Procurement Board, which outlines the range of possibilities for integrating social considerations into public procurement in Northern Ireland under the existing procurement rules.

School Staff

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many employees of education and library boards in Northern Ireland have had their employment *(a)* terminated and *(b)* altered as a result of investigations into school staff who may pose a risk to children in each of the last three years. [83755]

Maria Eagle: The number of employees of education and library boards in Northern Ireland who have had their employment *(a)* terminated or *(b)* altered as a result of investigations into schools staff who may pose a risk to children in each of the last three years is detailed as follows:

Education and library boards

	Terminated	*Altered*
2003-04	4	2
2004-05	—	—
2005-06	—	—

Note:
School staff covers teaching and non-teaching staff.

School Violence

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1986W, on school violence, if he will break down by education board area the number of school pupils in the Province who have been suspended for *(a)* attacks on teachers and *(b)* bullying in each of the last three years; and how many such pupils were expelled in each case. [83690]

Maria Eagle: From the 2002-03 school year, statistics on the reasons for suspension have been gathered annually from each education and library board and relate to the number of individual suspensions not to the number of pupils suspended.

Table 1 details the number of individual suspensions[1] for physical attacks on staff, in each education and library board, for the 2002-03 to 2004-05 school years:

Table 1: Physical attacks on staff

Education and Library Board	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Belfast	75	73	84
Western	99	72	49
North Eastern	91	49	31
South Eastern	64	79	57
Southern	36	47	21
NI Total	365	320	262

Table 2 details the number of individual suspensions[1] for bullying other pupils, in each education and library board, for the 2002-03 to 2004-05 school years:

Table 2: Bullying other pupils

Education and Library Board	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Belfast	53	73	66
Western	52	64	67
North Eastern	66	84	71
South Eastern	57	49	60
Southern	61	71	58
NI Total	289	341	322

The reasons for expulsion were first collected in 2003-04. The numbers involved are relatively small and are not disaggregated between education and library boards because of the risk that a school/pupil may be identifiable.

Table 3 shows the total number of pupils expelled for physical attacks on staff and bullying other pupils, for the 2003-04 and 2004-05 school years:

Table 3

	2003-04	*2004-05*
Physical attacks on staff	7	7
Bullying other pupils	0	2

[1] The count of occasions is based on each incidence of suspension, where an incident is defined as a count from the first day a pupil was suspended until the last day suspended. In previous years, the count of occasions was based on each record of suspension identified by the education and library boards, where in some instances, longer periods of suspension may have had more than one record. This change is due to an improvement in the data collection systems for suspensions in the education and library boards which has enabled better analysis of the data. As a result, the number of occasions pupils were suspended in 2004-05 has decreased from previous years. However, care should be taken when comparing the number of occasions in 2004-05 with the number of occasions in previous years.

Sex Offenders Register

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons on the Sex Offenders Register in Northern Ireland have been prosecuted for failing to comply with notification of change in address requirements; and if he will make a statement. [81818]

Mr. Hanson: The Sexual Offences Act 2003 requires an offender to notify the police of a change of their notified details (such as name or address) within three days of the change taking place. Breach of the requirements is an arrestable offence and may result in a term of imprisonment of up to five years.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland has confirmed that one person was reported for prosecution in 2005-06 for failing to notify the police of a change in address. There were no prosecutions in the previous three years. This low figure is largely a result of an overall high compliance rate with the requirements, however the PSNI pursue a policy of actively seeking to trace offenders who fail to comply.

Sexual Health

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the incidence was of sexually transmitted diseases among *(a)* under and *(b)* over 16-year-olds in Northern Ireland in each year since 1995. [83753]

Paul Goggins: The information in the table gives details for the total number of episodes (for selected diagnoses of sexually transmitted infection), seen for care at GUM clinics, in Northern Ireland since 1995. This is available by age group and is shown in the following table .

	(a) Number of sexually transmitted infections in under 16 year olds	(b) Number of sexually transmitted infections in over 16 year olds
1995	11	2,065
1996	[1]	[1]
1997	[1]	[1]
1998	9	2,641
1999	15	3,103
2000	24	3,480
2001	16	3,478
2002	20	3,721
2003	20	3,853
2004	23	3,907
2005	16	4,377

[1] Incomplete data

Notes:

1. Figures represent new treatment episodes of sexually transmitted infections occurring in the specified age groups, and not individual people. An individual may have contributed more than one episode of a particular diagnosis and to more than one diagnosis.
2. Selected diagnoses for 1995 are: Postpubertal uncomplicated Chlamydia; Postpubertal uncomplicated gonorrhoea; Infectious syphilis; Anogenital herpes simplex (first attack) and Anogenital warts (first attack).
3. Selected diagnoses and codes for 1998 and onwards are: Uncomplicated genital Chlamydia; uncomplicated gonorrhoea; primary and secondary infectious syphilis; Anogenital herpes simplex (first attack) and Anogenital warts (first attack).

Source:

[illegible] return, genito-urinary medicine clinics.

Sexual Orientation Strategy

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when the draft Sexual Orientation Strategy will be published; and what the reasons were for the delay in publication. [81817]

Mr. Hanson: The draft Sexual Orientation Strategy is to be published following close working with and the involvement of the lesbian, gay and bisexual sector. It is our intention to publish the draft strategy for consultation in the autumn.

Students with Learning Disabilities

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many students with a learning disability within each of Northern Ireland's hospital trust areas will *(a)* transfer at age 19 years in the current academic year from Education Service responsibility to Health and Social Service responsibility and *(b)* will be offered full adult day care provision by the Department of Health and Social Services as befits their needs; what processes exist within the Department of Health and Social Services to ensure adequate forward planning to meet the needs of those clients in transition from the education sector; and if he will make a statement on the level of provision for such clients within the health and social services sector. [81814]

Paul Goggins: The information required to answer parts *(a)* and *(b)* of this question is not held centrally and will take some time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as the information becomes available and place a copy in the Library.

The boards determine the needs of their population and allocate resources to meet these needs. Day care services provided through the Health and Social Services Boards and Trusts are for those individuals who will be unable to access services provided elsewhere. Additional investment in day care will continue to be made for those who do not have access to any other form of provision, such as further education, skills training or employment.

Superannuation Entitlements

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 796W, on superannuation entitlements, when he expects the outstanding cases in *(a)* the Northern Ireland Office and *(b)* the Southern Health and Social Services Board to be concluded. [82972]

Paul Goggins: The Department cannot give any commitment as to when cases brought by part-time employees before the industrial tribunals will be completed. This is a matter for the tribunal. The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Southern Health and Social Services Board are parties before the tribunal and have no special influence on when cases may be listed.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Prime Minister what plans he has to ensure that all flights undertaken by him and his officials are carbon neutral; and if he will make a statement. [81402]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 820W.

Energy Review

Paul Flynn: To ask the Prime Minister which submissions to the Energy Review he has read *(a)* in full, *(b)* in part and *(c)* in summary; and what criteria he used to determine this selection. [83633]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Oldham, West and Royton (Mr. Meacher) on 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1874W.

Extradition

Peter Luff: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and *(b)* the Home Secretary on the impact of extradition arrangements to the United States on the UK's commercial relationship with that country. [83820]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Casinos

James Duddridge: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what *(a)* discussions and *(b)* meetings he had with (i) Thames Gateway, (ii) Thames Gateway South Essex, (iii) the East of England Development Agency and (iv) Southend-on-Sea borough council regarding the possibility of a single bid for a regional casino being entered from the Thames Gateway region. [84115]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I have not discussed the possibility of a single bid for a regional casino being entered from the Thames Gateway with any organisation.

Departmental Budget

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 787W, on the departmental budget, when he plans to publish the Department's annual report and accounts. [83406]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Shortly after the end of the current financial year, as is the usual time for Government Departments.

Ministerial Visits

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether, during his visit to Texas and the USA, *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials met (i) representatives of Canatxx Ltd. and its associated companies and (ii) representatives of the gas storage industry. [84037]

The Deputy Prime Minister: No.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Child Care (Tax Relief)

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer about extending tax relief on child care. [82884]

Meg Munn: The Government have a vision that families will be able to afford flexible, high quality child care services that are appropriate for their needs. To further this aim, the Government have directed substantial help with child care costs for low to moderate-income families through the child care element of the working tax credit. To engage employers with employees' child care needs, the Government have also introduced an income tax and national insurance contributions exemption on £55 per week of employer-supported child care. This combination of tax relief and tax credits is working to ensure that every child gets the best start in life and that parents have more choice about how to balance their work and family life.

The Ministers for Women and Equality bring a gender and equalities perspective to issues such as child care by sitting on several high level Cabinet Committees, including domestic affairs.

Flexible Working

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what information the Government have issued to women on their right to flexible work. [82886]

Meg Munn: The Department for Trade and Industry, the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) and the direct.gov website provide guidance for employees (men and women) on the right to request flexible working. The direct.gov website has three interactive tools which help employees make applications to work flexibly. ACAS provide leaflets and also operate a helpline, answering queries from both employees and employers on employment matters including flexible working.

Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act 2002. [82883]

Meg Munn: We have not yet carried out a formal assessment of the effectiveness of the Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act 2002, which enables political parties, if they wish to do so, to use positive measures to reduce inequality between the number of men and women selected as election candidates for their party. However, an independent report published by the Hansard Society in 2005 found that all-women shortlists are the quickest and most effective means of delivering equal representation.

Sex Industry

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with the Solicitor-General on increasing the number of cases brought by the Crown Prosecution Service and the prosecution rate in relation to women being forced to work in the sex industry. [82976]

Meg Munn: As a Member of the Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking, I work closely with ministerial colleagues including the Solicitor-General to ensure that provision for victims is sensitive to women's needs. The prosecution rate has been discussed at meetings of the Group.

To date there have been 30 convictions (in 16 separate cases) for trafficking for sexual exploitation, resulting in sentences of between two to nine years on specific counts—although convictions for several counts have resulted in sentences of up to 21 years.

Tax Credits

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many working women have been awarded funds from the child care element of working tax credits; and if she will make a statement. [82885]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The estimated number of working women who benefited from the child care element of child and working tax credits for 2005-06, as at 3 April 2006, is around 367,000. Around 123,000 were part of a couple and 244,000 were single.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1590W, on Afghanistan, what assessment she has made of whether the Afghan Government's plans to establish community police units under the control of the Ministry of Interior will include adequate vetting procedures; and if she will make a statement. [81718]

Margaret Beckett: Given Afghanistan's recent history and the destruction of administrative capacity, detailed vetting procedures will not be in place. The Afghan Government are currently working on the details of President Karzai's community police initiative. President Karzai has given assurances that the units will be under the control of the Ministry of Interior. Their purpose is to deliver stability in some rural areas. We and international partners are maintaining a dialogue with the Afghan Government as their plans evolve.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of UK funding for Afghanistan is administered through the *(a)* UN, *(b)* EU and *(c)* UK embassy in Kabul; and if she will make a statement. [81733]

Margaret Beckett: In financial year 2005-06, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Afghanistan Drugs Inter-departmental Unit provided £157 million in bilateral assistance to Afghanistan. 15 per cent. of this funding was administered through the UN and 44 per cent. was channelled through the World Bank administered Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund. The remaining 41 per cent. was administered directly by the FCO and DFID in both London and Afghanistan.

Separately, in terms of multilateral assistance through the UN and EU, the UK provided 19 per cent. of the €1 billion pledged by the EU to Afghanistan between 2001 to 2006. The UK continues to provide core funding through its yearly commitment of £160 million to UN Agencies, a number of which operate in Afghanistan.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of patterns of cultivation and production of cannabis resin in Afghanistan over the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [81736]

Margaret Beckett: The UK has not made any assessment regarding patterns of cultivation and production of cannabis resin in Afghanistan over the last five years. However, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2006 World Drug Report, Afghanistan was the third largest source of cannabis resin, after Pakistan and Morocco, over the period 1999-2003.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what strategy is in place to ensure equal implementation of poppy counter-narcotics programmes across different provinces in Afghanistan. [81737]

Margaret Beckett: The UK is supporting the Government of Afghanistan to implement its National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS) to target the trafficker and the trade, strengthen and diversify legal rural livelihoods, build effective counter-narcotics institutions and reduce domestic demand. Co-ordination of assistance takes place nationally via the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN) and the Counter Narcotics Cabinet Sub-Committee, which brings together all relevant ministries to oversee and monitor the implementation of the strategy across Afghanistan. The Ministry of Counter Narcotics has identified seven priority provinces (Helmand, Kandahar, Balkh, Farah, Badakhshan, Uruzgan and Samangan) which account for the highest levels of opium poppy cultivation in 2005. Poppy Elimination Programme teams have been established in these provinces and are tasked with increasing public awareness of the counter narcotics campaign and assessing the effectiveness of governor-led elimination programmes.

Additionally, the Department for International Development is spending £130 million over the next three years on strengthening and diversifying legal rural livelihoods through the Afghan Government's National Programmes. MCN and the Ministry of Rural Reconstruction and Development are also working to establish a database of legal rural livelihoods implementation across all provinces in order to improve the co-ordination and targeting of assistance.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr (Adam Price), of 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1127W, on Afghanistan, what factors the UK Government took into account in deciding that legal cultivation of opium for legitimate medicinal export was not viable. [82507]

Dr. Howells: The UK supports and agrees with the Government of Afghanistan's position that licensing opium cultivation in Afghanistan for medical export is not a realistic solution to the problems of the opium economy in Afghanistan. Legalisation risks a high level of diversion of licit opium into illegal channels and, by sending out a mixed message to farmers, threatens to undermine the effectiveness of the Government of Afghanistan's counter narcotics campaign. There are no central Government and law enforcement mechanisms in place to set up and administer such a proposal and the trafficker would be free to continue to exploit the illicit market.

There has also been no systematic market testing throughout the world to calculate demand for additional morphine-based medicines and no evidence to show that Afghan opium would be price competitive in a global market place.

The UK is supporting the Government of Afghanistan to tackle the drugs problem through a balanced and comprehensive strategy involving strengthening the rule of law and providing alternative livelihoods for poppy farmers.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether *(a)* she and *(b)* officials in her Department have received representations regarding a UN report on human rights abuses in Afghanistan by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; and if she will make a statement. [82715]

Mr. McCartney: An Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report on human rights abuses in Afghanistan was completed in January 2005, but has not been published. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not received representations about the report.

We continue to work closely with the OHCHR, the Afghan Government, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and international partners to improve respect for human rights in Afghanistan, to strengthen capacity building, and to build on the Afghan Government's many achievements since the fall of the Taliban regime.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whose responsibility it is to reduce the area contaminated by mines and exploded ordnance in Afghanistan in accordance with the commitments laid out in the Afghanistan Compact; and what progress has been made. [82858]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* The United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan currently has de facto responsibility, on behalf of the Government of Afghanistan, for the planning, management and oversight of the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA). Progress continues to be made towards meeting the benchmarks laid out in the Afghanistan Compact. During financial year 2005-06, MAPA decreased the number of highly effected communities by almost 42 per cent. During this period, MAPA cleared 136,371,592 square metres of contaminated land, releasing 19 per cent. of the mine and unexploded ordnance area. It is estimated that 716 square kilometres of land was still contaminated by the end of the financial year.

The UK is playing its part. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Department for International Development/Ministry of Defence Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) continues to provide funding to UN and non-governmental organisations weapons and ammunition destruction programmes in Afghanistan. In financial year 2005-06, the GCPP contributed over £2 million to such projects.

Antarctic

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her policy is in respect of tourism in the Antarctic. [83887]

Mr. Hoon: The Antarctic Treaty preserves Antarctica for peace and science. Within this framework, however, tourism is a legitimate activity, providing it is undertaken safely and in line with the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty 1991.

Nevertheless, tourism activities continue to increase in the Antarctic Treaty Area and the UK has taken a leading role within the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings to ensure that safety and environmental concerns continue to be addressed. This has included, for example, securing agreement to require all tourism activities to have detailed search and rescue, insurance and contingency plans.

The vast majority of Antarctic tourism takes place under the self-regulatory framework established by the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO). IAATO sets stringent environmental standards for Antarctic tourism operators and manages the annual tourism traffic to Antarctica. The UK supports this self-regulatory framework, for example by restricting access to UK Historic Sites and Bases to IAATO operators, and works with IAATO to further enhance the management of Antarctic tourism.

Arms Trade Treaty

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress was made towards achieving an international arms trade Treaty at the UN Review Conference on Small Arms in June; and if she will make a statement. [84078]

Dr. Howells: The Government fully supports the initiative for a legally binding International Arms Trade Treaty to cover the trade in all conventional arms. We are leading the way in building the international consensus needed to secure agreement to the start of a formal process toward a treaty at the UN General Assembly this autumn. The UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons only covers a specific category of conventional arms and is part of a process that is politically, not legally binding. The Review Conference was not the right forum to progress the treaty initiative. However, we were pleased to see that a range of countries used the meeting as an opportunity to express support for work towards a treaty.

Burma

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations have been made by her Department to Total Oil on their investments in Burma. [78256]

Margaret Beckett: We have made no recent representations to Total Oil about their investments in Burma.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have taken place between her Department and Rolls-Royce on its contracts with companies owned and controlled by the Government of Burma. [78257]

Margaret Beckett: We have recently discussed this with Rolls-Royce. We have no reason to believe that these contracts breach the EU Common Position on Burma.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the Governments of *(a)* China and *(b)* Russia on the discussion of Burma at the UN Security Council; and what the outcome was of those discussions. [79910]

Margaret Beckett: The Chinese and Russian Governments currently do not support a discussion and resolution on Burma at the UN Security Council. We shall continue to encourage all Security Council members to support action to persuade the Burmese regime to promote political, economic and social development.

My right hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, Ian McCartney, raised the situation in Burma with the Chinese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs on 20 June and asked that China support a Security Council debate and resolution on Burma and encourage the Burmese Government to meet their human rights responsibilities. He also raised Burma with the Chinese ambassador on 21 June. Additionally, in his meeting of 13 June with the Chairman of the UK Friendship Group of the China National People's Congress, my right hon. Friend encouraged Chinese engagement to help resolve international issues. I have not made representations to the Governments of China and Russia regarding Burma.

There have also been discussions at official level with the Chinese and Russian Governments.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the prospects for securing UN Security Council *(a)* debate and *(b)* a resolution on Burma. [80120]

Margaret Beckett: It is too early to make an assessment of the prospects for securing a UN Security Council debate or resolution on Burma. The Chinese and Russian Governments do not support such a debate or resolution. We shall continue to work with all Security Council members to support action to persuade the Burmese regime to promote political, economic and social development.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information the Government have received on whether North Korea *(a)* is training Burmese nationals in nuclear technology and *(b)* has transferred missile technology to Burma. [82540]

Dr. Howells: The Government are aware of media reports from 2002-03 which alleged possible clandestine assistance from North Korea to Burma's military in the construction of a nuclear reactor. As a party to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, Burma has undertaken not to seek nuclear weapons, but has the right to pursue peaceful nuclear technology. Russia is assisting Burma, through the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Technical Co-operation Organisation, to acquire a research reactor. This reactor would be under IAEA safeguards.

There were also reports, in 2004, that North Korea had offered surface-to-surface missiles to Burma.

The Government have received no specific information on either of these issues or on the training of Burmese nationals in nuclear technology.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports the Government have received on the regime in Burma sending soldiers to Russia for military and nuclear technology training. [83207]

Mr. McCartney: Burma's Deputy Foreign Minister U Khin Maung Win acknowledged in January 2002 that Burma had received "a proposal" from Russia to build a nuclear research reactor. Burma has also publicly noted that it continues to send trainees to Russia. We understand that there are currently over 1,000 students, the vast majority of them from the military: some of these are studying nuclear technology. We have no information on current levels of military co-operation between Russia and Burma.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports the Government have received relating to uranium exported by Burma to Russia, China and North Korea being re-exported to other countries. [83209]

Dr. Howells: We are not aware of any exports of uranium from Burma. Burma maintains that its limited uranium production is for domestic research into the peaceful use of nuclear power.

Chad

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the recent actions of Janjaweed militias in Chad; and what representations she has made to the Government of Chad about protecting refugees. [83296]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* We are aware that Chadian rebels and Darfur militia continue to mount cross-border attacks into Eastern Chad from Darfur, which has led to the displacement of 50,000 Chadians. We are also aware of reports of Darfur rebels continuing to be supported by Chad. We are

pressing the Government of Sudan to neutralise and disarm the Janjaweed and expel foreign fighters from Darfur as soon as possible, as required under the Darfur Peace Agreement. We are also pressing both Governments to fulfil their obligations under the Tripoli Agreemen

While in Chad leading a UN Security Council delegation in early June, our Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York raised the refugee camps with President Deby and encouraged him to ensure their full protection.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list in date order *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by her Department since October 2005. [81300]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has produced the following non-treaty Command Papers since October 2005:

Global Opportunities Fund, Annual Report 2004/05, Cm 6665, 12 October 2005;

Annual Performance Report 2005, Cm 6709, 14 December 2005;

52 Annual Report of the Marshall Aid Commission, Year Ending 30 September 2005, Cm 6716, 19 January 2006;

Prospects for the EU in 2005 and the retrospective of the UK's Presidency of the EU, 1 July to 31 December 2005, Cm 6735, 31 January 2006;

Six-monthly Report on Hong Kong, July—December 2005, Cm 6751, 1 March 2006;

Fiftieth Annual Report of the Foreign Compensation Commission for the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2005, Cm 6778, 4 May 2006;

Active Diplomacy for a Changing World, the UK's International Priorities, Cm 6762, 28 March 2006;

First Report from the Foreign Affairs Committee, Session 2005-06, Annual Report on Human Rights 2005, Response of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Cm 6774, 2 May 2006;

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Departmental Report 1 April 2005—31 March 2006, Cm 6823, 8 May 2006;

Second Report from the Foreign Affairs Committee, Session 2005/06, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Annual Report 2004-05, Response of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Cm 6791, 22 May 2006; and

Third Report from the Foreign Affairs Committee, Session 2005/06, Public Diplomacy, Response of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Cm 6840, 7 June 2006.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what draft Bills have been produced by her Department since October 2005; how many were *(a)* examined and *(b)* are planned to be examined by (i) a departmental Select Committee and (ii) a Joint Committee; which draft Bills are still to be produced by her Department; when each is expected to be published; how many clauses each has; and if she will make a statement. [81301]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not produced any draft Bills since October 2005.

Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be indicated in Her Majesty the Queen's Speech.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her practice is regarding meeting, discussing and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [81302]

Margaret Beckett: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is not a Department with a heavy legislative programme. Subject to our international obligations, our practice is to seek a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Formal and informal consultation is a key part of the policy making process. The FCO holds regular meetings with representatives of the principal stakeholder groups for our policy areas and with relevant experts. Organisations and individuals can also contribute to the Department's formal consultations, which abide by the Code of Conduct on Consultation. Known stakeholders are alerted to the fact that a formal consultation is taking place. As required by the code, the Department gives feedback on the response received and on how the consultation process influenced the policy decision.

Consultation documents inviting comment are circulated through direct contact with appropriate organisations and published on the FCO website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1017170970560

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the Deposited Papers placed in the Library by her Department since 2000; and when they were published. [81304]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has placed 610 items in the Library of the House since 2000. The Library keeps a list of the documents including their date of deposit which I will forward to the hon. Member.

Detainees (Inter-state Transfers)

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the Council of Europe's report on alleged secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers of detainees involving Council of Europe member states; and what response she has made to the findings of the report at paragraph 10.5 in relation to the case of Benyam Mohammed Al Habashi. [83564]

Dr. Howells: Dick Marty's report of 7 June entitled "Alleged secret detentions and unlawful inter-state transfers involving Council of Europe Member States" contains no new evidence in respect of the UK.

In the case of Benyam Mohammed Al Habashi, he was interviewed once by a member of the UK Security Services in Karachi in 2002, but the Security Services had no role in his capture in or transfer from Pakistan.

Drugs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime regarding drug production and trafficking in *(a)* Pakistan and *(b)* Iran; and what assessment she has made of the effects of the level of production on the National Drugs Control Strategy in Afghanistan. [83217]

Mr. McCartney: Pakistan and Iran are major drug trafficking transit countries to Europe. Production in these countries is much less significant than in Afghanistan. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) World Drugs Report of 2006 quotes 2,400 hectares of opium cultivated in Pakistan compared to 104,000 in Afghanistan in 2005. Iran cultivation figures do not feature. Regional co-operation is, however, an important element of the Government of Afghanistan's National Drug Control Strategy and efforts are being made to improve information sharing and develop closer working relationships with the neighbours with particular respect to border control, law enforcement and judicial co-operation. This is vital in order to crack down on drug trafficking and ensure that cultivation does not move across Afghanistan's borders into neighbouring countries. In 2005 the UK funded £1.55 million of regional projects, of which £618,000 was contributed to the UNODC Iran integrated border management project on the Iran/Afghan border. In 2006 we are funding £1 million of regional projects of which £400,000 is allocated to UNODC regional precursor control projects.

The UK has regular dialogue with the UNODC on drug trafficking in Pakistan and Iran. This is undertaken both on a multilateral and bilateral level. On the multilateral level, the UK is a strong supporter of the UNODC-managed Paris Pact process, a mechanism to co-ordinate action by all countries affected by the Afghan opiate trade, and plays a high profile role in these meetings. This provides an opportunity to work with priority transit countries to combat the trafficking of heroin from Afghanistan to Europe. At the Islamabad and Tehran Paris Pact meetings in March and September 2005 respectively, the UK pressed both UNODC and the international donor community to support our regional counter narcotics priorities. These are to develop operational cross border liaison, regional precursor control, and law enforcement training and equipment for Pakistan, Iran and Central Asian Republics bordering Afghanistan.

On the bilateral level, UNODC recognise that UK funding in support of UNODC programmes in Iran and Pakistan has been very helpful in allowing us jointly to address a range of counter narcotics issues. Our Missions in Tehran and Islamabad enjoy good relations and regular dialogue with the local UNODC offices. The UK has also played an active role in the development of a UNODC regional strategy for the countries along Afghan drug-trafficking routes.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate *(a)* she and *(b)* the UN Office on Drugs and Crime has made of the size of the Afghan poppy crop in 2006. [83282]

Dr. Howells: It is too early to assess overall levels of cultivation in 2006, but a significant increase seems likely following last year's 21 per cent. fall. This is worrying and due in part to a substantial increase in planting in the more lawless south, including Helmand Province. We will know this year's cultivation figures when the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime publishes its annual opium poppy survey in the autumn. There are some signs, however, that last year's reductions are likely to be sustained in areas where access to governance, security and development has improved. Sustainable drug elimination strategies take time, particularly when the challenges are as severe as they are in Afghanistan. The UK believes that the approach set out in the Government of Afghanistan's newly updated National Drug Control Strategy represents the best means of tackling the problem.

EU Veto

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which areas the UK's veto in EU matters has been relinquished by means other than a treaty since 1997. [81901]

Mr. Hoon: Outside the amendment of the EU Treaties, there are four passerelle provisions in the current treaties which allow changes from unanimity in voting rules. They are article 42, treaty on European Union, and articles 67(2), 137(2) and 175(2), treaty establishing the European Community. Only the passerelle provision in article 67(2) has been activated to change the voting in certain areas of title IV from unanimity to co-decision and qualified majority voting. But it is for the UK to decide on a case by case basis whether or not it wishes to opt in to any measure adopted in such an area, as set out in the protocol on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the treaty of Amsterdam.

Foreign Affairs Committee

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 352W, on the Foreign Affairs Committee, what estimate she has made of the cost of answering the question; and if she will make a statement. [82636]

Mr. Hoon: We did not make a precise estimate of the cost of answering the hon. Member's question. The answer I gave on 27 June 2006, Official *Report*, column 352W, was based on the fact that it was evident that to provide the information in the form requested would exceed the currently agreed threshold for answering hon. Members' written questions.

Guantanamo Bay

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she plans to take action in response to the recent British Medical Association motion calling on the Government to send a team of physicians to Guantanamo Bay to seek unfettered access to detainees. [83426]

Dr. Howells: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been visiting detainees held at Guantanamo Bay since January 2002. Medical personnel are included in each ICRC visiting team. We do not see the case at the moment for a visit by a specifically British team, as suggested by the British Medical Association.

Human Cloning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs why the United Kingdom voted against the declaration on human cloning at the United Nations General Assembly; which countries *(a)* voted in favour, *(b)* voted against and *(c)* abstained on the resolution; if she will place in the Library copies of the United Kingdom delegate's voting instructions on this resolution; what discussions she had with the United States delegation at the United Nations about this resolution; whom she consulted before opposing this resolution; what representations she received from (i) individuals and (ii) organisations in support of the resolution; and if she will make a statement. [83046]

Mr. McCartney: The United Nations Declaration on Human Cloning is non-binding and has no legal status, but the UK voted against it because it calls on states to prohibit all forms of human cloning. This is totally unacceptable to the Government, who strongly supports stem cell research, including embryonic stem cell research involving the use of cloning technology. The Government's position on the declaration was broadly supported in the House during an adjournment debate on stem cell research on 7 March 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1357-70, the evening before the adoption of the declaration.

The declaration was adopted by a recorded vote of 84 in favour to 34 against, with 37 abstentions, as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Chile, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Morocco, Nicaragua, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uzbekistan, Zambia.

Against:

Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Iceland, India, Jamaica, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Tonga, United Kingdom.

Abstain:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uruguay, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

The UK delegation voted against the declaration in accordance with instructions from the Government, which covered a range of options for possible votes on different draft resolutions or motions. Discussions took place with various UN Member States, including the US. We consulted a range of Departments with an interest in the issue, including the Department of Health. We received representations in support of and against the declaration from several interested non-governmental organisations and individuals.

India

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Indian Government calling for Dalit Christians to be enumerated among the scheduled castes; and if she will make a statement. [80777]

Dr. Howells: Issues relating to scheduled castes are, of course, a matter for the Indian Government to take forward. However, our High Commission in New Delhi has previously raised this issue with the appropriate Indian authorities in response to legitimate UK public and parliamentary interest.

We are aware from media reports that a petition was filed in February 2005 by the Centre for Public Interest with the Indian Supreme Court to argue that the provision to exclude Dalits who convert to Christianity and Islam from the scheduled castes is unconstitutional. This case is now due to be heard during July. We are awaiting the court's decision before deciding the nature of any further representations. Our high commission in New Delhi is continuing to monitor the situation closely.

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Indian Government concerning the anti-conversion legislation enacted in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Chattisgurh, Gujarat and Rajasthan states; and if she will make a statement. [83894]

Dr. Howells: Issues relating to anti-conversion legislation are, of course, internal matters for the Indian authorities to take forward. However, officials from our High Commission in New Delhi have previously raised this with the appropriate Indian authorities in response to legitimate UK public and parliamentary interest, with specific reference to the State of Rajasthan. This was raised when they called on the Chair of the National Commission for Minorities in April and the Ministry of Minorities Affairs in June.

Although the Rajasthan legislative assembly approved the Freedom of Religion Bill in April, we understand that the State Governor refused to sign the Bill when it was presented to her on 19 May and when it was re-sent to her on 13 June.

To date, nobody has raised with us specific cases of abuse, where anti-conversion legislation already in place has been used to prevent someone from willingly changing their religion. However, we and EU partners will continue to follow closely developments in states where this legislation already exists.

Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Iran has provided a timetable for the resolution of outstanding issues relating to its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, as indicated in the Director General's report on the Implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty Safeguards Agreement in the Islamic Republic of Iran of 8 June 2006. [81732]

Margaret Beckett: As far as we are aware, Iran has provided no such timetable to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking towards ensuring that Iran's uranium enrichment programme does not progress to a stage whereby it will have produced enough highly enriched uranium to create a nuclear device. [83137]

Dr. Howells: We remain deeply concerned that, despite repeated requests by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors and the United Nations Security Council, Iran is continuing uranium enrichment related and reprocessing activities that will enable it to develop the capability to produce fissile material suitable for use in nuclear weapons. In addition, we are concerned that, as the IAEA Director General, Dr. Mohammed El-Baradei, describes in his latest report, Iran is not co-operating fully with the IAEA and there are still many outstanding issues that Iran needs to resolve to the IAEA's satisfaction.

On 1 June, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and her French, German, US, Russian and Chinese colleagues and Javier Solana, EU High Representative, agreed to propose a way forward that would give Iran everything it needs to develop a modern civil nuclear power industry and bring Iran far-reaching political and economic benefits, while meeting international concerns. To create conditions for talks to resume, Iran should reinstate its suspension of enrichment related and reprocessing activities, as required by the IAEA Board; we would then suspend action in the Security Council. We hope that Iran will take the positive path offered. Ministers agreed on 1 June that if Iran decides not to engage in negotiation, further action will be necessary in the Security Council.

Iraq

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* her (i) Iraqi, (ii) US and (iii) EU counterparts and *(b)* the UN on the establishment of a UN International Compact to support the development of a framework for increased international assistance to Iraq; and if she will make a statement. [82859]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* The Prime Minister of Iraq has written to the UK and other international partners including the UN, EC, US requesting support for an International Compact. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary attended the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 12 June where the Iraqi Foreign Minister discussed with EU Foreign Ministers the need for increased international engagement with Iraq through a compact. At the UN on 19 June the Iraqi Foreign Minister asked for support to create an International Compact for Iraq and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary indicated the UK would help with the Compact when she saw him as he returned from New York. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has raised the Compact with G8 Foreign Ministers, including the US, at their recent meeting and called on them to support the Compact as Iraqi and UN ideas emerge. This was reflected in the supportive G8 final statement of 29 June. The full text of this statement can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth website at: http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/G8FMChairmanStatememt290606.pdf.

We support wider international engagement in Iraq through the Compact and urge the international community to do the same. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has confirmed our commitment to this process.

Israel

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the implications under the Geneva Conventions of the targeting by Israel of civilian facilities and infrastructure in Gaza during the military incursions commenced by Israel on 27 June 2006; and what representations she has made to the Government of Israel on the subject. [82167]

Dr. Howells: We are very concerned at the increased tension between Israel and the Palestinians. We are opposed to the targeting of civilian facilities and call upon Israel to respect international law and, in particular, the requirement of proportionality and the duty to take all feasible precautions to avoid civilian casualties. We continue to urge both parties to act with restraint and end the current cycle of violence, which only make the prospect of a negotiated, peaceful resolution more distant.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the current situation with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni and Palestinian President Abbas on 6 July. On 29 June, the Defence Attaché in Tel Aviv raised our concerns about the loss of electricity and water supplies with the Israel Defence Force.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she is making to the Government of Israel to persuade them to secure the disarmament of unofficial Israeli militia groups of settlers; and on what occasion the last representations were made. [82438]

Dr. Howells: We continue to call upon Israel to take action calling for an immediate end to violence against Palestinians everywhere.

We will continue to make representations to the Israeli Government about settler violence.

Japan

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Japanese Government in the last six months concerning the imprisoned UK citizen, Nick Baker. [82349]

Mr. McCartney: Consular officials from our embassy in Tokyo continue to raise Nick Baker's case with the Japanese authorities as appropriate; most recently with the Ministry of Justice on 17 May 2006. Consular officials have also raised various concerns about Mr. Baker's welfare with the prison authorities.

In support of Mr. Baker's transfer request, we are working with the Japanese authorities to get Mr. Baker transferred to a British prison as soon as possible.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of her Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80480]

Margaret Beckett: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Krakow Proliferation Security Initiative

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the British objectives were for the High Level Political Meeting of the Krakow Proliferation Security Initiative; and if she will make a statement. [82714]

Mr. McCartney: The UK had three main objectives for the High Level Political Meeting of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), all of which were met. First, we strengthened further the initiative through endorsement of the PSI Statement of Interdiction Principles by more countries. We were pleased to welcome around a dozen states to their first PSI meeting, following a global lobbying campaign by the UK and other PSI partners. Secondly, we shared information, best practice and lessons learned from previous PSI activities. This was achieved through a series of presentations and panel discussions on topics such as exercise planning, legal considerations and industry outreach. Thirdly, we secured agreement on the strategic direction of the initiative, in particular emphasising the importance of ensuring all PSI participating states can achieve the full benefits of involvement in the initiative.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Bills sponsored by her Department are still planned to be introduced during the current Session; and when, and into which House, each will be introduced. [77492]

Margaret Beckett: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no plans to introduce further Bills during the current Session.

Lord's Resistance Army

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the governments of *(a)* Uganda, *(b)* Sudan and *(c)* the Democratic Republic of Congo have asked for British Government support in serving International Criminal Court warrants on the leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army. [83292]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* The Government have received no such requests for assistance.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today (UIN 82452) in which I noted that responsibility to effect the arrest warrants lies in the first instance with the states on whose territory the five Liberation Resistance Army commanders are believed to be, in this case Uganda, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The UK is a strong supporter, in principle and in practice, of the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its efforts to bring to justice the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity. We will continue to maintain political pressure on all parties to provide full co-operation to the ICC. We have called on all those involved to facilitate the arrest of the individuals subject to ICC warrants.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the steps taken by the International Criminal Court to try to arrest the leaders of the Lord's Resistance Army. [82452]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued warrants for the arrest of five Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) commanders, including Joseph Kony, in October 2005. Responsibility to effect the arrest warrants lies in the first instance with the states on whose territory the five LRA commanders are believed to be, in this case Uganda, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The UK is a strong supporter of the work of the ICC and its efforts to bring to justice the perpetrators of war crimes and crimes against humanity. We will continue to maintain political pressure on all parties to provide full co-operation to the ICC. We have called on all those involved to facilitate the arrest of the individuals subject to ICC warrants.

Whilst we are disappointed that the arrest warrants have not yet been effected, we do not underestimate the difficulties in doing so. On 23 January, the UN force in DRC conducted an operation in Garamba National Park in north-eastern DRC aimed at tackling the LRA contingent based there. This operation was unsuccessful and tragically eight Guatemalan peace-keepers lost their lives in that endeavour.

The ICC remains actively supportive of efforts to make the arrests. On 28 June the Chief Prosecutor, Ocampo, made a statement guaranteeing the indictees safe passage to The Hague and due process in the court.

Majority Voting

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the EU Commission's proposal to introduce majority voting on criminal justice and police co-operation contained in the paper 'Implementing The Hague Programme: the way forward', would need to be ratified in the UK Parliament. [82740]

Mr. Hoon: We are giving careful consideration to the proposals contained in the Commission Communication on 'Implementing The Hague Programme: the way forward' and will submit an Explanatory Memorandum to Parliament in due course.

Article 42 of the Treaty on European Union—the "passerelle"—allows for areas governed by Title VI (Third Pillar) to be transferred to Title IV (First Pillar) by unanimous Council decision. This means that the UK has a veto on any change in the decision-making procedure in this area.

Should all member states, including the UK, agree to the change, Article 42 provides that the decision would be recommended to member states for adoption

"in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements".

Nepal

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the Maoist rebels' commitment to a ceasefire in Nepal. [82656]

Dr. Howells: The Maoists announced a three month ceasefire in April 2006, which the Government of Nepal subsequently reciprocated. Following peace talks with the Government, the Maoists subsequently agreed a code of conduct to govern the ceasefire and terms of reference for a ceasefire monitoring committee. And during talks on 16 June 2006 Prime Minister Koirala and Maoist Leader Prachanda agreed to request United Nations assistance in arms management.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has reported some violations of the code of conduct by the Maoists. While we welcome the commitment of both sides to peace negotiations and a ceasefire, we believe a third party will need to monitor implementation and to support the work of the Nepalese ceasefire monitoring committee.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action the Government are willing to take to support the ceasefire between Maoist rebels and the Government in Nepal. [82657]

Dr. Howells: A permanent and verifiable ceasefire between the Maoists and Nepalese army is necessary to underpin a comprehensive peace process. The UK is ready to assist the Government of Nepal in supporting a peace process and ceasefire. However, it is for the Government of Nepal first to request help from the UN or any other third party to facilitate this process.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received on maintaining a peaceful transition in Nepal to a functioning democracy; and if she will make a statement. [82659]

Dr. Howells: On 20 June my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, Ian McCartney, met the Nepalese Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, K.P. Sharma Oli, at the Human Rights Council in Geneva. They discussed the challenges ahead following the democratic transition in Nepal.

Foreign Minister Oli requested UK financial and technical assistance to support speedy reconstruction efforts and transition to a stable multi-party democracy. He also requested UK assistance in support of disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration efforts. We are pursuing these requests in consultation with the Government of Nepal and our international partners.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action the Government are willing to take to ensure Maoist rebels in Nepal give up violence before they enter a transitional Government. [82660]

Dr. Howells: The only way for the Maoists to gain acceptance as a legitimate political actor is for them to take concrete steps towards a permanent end to the use of violence for political ends. We therefore support the Government of Nepal's position that an effective arms management arrangement is a precondition for the formation of an interim Government. We will also urge strongly that, in advance of elections to a Constituent Assembly, the Maoists must make a credible commitment to put their arms verifiably beyond use.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are *(a)* taking and *(b)* willing to take to ensure that weapons are confiscated from Maoist rebels in Nepal, in accordance with the United Nations agreement. [82661]

Dr. Howells: The Maoists and the governing Seven Party Alliance agreed on 16 June to request United Nations help in the monitoring and management of arms. We understand a formal request to the United Nations has now been made. The United Kingdom stands ready to assist in any future arms management arrangement if so requested by the United Nations.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan towards ensuring that parliamentary elections in Nepal are *(a)* free and fair and *(b)* subject to international observation. [82662]

Dr. Howells: For parliamentary elections in Nepal to be credible, they would need to take place in the context of an overall peace process and within a political and security climate which attracts all parties to put up candidates for free and fair polls. It will therefore be necessary for both the Nepalese army and the Maoists to be subject to satisfactory arms management during the interim period.

We will continue to offer our support to the Government of Nepal for the challenges ahead and will consider volunteering election monitors as part of any internationally co-ordinated effort under the United Nations, or through the European Union.

Non-proliferation Programmes

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funds are spent by the EU on non-proliferation programmes; and if she will make a statement. [80353]

Margaret Beckett: Under the 'Common Foreign and Security Policy' budget strand for 'Non Proliferation and Disarmament' the EU spent €9.1 million on non-proliferation projects in 2005. €3 million has been committed for spend in the 2006 budget.

Under the 'crisis management and global threats to security' budget strand €3 million was spent in 2005 and €3.0 million has been committed for 2006 for 'actions in the area of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction'.

The Commission has, in fact, spent significantly more in the same period on non-proliferation. However, final figures are as yet unavailable as sums on other schedules have not yet been confirmed. My officials will write to the right hon. Member, providing further details, when those become available.

Nuclear Fuel (Multilateral Agreement)

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposal the Government have made regarding a concept for a multilateral mechanism for reliable access to nuclear fuel, as put forward to the International Atomic Energy Agency; and if she will make a statement. [80347]

Margaret Beckett: The UK co-sponsored a concept paper presented at the last International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors' meeting, 12 to 15 June 2006, that outlined a mechanism to provide reliable access to nuclear fuel. Although the exact details are restricted to Governments represented on the IAEA Board of Governors, the paper sets out a framework for a multi-tiered set of measures to establish basic assurances involving supplier and recipient states, with commercial back-up arrangements, and regarding reserves of enriched uranium. The paper will be the subject of further discussion during a special event to be held in the margins of the IAEA General Conference in September. Details of this special event can be found at the following website: http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Meetings/Announcements.asp?ConfID=147.

Nuclear Missiles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the relationship between North Korea and Iran, with regard to *(a)* ballistic missile sharing technology, *(b)* the Taep'o-dong two missile programme and *(c)* the Shahab-5/Kosar and Shahab-six missile programme. [83135]

Dr. Howells: The Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) has a history of exporting ballistic missiles, ballistic missile components and related technology to Iran. This collaboration is disturbing and further reinforces international concerns about the real intentions of Iran's nuclear programme.

The longest range ballistic missile that Iran has in service is the Shahab-3. There are persistent, credible, media reports that Iran is seeking to acquire longer range ballistic missiles with help from the DPRK, but Iran has not confirmed this.

Palestine

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she is making to the Palestinian Authority to persuade them to secure the disarmament of unofficial Palestinian militia groups; and on what occasions the last representations were made. [82397]

Dr. Howells: We continue to call for the disarmament of Palestinian militia groups. Phase I of the Roadmap states that the Palestinians must declare an unequivocal end to violence and terrorism and undertake visible efforts on the ground to arrest, disrupt, and restrain individuals and groups conducting and planning violent attacks. We continue to work with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to improve security in the West Bank and Gaza.

We will continue to make representations on this issue.

Passerelle Clauses

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the use to date of passerelle clauses to incorporate EU legislation into UK law. [81900]

Mr. Hoon: A passerelle provision is one which allows for existing voting rules to be changed without treaty amendment. There are four passerelle provisions in the EU treaties. They are article 42 in the treaty on European Union (on police and judicial co-operation) and articles 67(2) (immigration and asylum), 137(2) (social policy matters) and 175(2) (environmental policy matters) in the European Community treaty. Only the passerelle provision in article 67(2) has been activated. The UK opted into Council Decision 2004/927 which changed certain areas in Title IV, European Community treaty, from unanimity to co-decision and Qualified Majority Voting. Any measure adopted in these areas only applies to the UK if the UK opts into it under its opt-in protocol, the protocol on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the treaty of Amsterdam.

Sri Lanka

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the United Kingdom plans to take action in the United Nations in relation to the recent terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka. [83205]

Mr. McCartney: There is as yet no agreement in the UN Security Council that the situation in Sri Lanka represents a threat to international peace and security. We are focusing our efforts on the peace process facilitated by the Government of Norway. We also actively contribute to the EU's input in its role as one of the Tokyo co-chairs. Our view is that dialogue is the only way to achieve a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Sri Lanka. All sides need to exercise restraint and to act in a constructive way. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, (Dr. Howells), made a statement emphasising this on 15 June. This is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391638&a=KArticle&aid=1150379181467.

Sudan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in restricting the flow of *(a)* arms and ammunition and *(b)* equipment to (i) the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, (ii) the Justice and Equality Movement in Sudan and (iii) the Janjaweed militia; and if she will make a statement. [79952]

Margaret Beckett: There is a UN arms embargo for Darfur and an EU Arms embargo for the whole of Sudan. The UK stringently follows both of these. But there is evidence, including in the recent report prepared by the UN Panel of Experts for Sudan, that the UN arms embargo is being breached by all sides. We take these reports seriously and are pressing for an extension of the UN arms embargo to cover the whole of Sudan.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Sudanese Government on the reported operations in Darfur of Chadian armed groups supported by Khartoum. [80033]

Margaret Beckett: We are aware that Chadian rebels and Darfur militia are continuing to mount cross-border attacks into Eastern Chad from Darfur, which has led to the displacement of 50,000 Chadians. At the same time, there are reports of Darfur rebels continuing to be supported by Chad. We are urging both Governments to restore calm to the region without the use of violence. We are also pressing the Government of Sudan to fulfil their obligations under the Darfur Peace Agreement, which includes disarming and expelling foreign fighters, including Chadian rebel groups, as soon as possible.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Sudanese Government on implementation of the February 2006 Tripoli Agreement. [80035]

Margaret Beckett: My officials in Sudan have frequently discussed the tensions along the border with Chad with the Government of Sudan. We have also raised this in Tripoli with the Libyan Government. We have been urging all parties to reduce tensions along the border between Sudan and Chad and to seek to settle their differences through peaceful means. The EU issued a statement on 13 February welcoming the Tripoli Agreement and appealing to both parties to honour the agreement, in particular their commitment to refrain from hosting rebel forces of the other party on their respective territories. The full text of the statement can be found on the following website: http://www.consiliuni.europa.eu/ue.Docs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/enycfsp/88391.pdf.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the Sudanese Government's progress in fulfilling their commitments to disarm the Janjaweed militias in Sudan; and if she will make a statement. [81740]

Margaret Beckett: On Friday 23 June, the Government of Sudan publicly began disarming a small group of Janjaweed in South Darfur. We welcome this step, and call on the Government to continue this work and to present a plan for neutralising and disarming all the Janjaweed/armed militias, which they are required to do under the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her NATO counterparts regarding NATO's potential involvement in peacekeeping in Darfur; and if she will make a statement. [81741]

Margaret Beckett: I have not discussed with my NATO counterparts NATO's potential involvement in peacekeeping in Darfur. NATO is providing assistance with strategic airlift, training and capacity building in support of the African Union's (AU) Mission in Darfur. Following a request from the AU it is considering further possible assistance in the areas of capacity building and training. It is not considering a peacekeeping role in Darfur.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the Janjaweed militia operating in Eastern Chad; and what implications such activity has for British policy towards the Sudanese Government. [82813]

Mr. McCartney: There are indications that some Janjaweed/Arab militia groups are now operating in the border area inside Eastern Chad, while others continue to mount attacks from inside Darfur. We are concerned for the safety and security of the estimated 50,000 Chadians displaced as a result of attacks and violence in the east of the country, and for the 200,000 refugees

from Darilir now sheltering in camps in Eastern Chad. The UK provided £5 million to the humanitarian response in Chad last year and is providing an additional £4 million this year. We continue to monitor the situation closely.

We are pressing the Government of Sudan to disarm the Janjaweed in accordance with their international obligations as set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1556 and the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures are being taken to ensure that all parties with claims in the Sudanese North-South and Darfur disputes are part of the relevant conflict resolution negotiations. [82814]

Mr. McCartney: We support a fully inclusive North-South political process. We support the South-South Dialogue established by the Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The Darfur Peace Agreement, signed on 5 May 2006, and the Declaration of Principles, agreed on 5 July 2005, state that there will be a Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation to secure the support of the people of Darfur to the agreement. We fully support this initiative.

Our embassy in Khartoum meets regularly with representatives of Northern and Southern opposition parties and rebel movements from Darfur and the East of Chad.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Sudanese Government on a United Nations peacekeeping force to be deployed in Sudan. [82985]

Mr. McCartney: After extensive international lobbying, the Government of Sudan agreed to allow a UN Technical Assistance Mission to visit Sudan to begin planning for the deployment of a UN force for Darfur. However, they have not yet endorsed the deployment of a UN force for Darfur. We and other international partners will continue to lobby them to do so.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the decision of the African Union to keep troops in Darfur until the end of 2006. [83293]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* The African Union (AU) has made no such decision. In its Communiqué of 27 June, the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) "reaffirmed its decisions of 10 March and 15 May 2006 on ending the mandate of the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS) by 30 September 2006 and on the transition from AMIS to a UN peacekeeping operation". However, the Chairperson of the AU Commission's report of the same date also states that, "in view of the yet inconclusive engagement with the Government of Sudan on the issue of a transition to the UN, and in view of the indications from the UN under the circumstances they will not be able to take over the peace support operations before the end of the year, it was deemed prudent to present the estimates of the financial requirements to cover the period up to 31st December 2006". My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, attended the AU Summit on 1-2 July in Banjul and urged an early hand-over from AMIS to the UN.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on militia attacks in Darfur. [83294]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* We condemn any attacks by armed militias or other forces in Darfur. We particularly condemn the recent militia attacks in Hamra al-Shaikh, in Northern Kordofan province, which risk extension of violence beyond the borders of Darfur. We call on those parties to the conflict in Darfur who have not yet signed the Darfur Peace Agreement to do so and on all parties to refrain from violence and to implement the Darfur Peace Agreement urgently and in full.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the letter sent by representatives of the Beja community, Sudan to the Secretary-General of the UN seeking humanitarian help. [83295]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* On 9 June, the Beja Congress, a political organisation representing the Beja tribe of Eastern Sudan, sent a letter to Kofi Annan. They highlighted the poor humanitarian situation of the Beja, as recently reported by the International Red Cross. They appealed to Kofi Annan and to the international community to exert pressure on the Government of Sudan to ensure the success of the talks between the Government of Sudan and the Eastern Front.

We welcome the news that these talks will begin in Asmara on 17 July. We call on all sides to negotiate in good faith towards a rapid and successful conclusion. We hope this will lead to a comprehensive and lasting peace opening the way to investment and development in the region.

The UK, through the Department for International Development, bilaterally supports a humanitarian programme in the East of Sudan delivered by the Association of Charitable Foundations and Oxfam. We continue to press the Government of Sudan to allow full and unimpeded humanitarian access in the East of the country.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the progress of the International Criminal Court investigations on Darfur. [80348]

Margaret Beckett: The International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutor, Luis Moreno Ocampo, gave his latest report to the UN Security Council on 14 June, pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1593, which referred the situation in Darfur to the ICC. The report set out evidence of large-scale massacres, targeting of civilians and systematic rape occurring in Darfur. It also said the ICC would now move to complete its investigations of those individuals with greatest responsibility for the most serious crimes in Darfur. A full copy of this report is on the ICC website at:http://www.icc-cpi.int/cases/Darfur/s()205/s0205_un.html.

There must be no impunity for those who have committed abuses of human rights in Darfur. Those responsible must be brought to justice. The UK Government will continue to support the ICC as it takes forward its investigation and to maintain pressure on all parties, including the Government of Sudan, to provide full co-operation in response to any ICC request.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* role and *(b)* objectives of the UK will be in the forthcoming donors conference for UN peacekeeping in Darfur. [81739]

Margaret Beckett: The African Union (AU) are planning a donors' conference on 18 July in Brussels. This is an opportunity for donors to pledge further support to the AU Mission in Darfur and for the transition to a UN peacekeeping operation. The UK will be represented at the conference. We will pledge £20 million to the AU Mission in Sudan for this financial year, bringing our total assistance since its inception to over £52 million. We are also encouraging the AU and other participants to use the conference to address how the AU and the international community can help take forward the Darfur Peace Agreement.

Terrorist Attack (Bali)

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what funds the Government have made available for a memorial service to commemorate those killed in the 2002 terrorist attacks in Bali. [83210]

Dr. Howells: The Government arranged a service of remembrance for those killed or injured in the Bali bombings on 12 February 2003 in Southwark Cathedral, at a cost of £35,962.09.

The Government are contributing £260,000, plus £44,000 VAT, to the London Memorial project in memory of the victims of the 2002 bombings in Bali.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what warnings the Government made available to British citizens in Bali immediately prior to the bombings of 12 October 2002; what criteria were used to assess the risk; what level of risk was deemed appropriate on 3 October 2002; and what information was available from the British Embassy in Jakarta. [83289]

Mr. McCartney: The question of travel advice for Indonesia at the time of the Bali bombings and the information upon which it was based was fully covered in the Intelligence and Security Committee (ISC) report published in December 2002 and the Government response in February 2003. Both the ISC report and the Government response can be found on the Cabinet Office website at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/publications/reprots/intelligence/CM5724.pdf and http://cabinetoffice.gov.uk/publications/reports/intelligence/govresbali.pdf, respectively.

Zimbabwe

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which EU countries have indicated support for trade sanctions against Zimbabwe. [84220]

Mr. McCartney: The EU common position against Zimbabwe consists of a travel ban and assets freeze against 126 members of the Mugabe regime. There are no trade sanctions, as these would hurt innocent Zimbabweans who are already suffering. Nor are we aware of any EU partners supporting the case for trade sanctions.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will list in date order *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by her Department since October 2005. [81254]

Edward Miliband: For the purposes of answering this Question, I have assumed that the hon. Member is referring to Command Papers. Command Papers published since October 2005 are shown in the following table:

CM no.	*Title*	*Publication date*
6683	Transformational Government	2 November 2005
6685	Regulatory Impact Assessments from 1 January—30 June 2005	30 November 2005
6723	Government Response to the 10th Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life	15 December 2005
6725	Autumn Performance Report	20 December 2005
6785	Intelligence and Security Committee Report into London Terrorist Attacks of 7 July 2005	11 May 2006
6786	Government Response to Intelligence and Security Committee Report into London Terrorist Attacks of 7 July 2005	11 May 2006
6833	Departmental Report	18 May 2006
6864	Intelligence and Security Committee Annual Report 2005-06	29 June 2006

Ministerial Responsibilities

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster why the List of Ministerial Responsibilities is no longer available in *(a)* PDF and *(b)* Word editions on her Department's website; who she consulted before making this change; and if she will make a statement. [83429]

Hilary Armstrong: In addition to the web-based version of the List of Ministerial Responsibilities which has a search facility, Word and PDF versions can now be accessed from the website. Hard copies are available in the Library for the reference of Members and are also available in the Vote Office.

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on how many occasions *(a)* she and *(b)* her predecessor visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [83912]

Hilary Armstrong: In the past 12 months my predecessor and I have made the following number of visits to the following regions:

Region	*Number of visits*
East of England	2
The North East	3
The North West	2
The South East	2

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advertising campaigns her Department and its predecessors have run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81921]

Angela E. Smith: In the financial year 2004-05 the advertising campaigns run by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister were as follows:

Fire Safety—An advertising campaign to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries caused by domestic fires.

(a) September and February

(b) £4.4 million

The Elected Regional Assemblies campaign to set out the case for Elected Regional Assemblies in the Northeast

(a) July/August

(b) £1.5 million

In the financial year 2005-06 the advertising campaigns run by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister were as follows:

Fire Safety

(a) September and February

(b) £3.3 million

The campaign on the registration of landlords who own houses of multiple occupancy.

(a) February and March

(b) £1.4 million

In the financial year 2006-07 the advertising campaigns run by the department to date are as follows.

Local E-Gov campaign Connect to your Council designed to encourage people to use on-line local government services, to deliver efficiency and cost savings to local authorities

(a) May through to July

(b) £5 million.

Fire Service recruitment campaign the encourage women to apply for posts in the Fire and Rescue Service.

(a) May through to August

(b) £800,000

The campaign to inform business of their new responsibilities under the Fire Order Reform.

(a) June through to September

(b) £1.3 million

The trade sector Home Information Pack campaign.

(a) April through to September.

(b) £557,000.

A continuation of the advertising campaign on the registration of landlords.

(a) April to June.

(b) £300,000.

The Department for Communities and Local Government are planning to run Fire Safety advertising.

(a) September and February

(b) £1.8 million.

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average hourly rate was paid by her Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81501]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has a framework agreement with three employment agencies.

The average hourly rate paid to each of them in 2005-06 was £12.82, £13.83 and £12.34 respectively.

DCLG uses agencies to supply temporary staff to cover short-term needs.

Birmingham Tornado

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in repairing the areas of Birmingham affected by the tornado in July 2005; and if she will make a statement. [83520]

Angela E. Smith: The information is as follows:

Housing

The serious damage to housing was in the Sparkbrook/Moseley area, where many houses suffered damage to roofs and supporting walls.

Council Housing

The city council owned a handful of homes in the tornado affected area; any that were damaged have had repairs completed and the tenants are back in their homes.

Registered Social Housing

Most of the social housing in the area is owned by a small number of registered social landlords (RSLs) and in all around 900 of their homes suffered damage; some sustaining severe damage to the main structure, making them structurally unsound.

A number of residents (mostly RSL tenants) had to be temporarily re-housed while repairs works were carried out, but the vast majority are now back in their homes.

The four largest RSLs in the area report that all repairs have been completed and all their tenants have returned home.

Private Sector Housing

A smaller number of private sector homes suffered damage, and although the city council offered loans to residents for repair costs, the majority of tenants were able to access either insurance payments or make separate funding arrangements.

Parks and Public Open Spaces

Parks and public open spaces in the affected area suffered considerable damage, with park infrastructure such as railings, footpaths, lighting columns, litter bins, benches, play equipment and signs badly damaged. Over 500 trees were destroyed—90 per cent. of the total.

All health and safety issues and structural features such as paths and boundary railings have now been repaired and/or replaced in the parks and public open spaces affected by the tornado.

Some replacement tree planting was carried out last autumn, sponsored by the city council's service providers, and there are plans to carry out additional planting this coming autumn.

A redevelopment plan for the worst affected site, Balsall Heath Park, is being developed with local residents.

Businesses

An initial survey of the affected area indicated there were 114 business physically affected by the tornado. The majority of local traders are now back in business.

Investment

The city council have provided the emergency/recovery costs associated with the tornado, this accounted for an overall figure of £4.3 million. Further to this, £1.0 million of capital investment funding is being approved.

RSLs in the area have also invested around £6 million to repair damaged homes.

Building Capacity

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was allocated to Swindon borough council under the category of building capacity in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [82836]

Mr. Woolas: Swindon received approval for grant of £85,000 in 2004-05 and £1,014,950 in 2005-06 under the category of building capacity.

In addition, Swindon received approval for a grant of £1 million in March 2005 to enable the council to meet expenditure incurred through the piloting of a social services franchise with Kent county council. The Department of Health met £180,000 of the £1 million.

Carbon Monoxide/Fire Alarms

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimates she has made of the percentage of households equipped with *(a)* carbon monoxide and *(b)* fire alarms in (i) Lancashire and (ii) West Lancashire constituency. [83437]

Angela E. Smith: Information is not available centrally on the percentage of households equipped with carbon monoxide alarms.

Figures from the Survey of English Housing 2004-05 show that an estimated 79 per cent. of households in Lancashire have a working smoke alarm. Information is not available centrally on the West Lancashire constituency.

Civil Servants

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants are employed by *(a)* the Government Office of the South West and *(b)* the South West Regional Assembly. [82122]

Angela E. Smith: The Government Office for the South West employs 323 civil servants.

The South West Regional Assembly (SWRA) Secretariat has one civil servant seconded to it from the Home Office.

Command Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the Unnumbered Command Papers produced by her Department in each Session since 1976; by what means *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if she will make a statement. [81270]

Angela E. Smith: Since the Department for Communities and Local Government was formed on 5 May 2006, it has not produced any Unnumbered Command Papers.

Commission on Integration and Cohesion

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the role of the Commission on Integration and Cohesion. [82524]

Mr. Woolas: The Commission on Integration and Cohesion, which was announced on Wednesday 28 June, will consider how local areas themselves can play a role in forging cohesive and resilient communities, by:

Examining the issues that raise tensions between different groups in different areas, and that lead to segregation and conflict

Suggesting how local community and political leadership can push further against perceived barriers to cohesion and integration

Looking at how local communities themselves can be empowered to tackle extremist ideologies

Developing approaches that build local areas' own capacity to prevent problems, and ensure they have the structures in place to recover from periods of tension.

The Commission will undertake its work within the context of existing Government policy.

It will be chaired by Mr. Darra Singh OBE, the chief executive of Ealing borough council.

Consultancies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* public affairs and *(b)* public relations consultancies the Government Office of the South East has commissioned since 2001; for what purpose in each case; and how much was spent on each contract. [83020]

Angela E. Smith: Government Offices moved to a new financial accounting system from April 2003 therefore I am unable to provide complete information prior to that date. In defining whether consultancy work covered Public Affairs I have defined this as any consultancy work that would provide value and knowledge to our partner organisations or add to regional intelligence. Therefore all work (with the exception of number 5) I have defined as Public Affairs. Activity 5 was a GOSE partnership survey and I have defined this as public relations. Excluded from the table is any consultancy work which I have defined as inward facing such as GOSE organisational development e.g. IIP costs.

Where work has been commissioned from a consultant who is an individual rather than an organisation I have been advised that providing their names could be prohibited by the Data Protection Act 1998. In these few cases I have provided brief details of the work and cost.

Details of consultants are as follows:

Number	*Consultant*	*Date*	*Purpose*	*Cost*
1	Abucus	June 2001	Project to identify the extent of the impact of Foot and Mouth Disease in the South East.	£14,750
2	StepAhead Research	2001	Audit and mapping of ICT provision in Buckinghamshire.	£3,000 (est.) DfES funded
3	We Research It Ltd	2002-03	Aim was to establish how the outcomes of children's and young people's services can be improved.	£12,888 Commissioned by GOSE funded by DfES
4	Individual consultant	2003-04	This was phase 2 of the above work; the consultants ran workshops to look at the strengths and weaknesses of links between Children's Fund, Sure Start, Connexions and other partnerships.	£20,000 Work commissioned by GOSE funded by DfES
5	MORI Survey	September 2003	The aim of the work was to understand and measure the expectations and satisfaction levels of GOSE partners.	£36,380
6	Mackinnon	October 2003	To contribute to the development of South East Learning Partnerships.	£4,112
7	Indvidual Consultant	January 2004	To write a case study on Oxford/Oxfordshire as to how innovation and technology transfer has contributed to the economic success of the county.	£3,760
8	Scarman Trust	February 2004	To look at ways of maximising the availability and accessibility of funding for local communities.	£20,000
9	Individual Consultant	March 2004	To strengthen the bids of Brighton, Canterbury and Oxford to the Urban Cultural Programme.	£5,000
10	Cornwell Management	April 2004	The aim of the review was to provide advice to the Regional Skills for Productivity Alliance (RSfPA) on labour market intelligence activity and processes needed in 2004-05.	£31,100
11	Richhaze	April 2004	To part fund the development of an awareness pack, to help to influence strategies regarding young people with disabilities.	£4,682
12	NIACE	April 2004	To make proposal for the further development of learning communities in the South East.	£13,437
13	Spark Research	August 2004	Carried out background research for the Regional Housing strategy (published in June 2005).	£5,700
14	KPMG	November 2004	The project aim was to field-test a partnership approach to improving the quality and supply of labour market intelligence.	£17,021
15	Disability matters	February 2005	Provision of advice on disability issues to the ESF Objective 3 Regional committee and its equalities working group.	£1,631
16	ECOTEC	September 2005	Mid-term evaluation of South East Objective 2 programme to review whether programme is on tracking and meeting milestones and objectives.	£12,469
17	Pricewaterhouse Cooper	November 2005	To pilot performance improvement in LAAs	£6,000

Number	Consultant	Date	Purpose	Cost
18	KPMG	March 2005	Provided a feasibility study to create interactive vocational pathways resource in the South East.	£4,749
19	Office for Public Management	March 2006	Evaluate success of round 2 LAAs including the organising of a conference.	£9,825
20	Largeportion Ltd	March 2006	To contribute to the development of a youth information development website.	£875
21	Big Solutions	April 2006	To research, develop and present a scoping paper around developing a scoping strategy for employers and the Regional Skills for Productivity Alliance.	£5,000
22	Individual Consultant	—	Project was to arrange and facilitate a conference to look at behaviour and attendance issues for young people.	£2,475
23	RogerTym and Partners	March 2006	The work was commissioned by DCLG and GOSE to provide independent technical advice for the forthcoming Examination in Public (EIP) of the Draft South East Plan (SEP).	£75,000 Funded by DCLG
24	Disability Matters	To December 2006	As per number 1.	£1,320
25	Individual Consultant	May 2006	Provided advice and guidance on LAA reward targets.	£587.50
26	LG Consulting	November 2005 to June 2006	To work with local groups to help them to identify and review the stage of their partnerships development.	£18,700 Funded from Home Office Change Up Programme
27	A Word in Edgeways	June 2006	To learn lessons from the ChangeUp programme, to work with local groups so as to help them review their progress and share lessons learnt.	£20,000 Funded by the Home Office Change Up Programme
28	Individual Consultant	April 2006	To provide facilitation and media work for local Consortia.	£5,000 Funded by the ChangeUp Programme Budget
29	Individual Consultant	June 2006	To evaluate and capture the lessons learned from the ChangeUp Coordinators.	£600 Funded by the ChangeUp programme

Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will reply to the letter of 29 March from the hon. Member for Northavon on behalf of Mr. Perkins, a constituent, on energy conservation. [83411]

Angela E. Smith: The Department has no record of receiving the hon. Member's letter of 29 March. Officials have now obtained a copy of the letter from the hon. Member and a reply will be sent shortly.

Council Tax

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were liable for payment of council tax in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [83588]

Mr. Woolas: The number of chargeable dwellings liable for council tax in England are shown in the following table.

	Number
1997	20,093,000
1998	20,233,000
1999	20,374,000
2000	20,586,000
2001	20,717,000
2002	20,855,000
2003	20,991,000
2004	21,129,000
2005	21,267,000

The data are as reported by all billing local authorities in England on the annual CTB1 forms. The number of individuals liable for council tax cannot be accurately determined from these or other sources.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 2063W, on council tax revaluation, for how many residential properties in England the Valuation Office Agency had *(a)* dwelling house codes data and *(b)* value significant codes data on the most recent date for which figures are available. [82933]

Mr. Woolas: As at 3 July 2006 the Valuation Office Agency had dwelling house code data on 21,905,065 out of 22,131,262 dwellings in England. On this date there were 5,604,096 dwellings with value significant codes.

Departmental Premises (Security)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures are in place to ensure that no illegal immigrants are employed in the manned guarding of her Department's premises. [80801]

Angela E. Smith: Security guards engaged in guarding the Department's premises are employed via contractors. Guards are subject to the Government Basic Check regime which includes checks on passports, leave to remain in or enter the U.K. and verification of employment history. In addition all guards are licensed by the Security Industry Authority under the Private Security Industry Act 2001. Guards in the London headquarter buildings are also subject to security vetting at Counter-Terrorist Check (CTC) level.

This answer does not include the buildings occupied by Government Offices for the Regions who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Departmental Staff

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 290W, on departmental staff, what the estimated cost is of relocating civil servants from 26 Whitehall to Eland House. [82955]

Angela E. Smith: The estimated cost of relocating all the Department for Communities and Local Government's civil servants from 26 Whitehall to Eland House is £40,231.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 290W, on departmental staff, what the function is of the ministerial group in 26 Whitehall. [82957]

Angela E. Smith: The nine staff of the ministerial group currently based in 26 Whitehall will move to the Department's headquarters in Eland House once space is made available there in the summer. The functions carried out by the staff include parliamentary business and finance and IT support for the ministerial group.

Departmental Travel

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in her Department are carbon neutral; and if she will make a statement. [81406]

Angela E. Smith: All central Government ministerial and official air travel is being offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

E-government

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to encourage local councils to make council services available via the internet. [82413]

Angela E. Smith: We have invested £675 million in local electronic government over the last five years, taking the electronic enablement of council services from 26 per cent. in 2001 up to 98 per cent. in 2006. Through the local e-government programme, every council in England has received £0.9 million in capital grant from the DCLG to help deliver e-government, including making council services available via the internet. In May, we launched the £5 million 'Connect to your council1 national advertising campaign, designed to raise citizen awareness and take-up of council services online, while at the same time encouraging councils to see the internet as a mainstream channel for service delivery.

Equalities Impact Assessments

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether equalities impact assessments *(a)* are required and *(b)* may be directed in relation to local authorities budget decisions. [80580]

Meg Munn: All local authorities are require to undertake race equality impact assessments on policies and functions where there is relevance to race equality. This could include budget decisions if they are to result in a policy change that is likely to have an adverse impact on any ethnic group or if there is an opportunity to promote race equality. It is for the public authority to screen their policies, functions and decisions to decide whether there is any relevance to race equality, and if so to undertake a race equality impact assessment.

The Secretary of State may not direct an authority to conduct an impact assessment, but the Commission for Racial Equality has the power to issue a compliance notice to public authorities if the Commission believes that the authority is failing in its duties to promote race equality.

Under the forthcoming public sector duties on disability equality (to come into effect December 2006) and gender equality (April 2007), local authorities will be required to carry out impact assessments on their current or proposed policies and practices which will help them achieve disability and gender equality in their activities and business planning process. These duties will be enforceable by the Disability Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission, respectively. The Commission for Equality and Human Rights will take over these enforcement powers from October 2007.

EU Directive 2002/91/EC

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the scoping study produced by National Energy Services for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the implementation of EU Directive 2002/91/EC. [78254]

Angela E. Smith: I have placed a copy of the National Energy Services Report "An accreditation scheme for energy inspectors Phase 1: Scoping Study" in the House Library.

Firefighters

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighter trainees were taken on by fire authorities in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [83280]

Angela E. Smith: The number of successful applicants for firefighter posts (whole time and retained duty system) in England for the last five years is set out as follows:

	Number
2000-01	2,786
2001-02	2,847
2002-03	2,754
2003-04	2,617
2004-05	2,005

Source:
Fire and rescue service returns to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many firefighters left each fire authority in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [83281]

Angela E. Smith: The available information is set out as follows:

Number of firefighters leaving the fire and rescue service in England

	2000-01			*2001-02*			*2002-03*		
	WT[1]	*RDS*[2]	*Total*	*WT*[1]	*RDS*[2]	*Total*	*WT*[1]	*RDS*[2]	*Total*
Avon	20	14	34	32	19	51	36	19	55
Bedfordshire and Luton	10	16	26	25	22	47	21	15	36
Buckinghamshire	16	14	30	11	24	35	11	11	22
Cambridgeshire	16	33	49	15	35	50	11	23	34
Cheshire	17	14	31	27	13	40	22	14	36
Cleveland	17	10	27	23	8	31	41	7	48
Cornwall	5	23	28	11	38	49	7	17	24
County Durham and Darlington	19	21	40	16	11	27	12	20	32
Cumbria	12	30	42	12	31	43	10	36	46
Derbyshire	23	41	64	20	35	55	27	32	59
Devon	12	63	75	35	81	116	36	109	145
Dorset	12	32	44	17	26	43	16	31	47
East Sussex	28	31	59	26	25	51	27	26	53
Essex	30	34	64	30	59	89	47	41	88
Gloucestershire	9	32	41	9	21	30	7	16	23
Greater Manchester	99	18	117	80	11	91	110	2	112
Hampshire	40	101	141	56	64	120	58	87	145
Hereford and Worcester	8	29	37	15	33	48	11	31	42
Hertfordshire	38	20	58	28	26	54	38	31	69
Humberside	[3]—	28	28	22	40	62	24	39	63
Isle of Wight	0	18	18	2	22	24	1	10	11
Isles of Scilly	0	2	2	0	2	2	1	3	4
Kent	26	69	95	34	61	95	37	80	117
Lancashire	38	65	103	39	51	90	36	48	84
Leicestershire	16	11	27	17	20	37	30	21	51
Lincolnshire	11	54	65	4	46	50	8	54	62
London	265	0	265	249	0	249	281	0	281
Merseyside	48	0	48	55	0	55	51	0	51
Norfolk	20	40	60	13	37	50	18	41	59
North Yorkshire	16	37	53	18	55	73	27	28	55
Northamptonshire	9	26	35	26	27	53	11	34	45
Northumberland	10	8	18	11	25	36	9	26	35
Nottinghamshire	8	26	34	36	38	74	27	47	74
Oxfordshire	17	37	54	6	40	46	12	47	59
Royal Berkshire	16	13	29	28	11	39	28	22	50
Shropshire	11	22	33	5	18	23	5	19	24
Somerset	8	25	33	7	19	26	7	15	22
South Yorkshire	39	15	54	54	14	68	48	6	54
Staffordshire	31	42	73	19	65	84	16	36	52
Suffolk	18	30	48	20	38	58	14	31	45

Number of firefighters leaving the fire and rescue service in England

	2000-01			2001-02			2002-03		
	WT[1]	RDS[2]	Total	WT[1]	RDS[2]	Total	WT[1]	RDS[2]	Total
Surrey	31	17	48	50	14	64	49	20	69
Tyne and Wear	54	1	55	52	5	57	49	1	50
Warwickshire	15	20	35	10	27	37	13	22	35
West Midlands	105	0	105	106	1	107	101	1	102
West Sussex	[3]—	[3]—	[3]—	20	38	58	31	34	65
West Yorkshire	57	17	74	107	20	127	84	14	98
Wiltshire	10	38	48	14	40	54	7	35	42

	2003-04			2004-05[4]		
	WT[1]	RDS[2]	Total	WT[1]	RDS[2]	Total
Avon	37	21	58	40	15	55
Bedfordshire and Luton	13	21	34	24	14	38
Buckinghamshire	10	21	31	15	15	30
Cambridgeshire	7	36	43	18	30	48
Cheshire	25	23	48	23	13	36
Cleveland	22	4	26	27	9	36
Cornwall	9	49	58	7	32	39
County Durham and Darlington	14	15	29	37	16	53
Cumbria	10	31	41	12	21	33
Derbyshire	19	35	54	26	19	45
Devon	27	76	103	33	58	91
Dorset	11	34	45	18	21	39
East Sussex	19	24	43	18	18	36
Essex	48	44	92	51	40	91
Gloucestershire	10	26	36	13	20	33
Greater Manchester	84	5	89	120	7	127
Hampshire	37	68	105	45	78	123
Hereford and Worcester	13	39	52	25	30	55
Hertfordshire	42	28	70	45	22	67
Humberside	28	33	61	46	35	81
Isle of Wight	6	11	17	5	13	18
Isles of Scilly	0	2	2	0	2	2
Kent	33	78	111	35	67	102
Lancashire	32	46	78	39	41	80
Leicestershire	21	30	51	24	16	40
Lincolnshire	13	46	59	8	54	62
London	319	0	319	327	0	327
Merseyside	51	0	51	91	0	91
Norfolk	10	30	40	21	36	57
North Yorkshire	32	63	95	21	33	54
Northamptonshire	18	33	51	16	18	34
Northumberland	12	16	28	10	14	24
Nottinghamshire	40	57	97	42	41	83
Oxfordshire	8	49	57	8	33	41
Royal Berkshire	26	24	50	28	12	40
Shropshire	7	23	30	21	26	47
Somerset	8	27	35	12	19	31
South Yorkshire	54	10	64	65	12	77
Staffordshire	15	50	65	25	33	58
Suffolk	14	48	62	15	28	43
Surrey	49	13	62	31	20	51
Tyne and Wear	41	0	41	48	1	49
Warwickshire	13	23	36	15	19	34

	2003-04			2004-05[4]		
	WT[1]	*RDS*[2]	*Total*	*WT*[1]	*RDS*[2]	*Total*
West Midlands	107	0	107	107	0	107
West Sussex	15	45	60	29	20	49
West Yorkshire	87	12	99	95	11	106
Wiltshire	13	37	50	10	29	39

[1] Wholetime.
[2] Retained duty system.
[3] Not available.
[4] Data for 2004-05 are provisional.
Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG.

Firefighting

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deliberate *(a)* vehicle fires and *(b)* fires there were in West Suffolk in each year since 1995. [82716]

Angela E. Smith: Information on fires for the West Suffolk constituency is not available centrally. The following table shows deliberate primary fires by location, attended by the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service since 1995.

Deliberate fires by location and year, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

	Road vehicles fires	*Total fires*
1995	104	348
1996	106	368
1997	164	386
1998	148	373
1999	222	461
2000	326	600
2001	400	702
2002	375	625
2003	358	673
2004	326	604

Notes:
1. Figures are based on the sampled data grossed to fire and rescue service totals.
2. Figures exclude any fires in November 2002 and January-February 2003 strike periods.
Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many malicious false alarm calls were attended by the Fire and Rescue Service in West Suffolk in each year since 1995. [82731]

Angela E. Smith: Information on malicious false alarm calls for the West Suffolk constituency is not available centrally. The following table shows malicious false alarms attended by the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service since 1995.

Malicious false alarms, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

	Number of false alarms
1995	488
1996	516
1997	488
1998	350
1999	355
2000	385
2001	437
2002	408
2003	349
2004	329

Note:
Figures exclude any false alarms in November 2002 and January-February 2003 strike periods.
Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG.

Golf Courses

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs treats the greens of golf courses as subject to business rates if the green is *(a)* private property and *(b)* common land. [83568]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency, an executive agency of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, has the statutory responsibility for assessing properties for rating purposes. As a non-domestic property, a golf course will usually be liable to business rates. Being an integral part of the course, the greens are valued as part of the whole rather than attracting any separate liability. The basis of valuation for rating purposes of a golf course applies equally to private, public or municipal courses, although the level of value will vary to reflect differences in quality and geographical location. The greens of a golf course are therefore subject to business rates regardless of whether they lie on private property or common land.

There are exceptions, however, depending on the facts of the case. It may be that a golf club is not considered to be in exclusive occupation of the course, thereby failing one of the requirements for rateability. Alternatively, a course may be exempt from rating if it is held as part of a larger public park and available for free and unrestricted use by the public.

Government Offices

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations were consulted in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister/Treasury Review of Government Offices; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* Race Impact Assessment and *(b)* departmental response. [82589]

Angela E. Smith: Existing studies, stakeholder surveys and peer reviews fed into the evidence base for the Government office (GO) review, as did views from all sponsor Departments of GOs, from some GO staff and from the East Midlands Regional Development Agency, the London Development Agency, West Midlands Regional Assembly, the North East Regional Assembly and the Local Government Association.

The Race Impact Assessment for the review is expected to be published in September and a copy will be placed in the Library of both houses.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each Government Office spent on consultants from *(a)* administrative and *(b)* programme expenditure between April 2005 and March 2006. [82590]

Angela E. Smith: Government office expenditure on consultants from administrative expenditure between April 2005 and March 2006 were:

Government office	*2005-06 expenditure*
North East	0
North West	187,840
Yorkshire and the Humber	150,610
West Midlands	18,880
East Midlands	342,830
East	135,510
South West	9,100
South East	33,680
London	368,480

Programme budgets administered by the Government offices are the responsibility of the Secretaries of State for the relevant sponsor Departments. They have therefore not been entered.

Graffiti/Fly-posting

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much each London borough spent on graffiti removal in each year since 2001. [83423]

Angela E. Smith: Figures are not available for the amount each London borough spent on graffiti removal each year since 2001. However, Graffiti in London, a report by the London Assembly Graffiti Investigative committee in May 2002 estimated the annual expenditure in London boroughs at £7 million.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what funding West Lancashire local authorities have sought under section 106 of the Town and County Planning Act 1990 to tackle graffiti and fly-posting. [83554]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

West Lancashire district council has not sought any funding under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to address graffiti and fly posting issues.

Interests (Code of Conduct)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice she offers parish and town councillors on how to interpret the code of conduct on declaring interests. [83247]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has offered no advice about the code of conduct, which is a matter for the independent Standards Board for England. The Standards Board has issued guidance for parish and town councillors on the requirements under the code to declare interests.

Local Authority Targets

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the Government have to assist local authorities to meet their targets to *(a)* reduce sickness and absence levels and *(b)* for processing housing benefit claims. [82408]

Mr. Woolas: *(a)* the Department for Communities and Local Government plans to continue working collaboratively with Local Government Employers, the organisation responsible for monitoring and supporting local authorities on attendance management. Work includes good practice guidance, case studies and accessible (including web based) advice on a range of management interventions available for different local circumstances.

Good practice on attendance management in local authorities sits within a well-developed Performance Management Framework including:

- the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) which covers managing sickness absence;
- corporate performance indicators ('BVPIs') covering sickness absence which mean that individual LA data is audited and therefore credible and robust;
- the 2005 Local Government Pay and Workforce Strategy, and more recently a strand of the 'Productive Time/ business process improvement' element of the Efficiency Agenda.

Moreover, the Government are planning a series of seminars starting from the autumn to provide leadership and support to senior local authority managers to tackle improving attendance management and efficiency.

(b) The Department for Work and Pensions plans to continue helping local authorities improve their performance in processing housing benefit claims through a programme that includes consultancy support, maintaining clear performance standards, investment and, where possible, simplification of the scheme.

Local Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 298W, on local government, how many written representations her Department has received from *(a)* district and *(b)* county councils which have not supported the principle of unitary status; and from which councils such representations have come. [82931]

Mr. Woolas: Our records show receipt of 12 representations from the following district council members and officers which have not supported the principle of unitary local government:

Members:

Bolsover
Chichester
Durham
Horsham
Shrewsbury and Atcham
Tandridge
Taunton Deane
Tendring
Wealden

Officers:

Chesterfield
Hambleton
North Warwickshire
Richmondshire

Our records show four representations from the following county council members and officers which have not supported the principle of unitary local government:

Members:

North Yorkshire
Kent

Officers:

Staffordshire

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 298W, on local government, of which councils the senders of the representations concerned were members or officers. [82932]

Mr. Woolas: Pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 27 June 2006, our records show that representations were received from members of the following councils:

Ashfield
Bedford
Cambridge
Chester
Chiltern
Cornwall
Crawley
Derwentside
Durham County
Easington
Forest of Dean
Gloucestershire
Herefordshire
Lichfield Maidstone
Northumberland
Norwich
Shropshire
Tewkesbury
West Lancashire

Our records show that representations were received from officers of the following councils:

Ashford
Bedford
Cheshire
Easington
Exeter
Ipswich
Lancaster
Maidstone
Norwich
Oxford
South Buckinghamshire
Watford
Worcester

Local Government Reorganisation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of each local government reorganisation in England since 1981. [83434]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the costs of restructuring local government is not held centrally. However in the case of the local government reorganisations in the 1990s, resources in the form of unsupported supplementary credit approvals (SCAs) totalling £492.3 million were made available to reorganised authorities to meet the one-off indirect costs of reorganisation.

London Olympics

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to what extent *(a)* the Olympic Delivery Committee, *(b)* the Greater London Authority, *(c)* Transport for London and *(d)* the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games are bound by the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity. [83105]

Mr. Woolas: Statute does not require any of these bodies to have regard to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity.

Mayoral Referendums

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance the Government have published on the classification of expenditure on *(a)* gathering signatures for a mayoral petition and *(b)* campaigning for or against a mayoral referendum. [83074]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have not published guidance on the classification of expenditure on gathering signatures for a mayoral petition. Chapter 13 of guidance on council constitutions issued by the Government set out guidance and statutory rules which apply in respect of expenditure incurred on campaigning in referendums.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to what extent her plans for city mayors will involve elected mayors representing *(a)* an existing local authority area and *(b)* an area crossing a number of existing single-tier local authorities. [83101]

Mr. Woolas: Discussions are ongoing with the core cities regarding their business case proposals, following the summits that were held during 2005. Those business cases include options for devolving decision-making to the cities or city-regions (which may cover a number of local authorities). We will further develop these ideas and associated thinking, including on individual local authority leadership, in the forthcoming Local Government White Paper.

Neighbourhood Management Schemes

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role she proposes for local councillors in proposed neighbourhood management schemes. [81000]

Mr. Woolas: Local councillors have a vital contribution to make to neighbourhood management schemes, and research shows the most successful Neighbourhood Management Pathfinders have a very close working relationship with local councillors. Councillors can play a variety of roles, for example by acting as a champion for the neighbourhood within the local authority or with partner organisations. In most cases, the Government would expect councillors to be a part of local steering groups overseeing a neighbourhood management scheme. More information is provided in "Neighbourhood renewal and social inclusion—a councillor's guide". This guide was published in November 2005 jointly by Improvement and Development Agency, Local Government Association and Local Government Information Unit, with sponsorship from the Department for Communities and Local Government (previously the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister).

Private Office

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the size is of her private office in square feet. [84171]

Angela E. Smith: The size of the office occupied by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is 571 square feet, and her Private Office occupy a separate office of 560 square feet.

Reduced Ignition Propensity Cigarettes

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on possible standards for reduced ignition propensity cigarettes to be introduced under the EU's General Product Safety Directive. [83462]

Angela E. Smith: There have been recent discussions in Europe on possible standards for reduced ignition propensity cigarettes at the General Product Safety Directive Committee Meeting on 14 June 2006.

The UK's position in those discussions was that there was sufficient evidence to recommend the development of a European technical standard for reduced ignition propensity cigarettes. The European Commission has indicated that it will undertake further investigation into the need for such action.

The Department for Communities and Local Government will issue a written statement shortly regarding the potential for reduced ignition propensity cigarettes to reduce accidental fires in the home.

Regional Funding (South-West)

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the Governmental organisations with responsibility *(a)* to spend and *(b)* to allocate funds in the South-West. [82125]

Mr. Woolas: The governmental organisations for whose expenditure and allocation of funds the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is responsible are the DCLG itself, its executive agencies and its sponsored non-departmental public bodies.

A full list of these is included in the Department's annual report and updated from time-to-time on the DCLG website. Those with the authority to allocate or administer funds within the South-West are the Commission for Racial Equality, the Community Development Foundation, English Partnerships/ Commission for the New Towns, FireBuy and the Housing Corporation.

In addition, DCLG has responsibility for the regeneration funding administered by the Department for Trade and Industry-sponsored Regional Development Agencies, for European Regional Development Fund programmes and (jointly with the Department for Work and Pensions) for European Social Fund spending in the South-West.

The Government Office for the South-West delivers a wide range of Government policies and programmes on behalf of 10 Whitehall Departments (including DCLG). These together aim to regenerate communities, fight crime, tackle housing needs, improve public health, raise standards in education and skills, tackle countryside issues and reduce unemployment.

Residential Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals the Planning Inspectorate permitted in 2005 involving residential development, in part or whole, on gardens. [83083]

Meg Munn: This information could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Standards Board

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints were made to the Standards Board for England in each year since its inception in relation to each different type of council it is responsible for; and how many complaints *(a)* were not pursued, *(b)* there were where there was no breach in standards, *(c)* were where no further action was necessary *(d)* were referred for local determination and *(e)* were referred to the Adjudication Panel; and what the recommendation was of the panel which was referred to it in each case. [83248]

Mr. Woolas: I have asked the Chief Executive of the Standards Board to write to my hon. Friend on this matter. I shall arrange for a copy of his reply to be placed in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of complaints submitted to the Standards Board in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06 were against parish councillors. [83080]

Mr. Woolas: I have asked the chief executive of the Standards Board to write to the hon. Member on this matter. I shall arrange for a copy of his reply to be placed in the Library of the House.

Travellers

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers are available to planning authorities enabling preventive action to be taken in relation to the Unauthorised development of land sold to Travellers. [83399]

Meg Munn: Section 187B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 provides that planning authorities may, if they consider it necessary, apply to the court for an injunction to restrain an actual or anticipated breach of planning control.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1877W, on the Valuation Office Agency, whether the plot sizes that Ordnance Survey data are used for include data for the plots of *(a)* open spaces and *(b)* residential gardens. [82938]

Mr. Woolas: Ordnance Survey maps show *(a)* open spaces and *(b)* residential gardens. Whether these are within the plot of a domestic property, which is to be taken as part of a dwelling for council tax banding purposes (as defined in section 3 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992) is dependant upon what land belongs to or is enjoyed with that domestic property.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1877W, on the Valuation Office Agency, if she will list the property attributes which have been gathered using Ordnance Survey maps. [82939]

Mr. Woolas: Ordnance Survey (OS) maps have been used in some instances to clarify the extent of detachment (eg fully detached, semi-detached, terraced) of individual or small groups of properties.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1877W, on the Valuation Office Agency, if she will place in the Library a copy of the data supplied by Rightmove. [82940]

Mr. Woolas: Data are supplied by Rightmove.co.uk plc under a contractual arrangement which prohibits disclosure.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2045W, on the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), if she will place in the Library a copy of all the *(a)* dwelling house code and *(b)* value significant code data held by the VOA for each of those official residences. [82944]

Mr. Woolas: Any decision to place individual property attribute coding information into the public domain would be subject to public consultation. Until such consultation has been undertaken revealing coding detail of any dwelling is not appropriate.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1600W, on the Valuation Office Agency, whether *(a)* crime and *(b)* deprivation influence the chartered surveyor's assessment of market forces. [82949]

Mr. Woolas: Chartered surveyors employed within the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) used their market and valuation knowledge to identify geographic areas within which domestic property prices are influenced by the same or similar market forces (these are known as "localities"). The market for dwellings may well be influenced by levels of crime and deprivation, amongst many other factors. No separate analysis of these factors is made by the Valuation Office Agency as, even if possible, this is not considered necessary.

West Lancashire District Council

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was allocated to the West Lancashire district council for *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* each year since 1996-97 in (i) cash and (ii) real terms. [83642]

Mr. Woolas: The amount of formula grant provided to West Lancashire district council for the period 1996-97 to 2006-07 in both cash and real terms (deflated by the GDP deflator) is given in the following table. Formula grant consists of revenue support grant, redistributed business rates and SSA reduction grant (SSA review) where appropriate.

£ million

	Formula grant in cash terms	Formula grant in real terms[1]
1996-97	6.977	8.896
1997-98	6.611	8.191
1998-99	6.519	7.877
1999-2000	6.693	7.926
2000-01	7.064	8.250
2001-02	7.225	8.242
2002-03	7.393	8.181
2003-04	8.067	8.669
2004-05	7.644	7.997
2005-06	7.870	8.062
2006-07	9.081	9.081

[1] Base year = 2006-07

Note:
These figures are not comparable year-on-year due to changes in funding and function. For example, in 2004-05 funding for housing benefit ceased to be included within formula grant but was instead paid by special grant from DWP.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Modernisation

25. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will make a statement on his plans to modernise the proceedings of the House. [83322]

Mr. Straw: I am keen to take forward the work of my predecessors in modernisation of the House and its proceedings. The Modernisation Select Committee, which I chair, is planning to produce a report on the Legislative Process in the near future. I am looking also at ways of improving the effectiveness in the ways the House can hold the Government to account in other areas. I am happy to receive representations on these matters from all Members.

Ministerial Statements

26. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward proposals to provide that Ministerial Statements are not begun on a Thursday until a full hour has been spent on Business Questions. [83323]

Nigel Griffiths: My right hon. Friend has no plans to bring forward proposals on this issue.

The amount of time provided for Business Questions is at the discretion of Mr. Speaker, who judges how much time is sufficient on a case-by-case basis.

There are occasions when the full hour would not be used up.

EU Legislation

27. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Leader of the House what steps he is taking to improve the scrutiny of EU legislation. [83324]

Mr. Straw: The Government are considering the proposals of the Modernisation Committee in the last session on Scrutiny of European Business. We hope to bring forward ideas for taking this issue further forward in due course.

House of Lords Reform

28. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Leader of the House if he will make a statement on reform of the House of Lords. [83325]

Mr. Straw: The Joint Committee on Conventions was established on 22 May 2006 and will report at the end of this Session. The free vote on the composition of the House of Lords will take place around the turn of the year, preceding any legislation.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Bone: To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward proposals to improve the accuracy of parliamentary answers and the speed with which they are provided. [83480]

Mr. Straw: As I stated to the hon. Member in a written answer on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 885W, I attach great importance to the accuracy and timeliness of responses to parliamentary questions tabled in the House and I have raised the matter directly with ministerial colleagues.

Departments should answer named day questions on that day and endeavour to reply to ordinary written questions within a working week.

I refer the hon. Member also to the Adjournment debate on 28 June 2006 on this matter, *Official Report*, column 344, in which it was noted that the substantial growth in the number of parliamentary questions tabled can place the system under pressure and that the time might be suitable for a further review of the system by the House.

My office continues to offer guidance to other Departments about the handling of parliamentary questions.

Party Funding

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Leader of the House how many staff are assisting Sir Hayden Phillips's review of party funding. [83000]

Mr. Straw: Sir Hayden Phillips has four staff assisting him in the review of party funding.

Those staff members have been seconded from the DCA and are separate from staff within the DCA who report to me on party funding.

Questionnaires

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* questionnaires, *(b)* statistical inquiries and *(c)* investigations have been carried out by his office wholly or partly at public expense in each year since 1997; and what the (i) nature, (ii) purpose and (iii) cost was in each case. [83173]

Mr. Straw: None.

Saturday Sittings

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House on what dates the House has met on a Saturday since February 1986; what the main item of business under discussion was on each occasion; and at what time the House subsequently adjourned. [82323]

Mr. Straw: The House has not met on any Saturday since February 1986.

The last occasion on which the House met on a Saturday was in April 1982, to discuss the Falklands crisis.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Temporary Accommodation

15. **Ms Buck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to improve work incentives for households in temporary accommodation. [83312]

Mr. Plaskitt: As announced in this year's Budget, the Government intend to pilot an 'Extra Homes' scheme.

The Extra Homes initiative will take the Working Future project—currently under evaluation in East London—a step further by helping to provide more settled homes in the longer term.

Local authorities and housing associations will be invited to put forward innovative proposals to explore new approaches to help families in temporary accommodation overcome barriers to work and I would urge her borough to look into pursing that.

Civil Servants (Pensions)

17. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total pension liabilities are of his Department and the agencies for which he is responsible; and if he will make a statement. [83314]

Mrs. McGuire: The pension liabilities of the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies are not separately identifiable in The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme. This Scheme is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme and individual departments' pension liabilities are not available.

The Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts for 2004-05 gave the total pension liability for The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme at 31 March 2005 as £84.1 billion. However, a change in the discount rate used for calculating pension liabilities that took effect from 1 April 2005 has increased the liabilities of The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme to £94.7 billion.

Pension Reform

18. **Mr. Lilley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on progress with his plans for pension reform. [83315]

James Purnell: There is a broad consensus around the basic principles of pension reform as proposed in the White Paper. But we are continuing a programme of active engagement with all stakeholders to cement this consensus. That programme will include Parliament, representatives of employers, consumers and the financial sector as well as the general public.

This is in addition to the formal consultation on the White Paper, which closes on September 11th. We will be publishing a summary of responses once the consultation has closed. We intend to bring forward legislation on Pensions Reform during the second Session of this Parliament, subject to approval by the Parliamentary Business Managers.

20. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely impact of pensions reform on *(a)* business and *(b)* future pensioners. [83317]

James Purnell: The White Paper Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system and the accompanying regulatory impact assessment set out the likely impact of our pension reform proposals on key groups including businesses and future pensioners.

New Deal (Leicester)

19. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the progress of the New Deal in Leicester. [83316]

Mr. Jim Murphy: New deal continues to be a success, with more than 9,000 people helped into work through the new deal programme in Leicester, including 2,750 people in my hon. Friend's constituency.

"Talk on Trial": Report

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of commissioning the research report entitled "Talk on Trial: Job interviews, language and ethnicity"; and if he will make a statement. [76302]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In February 2004 King's College London (KCL) was commissioned following a competitive tendering process, to undertake research on whether ethnic minority candidates are disadvantaged in job interviews. The total cost of the research was £160,000. The KCL tender was chosen for three prime reasons: the KCL proposal provided the most innovative and robust set of methods for investigating the issues, the research team included members with a world-class reputation in this field of research, and it offered the best value for money from six tenders submitted.

50-plus Workers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many personal advisers there are to assist new deal for over-50s claimants; and how many jobcentres provide facilities for such advisers. [82297]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your question asking how many personal advisers there are to assist new deal for over 50s claimants, and how many jobcentres provide facilities for such advisers. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are currently in excess of 800 customer facing Jobcentre Plus offices. Every office delivers the voluntary New Deal 50 Plus programme. An eligible customer, wherever they live will have access to a New Deal Personal Adviser and the full range of support offered by New Deal 50 Plus. Since it was introduced in April 2000, New Deal 50 Plus has been successful in helping over 150,000 older workers into employment.

As at April 2006, there were around 200 dedicated New Deal 50 Plus advisers. In addition there are other advisers trained and skilled to look after this client group.

I hope this is helpful.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of people in work aged 50 years and over in *(a)* the Edinburgh local authority area and *(b)* Edinburgh, West parliamentary constituency. [82707]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Like all other customers, people aged 50 and over can benefit from the range of services provided by Jobcentre Plus, including access to jobs and help and support to find work.

Additional help is provided to older people who do not find work quickly. New deal 50 plus is a voluntary programme that provides people with advice and guidance from personal advisers, and access to in-work financial help through the 50 plus element of the working tax credit. Since April 2000, the programme has been successful in helping more than 150,000 older workers into employment, including 1,320 people in the city of Edinburgh local authority area and 210 in Edinburgh, West parliamentary constituency. Once in work, new deal 50 plus customers can claim a training grant of up to £1,500 for training of which up to £300 can be used for life-long learning.

People aged 50 and over, including those in Edinburgh, are also eligible for help from new deal 25 plus. People who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) for 18 months and who have not previously participated on new deal 25 plus, are already required to attend the gateway stage of the new deal 25 plus programme. This is a period of up to four months of intensive job search and specialist help and support to improve job prospects. This is followed by the intensive activity period (IAP) which is currently voluntary for people aged 50 and over. The IAP provides further support and pre-work training to help people return to work.

Since April 2004, we have been piloting mandatory participation in the new deal 25 plus IAP for people aged 50-59 who have been claiming JSA for 18 months. Edinburgh was not part of the pilot. However, interim pilot results have been positive and, as announced in our Welfare Reform Green Paper, we intend to commence a phased national rollout.

Between 1979 and the mid 1990s, the number of people on incapacity benefits trebled. Since then, growth in the case load has slowed significantly and, in November 2005, there were 2.71 million people claiming incapacity benefits, a fall of 61,000 over the year. 46 per cent of those claiming incapacity benefits are aged between 50 and state pension age although, between 2000 and 2005, the number of people in this age group fell by 52,000. This has contributed to the overall reduction in the incapacity benefits case load.

We still clearly have more work to do and, like other age groups, people aged 50 and over will be able to benefit from the rollout of the successful pathways to work service across the whole country which will be completed by 2008. Pathways offers new incapacity benefit (IB) customers early support from skilled personal advisers and direct access to a 'Choices Package' of employment programmes and clear financial incentives to make work pay. Any IB customer will be able to access the support and help available on a voluntary basis. Pathways is due to rollout in the Edinburgh area in the future.

Through our Age Positive Campaign we are working with employers and others to promote the business benefits of an age diverse workforce and best practice on age in recruitment, training and promotion. In May 2005 we launched the 'Be Ready' national information campaign to raise employer awareness of, and ability to adopt, flexible employment and retirement opportunities to support the recruitment and retention of older workers in advance of age legislation due in October 2006.

Accident Victims

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been recovered from accident victims' compensation by way of recoupment of benefits in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [75996]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the table.

Total amounts recovered by the Compensation Recovery Unit by way of recoupment from damages awarded to accident victims in each of the past three years

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2003-04	141,096,832
2004-05	163,392,733
2005-06	148,840,619

Note:
The figures in the table are rounded up to the nearest £.
Source:
Figures are taken from the Compensation Recovery Unit's Management Information Statistics.

Under the provisions of the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act 1997, the compensator—the person who caused the injury or, more commonly, his insurer—is liable both to pay damages to the injured

person and to repay benefits to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. (It is not the actual benefits which are recovered, but "an amount equivalent to" the total benefit payment). In certain circumstances it will be possible for the compensator to deduct some or all of the amount he has had to repay to the Secretary of State from the gross compensation award, a practice known as "offsetting".

Not all social security benefits are recoverable. Retirement pension and child benefit, for example, are paid for reasons which could have no connection to a personal injury. The benefits which are recoverable are listed at Schedule 2 to the 1997 Act. They are grouped according to the head of damage against which they may be offset: loss of earnings, loss of mobility and cost of care.

Social security benefits are not paid in respect of pain, suffering, personal inconvenience and so on, and therefore no offsetting may be made against the general damages element of a compensation award. If a compensation claim is settled by a payment made up of general damages, the compensator will have to bear the full cost of paying compensation and repaying benefits to the State.

Action for Employment Ltd

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid to Action for Employment Ltd. in each month since they entered into a contract with his Department to encourage benefit recipients to switch from receiving benefit payment from cheque to direct payment. [80829]

Mr. Plaskitt: In order to protect the commercial position of the Department in negotiating future contracts of this nature, it is not policy to disclose the financial arrangements between the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the contractor.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have switched their method of payment of benefits from cheque to direct payment after contact by Action for Employment Ltd., broken down by constituency. [80830]

Mr. Plaskitt: As a result of practical help and support provided by Action for Employment, 19,000 customers switched their method of payment from cheque to direct payment. Action for Employment helped many of these customers to open a bank account for the first time, making a significant contribution to financial inclusion, and supporting the Government's aim to halve the number of households without bank accounts. We do not have a breakdown by constituency.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what basis Action for Employment Ltd. is paid by his Department for work in connection with encouraging benefit claimants to switch from benefit payment by cheque to direct payment. [80831]

Mr. Plaskitt: Action for Employment Ltd. were paid by DWP to provide practical help and support to customers who expressed a wish to convert their method of payment from cheque to direct payment but had difficulty in doing so. To provide best value for the taxpayer, Action for Employment Ltd. were paid a fee for each customer who was able to successfully change their method of payment from cheque to direct payment—including direct payment into a Post Office card account.

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average hourly rate was paid by his Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81502]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only by incurring disproportionate cost.

Benefit Claimants

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which local authorities had an increase in the number of *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* people claiming (i) jobseeker's allowance and (ii) income support between 2001 and 2005. [81987]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in *(a)* Yeovil constituency and *(b)* Somerset received (i) housing benefit and (ii) jobseeker's allowance in 2005-06. [82188]

Mr. Plaskitt: Housing benefit information is not available at parliamentary constituency level; the local authority information has been given instead. As at November 2005, there were 7,270 households in South Somerset district council, and 26,080 households in Somerset in receipt of housing benefit.

As at May 2006, there were 815 people in the Yeovil parliamentary constituency and 3,938 people in Somerset in receipt of jobseeker's allowance. The information is the most recent available for both benefits.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate of council tax benefit was in *(a)* Yeovil constituency and *(b)* Somerset in each year since 1996-97; and how many pensioners (i) were entitled to and (ii) received council tax benefit in each year. [82189]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of take-up and entitlement for council tax benefit are not available below national level; the latest available information is in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take Up in 2003-04", a copy of which is in the Library.

Figures for the number of council tax benefit claimants are not available broken down by parliamentary constituency. Figures for pensioners in receipt of council tax benefit are not available prior to 2004. The available information is in the tables:

Council tax benefit recipients aged 60 and over

	Number of recipients
South Somerset district council	
November 2004	2,350
November 2005	2,200
Somerset	
November 2004	7,460
November 2005	7,090

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Caseloads have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.
4. 'Aged 60 and over' is defined as benefit units where the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 and over. Therefore figures will contain some claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged over 60 years.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in November 2004 and November 2005.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of housing benefit claimants renting from private landlords who had benefit shortfalls in Yeovil constituency in each year since 1997-98. [82191]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available at constituency level. The available information is in the table.

Housing benefit private tenants[1] whose weekly amount of housing benefit is less than their weekly eligible rent: South West Government Office Region, May 1997 to May 2004

May	All housing benefit private tenants (thousand)	Of which have weekly amount of housing benefit less than their weekly eligible rent (thousand)	Percentage of housing benefit private tenants who have weekly amount of housing benefit less than their weekly eligible rent
1997	109	30	27.6
1998	101	30	29.3
1999	93	27	29.2
2000	86	24	27.8
2001	80	21	26.5
2002	76	21	27.0
2003	75	20	26.0
2004	78	24	30.1

[1] Private tenants exclude registered social landlords.

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and percentages to one decimal place.
2. Figures are based on a 1 per cent sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.
4. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, Annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 1997 to May 2004.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on housing benefit for tenants in *(a)* council properties, *(b)* housing association property, *(c)* registered social landlords property and *(d)* private sector housing in Yeovil constituency in each of the last five years. [82192]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available at constituency level. The available information is in the table.

Housing benefit expenditure in South Somerset

Nominal terms in £ million

	Council properties (rent rebates)	Housing association property and registered social landlord properties	Private sector housing
2000-01 outturn	0.051	14.803	4.495
2001-02 outturn	0.057	15.470	4.269
2002-03 outturn	0.166	17.195	4.463
2003-04 outturn	0.168	15.173	4.604
2004-05 provisional outturn	0.151	16.432	5.118

Housing benefit expenditure in South Somerset

Real terms in £ million (2006-07)

	Council properties (rent rebates)	Housing association property and registered social landlord properties	Private sector housing
2000-01 outturn	0.059	17.167	5.212
2001-02 outturn	0.066	17.508	4.831
2002-03 outturn	0.193	18.860	4.896
2003-04 outturn	0.195	16.217	4.921
2004-05 provisional outturn	0.175	17.186	5.352

Notes:
1. The requested data are not available for Yeovil. However, data have been supplied in respect of South Somerset, which includes Yeovil, as the best alternative available.
2. As it is not possible to split the expenditure incurred on housing association and registered social landlord properties, a combined figure has been provided. As far as DWP is concerned, the two are synonymous.
3. All figures are in £ million, rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.
4. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. data and caseload stock counts have been used to apportion rent allowance expenditure between housing association/registered social landlord property and private sector housing in the table.
5. Information has been supplied for five years beginning in 2000-01 because 2004-05 is the latest year for which outturn housing benefit expenditure is available.
6. Real terms expenditure has been calculated using Gross Domestic Product Deflators released by Her Majesty's Treasury at Budget 2006.
7. The DWP Expenditure Tables, consistent with the Budget 2006 Report, are published at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/expenditure.asp

Source:
Information has been sourced from local authority claims for housing revenue account subsidy and housing benefit and council tax benefit subsidy.

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his latest estimate is of the fraud and error rate in *(a)* percentage terms and *(b)* cash terms in (i) attendance allowance, (ii) carer's allowance, (iii) basic state pension, (iv) bereavement benefit, (v) industrial injuries benefit, (vi) maternity allowance, (vii) severe disablement allowance, (viii) social fund, (ix) widows benefit and (x) winter fuel payments; and if he will make a statement; [81630]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the monetary value of fraud and error in *(a)* income support, *(b)* incapacity benefit, *(c)* disability living allowance, *(d)* jobseeker's allowance, *(e)* housing benefit, *(f)* pension credit, *(g)* council tax benefit, *(h)* basic state pension, *(i)* carer's allowance and *(j)* attendance allowance; and if he will make a statement. [81632]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Estimates of fraud and error in DWP benefits

	Fraud		*Customer error*		*Official error*		*Total fraud and error*	
Benefit	*£ million*	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*	*£ million*	*Percentage*
Carer's allowance	40	3.9	10	0.1	10	0.6	60	5.5
State pension	30	0.1	0	0.0	30	0.1	60	0.1
Widows benefit / bereavement benefit	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0.0	n/a	n/a
Severe disablement allowance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	0.5	n/a	n/a
Income support	240	2.3	110	1.1	200	1.9	550	5.3
Incapacity benefit	10	0.1	20	0.2	50	0.8	80	1.2
Disability living allowance	40	0.5	630	7.8	60	0.8	730	9.1
Jobseeker's allowance	50	2.2	30	1.5	50	2.3	130	6.0
Housing benefit	170	1.3	360	2.7	150	1.1	680	5.2
Pension credit	60	1.0	90	1.5	130	2.1	280	4.6
Council tax benefit	60	1.6	80	2.2	40	1.1	180	4.9

Notes:

1. Monetary figures are estimates of annual overpayments rounded to the nearest £10 million. Figures in brackets are overpayments expressed as a proportion of expenditure for that benefit and are rounded to the nearest 0.1 per cent. They are based on sampling exercises and so are subject to sampling and other uncertainties. Sampling uncertainty is expressed in the form of confidence intervals—these have not been provided in these tables.
2. Carer's allowance estimates from the 2004-05 DWP Resource Account. Fraud and error estimates from the 1996 National Benefit Review, uprated to 2004-05 expenditure.
3. State pension estimates from the 2004-05 DWP Resource Account. Fraud and customer estimates from the 1995 National Benefit Review, official error from April 2003 to March 2004, all uprated to 2004-05 expenditure. The conclusion of the more recent pilot National Benefit Review for 2005-06 was that a full review of state pension would not be carried out and another benefit should be measured instead. Results from this pilot have not been published but are available on request.
4. Widow's benefit/bereavement benefit and severe disablement allowance are measured for official error every year.
5. No fraud and error figures comparable to those for other benefits are available for attendance allowance, industrial injuries benefit, maternity allowance, social fund and winter fuel payments.
6. Income support, jobseeker's allowance and pension credit figures come from the National Statistics report "Fraud and error in income support, Jobseeker's allowance and pension credit from April 2004 to March 2005: Full report", published more recently than the 2004-05 DWP Resource Account.
7. Disability living allowance fraud and error figures come from the National Statistics report "Fraud, error and other incorrectness in disability living allowance" covering the period 2004-05. The 'customer error' overpayment figure includes around £580 million (7.9 per cent. of DLA expenditure) which was removed when reported in the Departmental Resource Account. These were cases where the change in customer's needs may have been so gradual that it would be unreasonable to expect them to know at which point their entitlement to DLA might have changed. These cases do not result in a recoverable overpayment as we cannot quantify or define when the customer's change occurred. Because legislation requires the Secretary of State to prove that entitlement to DLA is incorrect, rather than requiring the customer to inform us that their needs have changed, cases in this subcategory are legally correct.
8. Incapacity benefit estimates from the 2004-05 DWP Resource Account. Fraud and customer error estimates from April 2000 to March 2001, official error from April 2003 to March 2004, all uprated to 2004-05 expenditure.
9. Housing benefit estimates from the National Statistics report "Fraud and Error in housing benefit April 2002 to March 2005". They are made up of reviews of around 85 per cent. of HB expenditure (used for measuring performance against the relevant PSA target to reduce fraud and error in HB) combined with more approximate estimates of error in the remaining 15 per cent. of expenditure. For further details on this, please see the relevant National Statistics reports.
10. Council tax benefit estimates from the 2004-05 DWP Resource Account. Council tax benefit has not been measured by the Department and was assumed to have the same levels of fraud and error as the latest housing benefit estimates available at the time (October 2003 to September 2004).
11. State pension estimates from the 2004-05 DWP Resource Account. Fraud and customer estimates from the 1995 National Benefit Review, official error from April 2003 to March 2004, all uprated to 2004-05 expenditure. The conclusion of the more recent pilot National Benefit Review for 2005-06 was that a full review of state pension would not be carried out and another benefit should be measured instead. Results from this pilot have not been published but are available on request.
12. Carer's allowance estimates from the 2004-05 DWP Resource Account. Fraud and error estimates from the 1996 National Benefit Review, uprated to 2004-05 expenditure.
13. No fraud and error figures comparable to those for other benefits are available for attendance allowance.

The Department is successfully reducing overpayments through fraud and error. For example, latest National Statistics show that fraud and error in income support and jobseeker's allowance have reduced by 44 per cent. since 1998. It is our firm intention to reduce the levels of overpayment even further. To this end we have set up an Official Error Task Force and will be publishing our strategy for reducing error later in 2006.

Benefit Payments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether there is a statutory right of appeal in relation to the recovery of benefit payments where these have been generated by official error; and if he will make a statement. [76424]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are no powers under social security legislation to recover official error overpayments. There is therefore no statutory right of appeal.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the total number of people *(a)* entitled to and *(b)* in receipt of (i) council tax benefit, (ii) housing benefit, (iii) pension credit and (iv) disability living allowance for each year from 1996-97 to 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [78158]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates are not available for disability living allowance. The available information for the other benefits is in the following tables.

Estimates of eligibility and receipt of housing benefit

	Number eligible	*thousand* *Number in receipt*
1996-97	4,750 to 5,180	4,720
1997-98	4,650 to 5,010	4,540
1998-99	4,520 to 4,830	4,390
1999-2000	4,380 to 4,700	4,180
2000-01	4,170 to 4,510	3,930
2001-02	4, 190 to 4,500	3,830
2002-03	4,210 to 4,490	3,790
2003-04	4,210 to 4,490	3,800

Estimates of eligibility and receipt of council tax benefit

	Number eligible	*thousand* *Number in receipt*
1996-97	6,460 to 7,220	5,530
1997-98	6,310 to 7,060	5,430
1998-99	6,480 to 6,980	5,230
1999-2000	6,270 to 6,850	4,990
2000-01	6,150 to 6,700	4,700
2001-02	6,370 to 6,950	4,610
2002-03	6,440 to 7,020	4,570
2003-04	6,810 to 7,420	4,640

Estimates of eligibility and receipt of pension credit

	Number eligible	*thousand* *Number in receipt*
2003-04	3,750 to 4,320	2,490
2004-05	3,710 to 4, 190	2,570

Notes:

1. Estimates of the numbers eligible are derived from estimates of the number receiving the benefit, and the number who are entitled and not receiving the benefit. These estimates are published in the "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-up" series. Copies are available in the Library.
2. The latest published estimates for housing benefit and council tax benefit are for 2003-04. The latest estimates for pension credit relate to the year 2004-05.
3. The numbers receiving housing benefit and council tax benefit are based on quarterly 100 per cent. caseload counts averaged over the year. The numbers receiving pension credit are derived from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, and relate to the average number of recipients over the period.
4. Estimates of the numbers receiving are consistent with the figures used to calculate National Statistics estimates of take-up, and so exclude cases in non-private households and the full-time self-employed. Estimates presented here will therefore differ from other published sources.
5. Estimates of the numbers entitled but not receiving are sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
6. Estimates of the number eligible are presented as ranges within which it can be assumed the true figure lies. These ranges account for possible biases inherent in estimates from data that are less then perfect. The ranges also account for sampling error.
7. Estimates have been rounded to the nearest 10,000.
8. Care should be taken when interpreting changes in estimates over time because it is not possible to identify a single estimate of the number eligible. Year on year changes in the ranges do not necessarily mean that the true level has changed.
9. Estimates for pension credit relate to October 2003 to March 2004, the first six months of pension credit. Estimates have therefore been annualised in order to make them comparable across different years and benefits.
10. At present it is not possible to calculate eligibility for disability living allowance (DLA). This is because eligibility is not established until entitlement is tested (at the point of claim). The assessment of eligibility is more complex than for other benefits, involving a detailed judgement of personal care and mobility needs. An estimate of the amount of unclaimed benefit would need to test eligibility by carrying out this detailed assessment, which claimants undertake as part of the claim process with a sample of cases.

Benefits (Operating Model)

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will report progress on the design of a single standard operating model across all major benefits. [80292]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking if he will report progress on the design of a single standard operating model across all major benefits. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The design of a single Standard Operating Model across all Jobcentre Plus major benefits is now nearing completion. As part of the rollout of the new Jobcentre Plus service, which is in the final phase, the standard model for people making new and repeat claims to Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance and Incapacity Benefit has been in use since January 2005. The standard model for maintaining benefit claims that are already in

payment, covering the processes required to handle changes to customers' circumstances and the processes around decision making and appeals, was introduced in the first Benefit Delivery Centre in April 2006. This process will become mandatory in all Benefit Delivery Centres as they are rolled out as part of the Centralisation of the Benefit Processing programme.

The Social Fund component of the Standard Operating Model will be introduced in September 2006 and then rolled out across the organisation as centralised Benefit Delivery Centres are put in place.

I hope this is helpful.

Best Ltd.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the extent to which Best Ltd. has the capacity to deliver the New Deal Programme in Leeds and West Yorkshire from 1 July; [82541]

(2) why Leeds city council was not informed of the decision to award the new deal contract to another contractor in sufficient time to allow it to put in place the statutory staff consultation process; [82542]

(3) what criteria were used in the process to award the contract from 1 July for the new deal scheme in the Leeds area; and what criteria Leeds city council did not meet. [82543]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* Best Ltd. are a well-established Leeds based provider who have successfully delivered for Jobcentre Plus for a number of years throughout West Yorkshire. They won this contract through a fair and open competition.

The contracts with Leeds city council (LCC) were extended on 13 February 2006 with a termination date of 30 June 2006. LCC were therefore aware in February 2006 that these contracts would terminate naturally at the end of June. This gave LCC sufficient time to deal with all issues connected with termination, including statutory consultation with staff.

All bids for this contract were subject to a rigorous assessment process in line with normal procurement rules, which have been applied nationally. The criteria and score weightings were published as part of the tendering documentation made available to all bidders, and included: previous experience of delivery of this type of provision; track record of delivery; experience and track record of sub contractors to be used; organisation, infrastructure, management and capacity to deliver.

Leeds city council did not bid for the new contract. They offered themselves as a sub-contractor to Pelcombe, a private sector bidder, whose tender submission did not succeed in winning the competition.

Cancer Patients

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the special rules gateway in ensuring all terminal cancer patients receive the *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance benefits to which they are entitled; [81116]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the numbers of terminally ill cancer patients who received *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance in 2005-06. [81117]

Mrs. McGuire: The purpose of the 'special rules' is to help terminally ill people who are not expected to live longer than six months to receive the immediate payment of the higher rate attendance allowance or the highest rate care component of disability living allowance without the need to meet the normal entitlement conditions. They do this effectively. At any one time in the 12 months ending on 30 November 2005, around 62,000 people whose main disabling condition is recorded as "malignant disease" were receiving higher rate attendance allowance or the highest rate care component of disability living allowance under the 'special rules'[1].

[1] Source: DWP 5 per cent. sample data

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications from terminally ill cancer patients for *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance were unsuccessful in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many and what percentage subsequently appealed successfully in each year. [81118]

Mrs. McGuire: The requested information is not available. Details are not kept about the nature of the medical condition of people whose claims to attendance allowance or disability living allowance are unsuccessful, or about the nature of the medical condition of people taking their cases to appeal.

Child Poverty

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any new strategies are being implemented to reach child poverty targets. [67283]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our long-term strategy to meet our targets is set out in "Opportunity for all" and in the Child Poverty Review, published alongside the 2004 Spending Review White Paper. It is based on:

Work for those who can, helping parents participate in the labour market;

Financial support for families, with more support for those who need it most, when they need it most; and

Delivering excellent public services that improve poor children's life chances and help break cycles of deprivation.

Our strategy has been successful in reversing the trend of rising child poverty and has resulted in 700,000 fewer children living in relative low-income. This represents significant progress towards the 2010 target to halve child poverty.

We remain firmly committed to the challenging goals to halve and then eradicate child poverty. Our strategy for meeting the 2010 target consists of a further reinforcement of our labour market policies complemented by increases in financial transfers through tax credits, and further improvements in public services. We will also continue working across central Government, and together with the devolved Administrations, local government and the voluntary

and community sector to ensure that progress is maintained. We are currently re-examining our strategy for meeting the 2010 target, including a reinforcement of our labour market policies, complemented by increases in tax credits, and further improvements in public services.

We launched our Welfare Reform Green Paper, "A new deal for welfare: Empowering people to work", in January 2006. In it we proposed a number of initiatives to help families who are at the highest risk of being in poverty. We have set out how we will help lone parents, disabled people and older workers to return to work; the surest way of escaping poverty. It also sets out proposals for piloting new initiatives to help local partners work together to improve economic regeneration through skills, employment and health. Each area will be asked to develop a consortium comprising local partners with a shared interest in working together to raise employment rates and improve the economy. This may include local authorities, employers, learning and skills councils, regional development agencies, primary care trusts and Jobcentre Plus. The key aim of this initiative will be to provide a solution that offers the maximum degree of flexibility, so that local areas can provide local solutions to local problems.

In April 2006, the child element of the child tax credit was increased in line with earnings to £1,765 per year, an increase of £320 since its introduction in April 2003, and £75 above the 2004-05 rate. Budget 2006 announced that the child element would continue to rise at least in line with earnings until the end of this Parliament. This will provide a solid foundation for halving child poverty. Child benefit has been increased by 26 per cent. in real terms since 1997. Budget 2006 also set out a number of measures to help parents into work, provide further resources for education and to encourage employer provision of child care.

Finally, I recently announced the appointment of Lisa Marker as an independent adviser to help us achieve our target of eradicating child poverty by 2020. She will advise on new possible approaches to what is our number one priority.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of delays in the transfer of old cases to the new system by the Child Support Agency on progress towards the Government's child poverty reduction targets; [77952]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of the failures of the new computer system at the Child Support Agency on the Government's ability to meet its poverty reduction target; and if he will make a statement. [77971]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Child Support Agency contributes to the Government's wider target for the reduction of child poverty through a supporting target to increase the proportion of parents with care on income support and income-based jobseeker's allowance who receive maintenance for their children.

Although achievement of this target is dependent on the successful conversion of old scheme cases onto the new scheme, we have always said that no decision will be taken on when to do this until we are confident that the new scheme is working well. In February 2006, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State commissioned Sir David Henshaw to undertake a fundamental redesign of child support policy and delivery mechanisms and he will deliver his findings this summer.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average bonus payment to the 10 most highly paid civil servants in *(a)* the Pensions Service, *(b)* the Child Support Agency and *(c)* Jobcentre Plus was in 2004-05. [77974]

Mrs. McGuire: The average bonus payment to the 10 most highly paid civil servants in *(a)* the Pensions Service *(b)* the Child Support Agency and *(c)* Jobcentre Plus in 2004-05 was:

	£
(a) The Pension Service	4,741
(b) The Child Support Agency	3,721
(c) Jobcentre Plus	8,494

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the cost of the review of the Child Support System being carried out by Sir David Henshaw. [77981]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Henshaw redesigns estimated total costs between February 2006 and July 2006 will be as follows:

Cost of:	*Amount (£)*
Sir David Henshaw's time	54,000
Henshaw's redesign secretariat staffing	200,000
Henshaw's redesign non-staff costs and publication	[1]75,000
Henshaw's redesign research/consultation	50,000

[1] Up to.

Note:

Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

The DWP also meets the costs of general office overheads for example accommodation, IT etc. These costs are not separately identifiable from DWP running costs.

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what facilities are available to the Child Support Agency to verify a non-residential parent's *(a)* address and *(b)* working arrangements. [80423]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what facilities are available to the Child Support Agency to verify a non-residential parent's *(a)* address and *(b)* working arrangements.

The Child Support Agency is able to verify a non-resident parent's address using the Departmental Central Index and Customer Information System computer records. If necessary we can also approach the appropriate Local Authority to provide any address information held for council tax purposes. From July we anticipate that this will also include access to credit reference agency data for trace purposes and later this year we will begin to use external suppliers to help trace clients. The Agency compliance officers can visit a non-resident parent at the address where the non-resident parent is thought to be residing to confirm the address details.

In relation to verification of the Non Resident Parents working arrangements, the Agency is able to issue requests for employment details to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. This provides information from P45/46 and P14 records, National Insurance records and Tax credit records (where there is an indication that New Tax Credits are in payment). The Agency can also check with the clients employer where known.

If appropriate the Agency can use inspectors to visit business premises in pursuit of relevant information.

I hope you find this helpful.

Cohabitation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential impact on the Child Support Agency of the Law Commission's proposals on the rights of cohabiting couples; and if he will make a statement. [76218]

Mr. Plaskitt: We look forward to the outcome of the consultation. Unlike other legislation child support law does not distinguish between married and unmarried parents.

Community Care Grants

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many community care grants enabling homeless prison leavers to buy a tent and sleeping bag were awarded by Jobcentre Plus in 2005; [76784]

(2) what system is in place to ensure that homeless prison leavers who receive a community care grant from Jobcentre Plus for a sleeping bag and tent spend that grant for that purpose. [76785]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 June 2006]:* The information requested is not available.

When a customer applies for a community care grant for an item or items and is subsequently awarded a grant no further check is made to ascertain whether the customer actually used the award to obtain the items requested. It is the responsibility of the customer to use the grant appropriately.

Exceptionally, where the Decision Maker has evidence that the award may not be used for its intended purpose, for example from information held on departmental systems or from a case worker involved in the case, then the Decision Maker has the power under Sections 138(3) and 139(5) of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 to make payment to a third party who can provide, or arrange for the provision of, the items covered by the award.

Correspondence

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will reply to the letter on widowers' claims sent to him by Guy Dodd Solicitors on 14 June. [80763]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 27 June 2006]:* The letter of 14 June from Guy Dodd Solicitors addressed to The Widowers Litigation Department was answered by Jobcentre Plus Bereavement Benefits on 29 June 2006.

Council Tax Benefit

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the take-up rate of council tax benefit was in *(a)* Edinburgh, West constituency and *(b)* other Edinburgh parliamentary constituencies in each year since 1996-97; and how many pensioners (i) were entitled to and (ii) received council tax benefit in each year. [82705]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of take-up and entitlement for Council Tax Benefit are not available below national level; the latest available information is in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take Up in 2003-04", a copy of which is in the Library.

Figures for the number of council tax benefit claimants are not available broken down by parliamentary constituency. Figures for pensioners in receipt of council tax benefit are not available prior to 2004. The available information is in the following table.

Council tax benefit recipients aged 60 and over: Edinburgh city council

November	*Number*
2004	18,450
2005	17,490

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. Caseloads have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.
4. 'Aged 60 and over' is defined as benefit units where the claimant and/or partner are aged 60 and over. Therefore figures will contain some claimants aged under 60 where there is a partner aged over 60 years.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in November 2004 and November 2005.

Credit Unions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if his Department will provide information and membership forms for credit unions to its employees. [79943]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government welcome the contribution made by the various savings institutions in providing for greater choice and diversity in the financial services sector.

The Government's guiding principles are to ensure impartiality and to help create a level playing field for all providers of financial services in order that their specific attributes can be properly harnessed.

It would be inconsistent for a Government Department to favour credit unions above other financial institutions and I therefore do not plan to provide information and membership forms for credit unions to employees of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

DWP employees are of course free to join in credit unions if they meet their relevant membership criteria. DWP will consider what levels of support would be appropriate should its employees wish to set up a credit union.

Departmental Decision Making Standards Committee

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what role the Departmental Decision Making Standards Committee will play in monitoring *(a)* qualitative and *(b)* quantitative aspects of service; and if he will make a statement on the membership and frequency of meeting of this Committee. [69274]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions Decision Making Standards Committee ('the Committee') monitors the standards of decision making on benefit issues in Jobcentre Plus, The Pension Service and the Disability and Carers' Service. The Committee has three key objectives:

To provide independent advice on the accuracy of reports on the standard of benefit decision making

To identify, and make recommendations on, the areas where standards can be improved

To conduct additional inquiries deemed to affect decision making standards at the discretion of the chief executives.

The Committee has five independent members including the chairperson. Formal meetings of the Committee are held not less than three times a year. Working meetings of members are held when required.

Departmental Expenditure

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on refreshments in each year since 1997. [41255]

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on entertainment by his Department in 2004-05; and how much of that sum was accounted for by *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staff and *(d)* accommodation. [50899]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001 from the Department of Social Security and parts of the former Department for Education and Employment including the Employment Service. Therefore it is not possible to provide information prior to that date. Such information as is available is provided as follows.

Expenditure on refreshments is taken to include working breakfasts or lunches, refreshments at meetings, as well as official hospitality and is incurred in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting.

Expenditure on refreshments[1]

DWP	*£*
2002-03	2,262,000
2003-04	2,254,000
2004-05	2,256,000

[1] Rounded to nearest £000

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of his Department. [80073]

Mrs. McGuire: The finance director general for the Department for Work and Pensions is John Codling. He is a chartered public finance accountant and holds a BA (Hons) degree in Economics. His career includes senior appointments in local government, a regional health authority, and he was director of finance at the Funding Agency for Schools. John Codling joined the Benefits Agency as finance director in April 1998. He was subsequently appointed the DSS finance director in May 2000 and then finance director general for DWP in December 2001 following an external competition.

Departmental Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his practice is regarding meeting, discussions with and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81657]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions always seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy-making process—both informal and formal. The Department holds regular meetings with representatives of the principal stakeholder groups for our policy areas and with relevant experts.

Organisations and individuals can also contribute to the Department's formal consultations, which abide by the code of practice on consultation. Our regular stakeholder contacts are alerted to the fact that a formal consultation is taking place. As required by the code, the Department then gives feedback on the responses received and on how the consultation process influenced the policy decision.

Recently, there has been extensive consultation, with both individual members of the public and stakeholder organisations, about both pensions reform and welfare reform proposals, supplementing the formal consultative papers with both meetings, and online opportunities to comment on the proposals.

Departmental Websites

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many websites there are within his responsibilities; and what the total cost of maintaining such websites was in the last year for which figures are available. [79075]

James Purnell: The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions is responsible for 21 websites. These were listed in PQ/06/65209 and in the following tables.

Table A lists those websites operated by Department for Work and Pensions where

we are responsible for the content.

Table A:

Website Name	*Website Address*	*Contracted and quantifiable costs (£)*
Department for Work and Pensions	www.dwp.gov.uk	—
Jobcentre Plus	www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk	106,500
The Pensions Service	www.thepensionservice.gov.uk	182,000
Child Support Agency	www.csa.gov.uk	31,000
Directgov Disabled People and Carers Sections	www.direct.gov.uk/disability	500,000
	www.direct.gov.uk/carers	—
Directgov Over 50s Section	www.direct.gov.uk/over50s	145,553
Age Positive	www.agepositive.gov.uk	—
Employment Zones	www.employmentzones.gov.uk	—
Benefit Fraud Inspectorate	www.bfi.gov.uk	—
Office for Disability Issues	www.officefordisability.gov.uk	—
European Social Fund	www.esf.gov.uk	41,000
Total Table A		1,006,053

Notes:
1 Production, management and maintenance of DWP websites is carried out by the Department's own in-house E-Communications team. It is not possible to quantify internal costs for each site but contracted and quantifiable costs have been included where possible.
2 Contracted and quantifiable costs include payments to suppliers for services such as research, user testing and site builds, and payments to interim personnel.
3 Departmental sites are hosted by our IT contractors. In most cases it is not possible to separate these costs from contracted costs.

Table B lists those websites operated by the Department for Work and Pensions but where we are not responsible for the content.

Table B

Website Name	*Website Address*	*Contracted and quantifiable costs*
Disability Employment Advisory Committee	www.deac.org.uk	—
Disability Living Allowance Advisory Board	www.dlaab.org.uk	—
Ethnic Minority Employment Task Force	www.emetaskforce.gov.uk	—
Independent Case Examiner	www.ind-case-exam.org.uk	—
Industrial Injuries Advisory Council	www.iiac.org.uk	—
National Employment Panel	www.nationalemploymentpanel.gov.uk	—
Employer Task Force	www.employertaskforce.org.uk	[1]—
Pensions At Work	www.pensionsatwork.org	[1]—
Pensions Commission	www.pensionscommission.org.uk	[1]—
Social Security Advisory Committee	www.ssac.org.uk	—
Total Table B		0

[1] The cost for these three sites is included in the figure for the Pension Service site in Table A

Notes:
1 Production, management and maintenance of DWP websites is carried out by the Department's own in-house E-Communications team. It is not possible to quantify internal costs for each site but contracted and quantifiable costs have been included where possible.
2 Contracted and quantifiable costs include payments to suppliers for services such as research, user testing and site builds, and payments to interim personnel.
3 Departmental sites are hosted by our IT contractors. In most cases it is not possible to separate these costs from contracted costs

Table C shows the total running costs for the 21 websites

Table C

	£
Total Table A	1,006,053
Total Table B	0
Total	1,006,053

The following special points should be noted:

1. The Department is continuing to develop services on-line. The website costs do not include the development of e-services, and is restricted to website costs, which provide the user access. Online services may require development of 'back office' processes and redevelopment of the department's legacy' systems.

2. There have been a number of similar/related PQs since 2002.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total set-up costs were of the Targeting Fraud website; and what its total running costs have been in each year. [81027]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are no separately quantifiable set-up or running costs for the site, which was developed internally by the Department's in-house communications team.

Deposited Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to make copies of deposited papers available in *(a)* the Vote Office and *(b)* Printed Paper Office at the same time as copies are deposited in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [82360]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House of Commons on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 729W.

Disability Benefits

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to review the eligibility criteria for claimants of disability benefits, including disability living allowance and incapacity benefit; and if he will make a statement. [83737]

Mrs. McGuire: Disability living allowance is paid as a contribution towards the extra, disability-related costs incurred by severely disabled people. It is a tax free, non income related benefit. It is available to those who claim before the age of 65.

As part of a wide range of support that the Government makes available to older people, attendance allowance provides equivalent help to people who experience the onset of disability after age 65.

There are no plans to review the eligibility conditions for disability living allowance or attendance allowance.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action he is taking to reduce the level of *(a)* fraud and *(b)* error in relation to disability living allowance; and if he will make a statement. [81597]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Disability and Carers Service (DCS), the agency responsible for administering disability living allowance (DLA), is committed to reducing fraud and error in DLA.

All allegations of benefit fraud are carefully considered and, where appropriate, referred for investigation to the Fraud Investigation Service.

DLA cases are subject to a periodic inquiry process. This process has led to over 100,000 case interventions since its introduction in 1999. The periodic inquiry process has recently been refocused to target those cases with the highest propensity for change to ensure that these cases are correct.

DCS is currently testing an improved Customer Case Management (CCM) system. CCM is structured, IT-based support for decision-making, enabling greater consistency in both the outcome of decisions and in the level and length of awards.

DCS is also reviewing the DLA checking regime. This ensures the standard and quality of DLA/AA decision making across the agency.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis who failed to qualify for disability living allowance appealed against the decision in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005; [82079]

(2) how many individuals diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis applied but failed to qualify for disability living allowance in *(a)* 2003, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2005. [82080]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* The requested information is not available. Details are not kept about the nature of the medical condition of people whose claims to attendance allowance or disability living allowance are unsuccessful, or about the nature of the medical condition of people taking their cases to appeal.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in Wakefield include a person with a learning disability who receives the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest, *(b)* middle and *(c)* lowest rate. [83478]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many households in Wakefield include a person with a learning disability who receives the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest *(b)* middle and *(c)* lowest rate.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

The information available is in the following table:

Recipients of disability living allowance with learning difficulties by rate of care award as at November 2005 in Wakefield parliamentary constituency

Care component	
Total with care component	380
Higher rate	110
Middle rate	90
Lowest rate	180

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
4. Figures are based on the care component condition only.

Source:
DWP, WPLS 100 per cent. data.

I hope this is helpful.

Disabled Persons' Scooters

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance is available to disabled persons for obtaining a disabled person's scooter; and if he will make a statement. [82359]

Mrs. McGuire: Disability living allowance (DLA) provides a contribution towards the extra costs faced by severely disabled people as a result of their disabilities. The higher rate mobility component of DLA is paid to disabled people who are unable or virtually unable to walk.

The Motability Scheme enables disabled persons to use their mobility component towards obtaining a disabled person's powered wheelchair or scooter. The scheme provides scooters in return for some or all of a customer's higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance or war pensioner's mobility supplement. Customers are able to choose from an extensive range of powered wheelchairs and scooters and 200 accredited dealer specialists provide further advice as part of an overall assessment process to obtain the right product to best meet a person's mobility needs. There are currently 6,300 customers using this scheme.

The scheme is overseen by Motability, an independent not-for-profit charity, operating at arms length from this Department and overseen by a board of governors.

Employment, Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to increase employment in Hartlepool constituency since 1997. [80549]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Latest figures show that there are more people in work than ever before. Employment now stands at 28.9 million, up by just over 2.5 million since 1997. More than 1.5 million people have been helped into work through our New Deal programmes, including more than 4,200 people in Hartlepool, and our successful labour market policies have contributed to the virtual eradication of long term youth unemployment, fewer people out of work, and fewer people on inactive benefits. In Hartlepool, the numbers of people claiming incapacity benefits has fallen by 14 per cent .since 1997 and the numbers claiming lone parent benefit by 31 per cent. Long term youth unemployment has fallen by 75 per cent.

Despite progress over the last eight years there remain pockets of persistent low employment, and tackling worklessness and inactivity, particularly among those on benefits, remains our top priority. Our successful Pathways to Work programme which has already achieved more than 21,000 job entries, including 50 in Tees Valley, will be extended to every part of Britain by 2008 and we will be investing a further £360 million on our welfare reform green paper proposals over the next two years.

Some of the most disadvantaged areas, including Hartlepool, have been asked to submit expressions of interest for our Cities Strategy initiative which will ensure that those still most disadvantaged in the labour market receive the help and guidance they need. This strategy fits with our wider aims of moving towards an 80 per cent. employment rate and reducing child poverty, by addressing the localised pockets of worklessness across Great Britain. It aims to deliver a significant improvement in the working age employment rate, particularly for disadvantaged groups.

Housing Benefit

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which the *(a)* best performing and *(b)* worst performing council, in respect of the level of housing benefit (i) overpayment and (ii) fraud was in 2005-06; and what assessment he has made of the performance of Luton council in each case. [80368]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table:

Detected overpayments of housing benefit by local authority, 2004-05

	Local authority	*Weekly overpayment (£)*
Lowest level of detected overpayment	West Devon	4
Highest level of detected overpayment	Hart	278
	Luton	83

Source:
Local authority data returns to DWP.

Information is not available on local authority performance in respect of the level of housing benefit overpayments and fraud present in their caseload, since it is not possible to estimate with sufficient confidence the amount of undetected fraud and error at local authority level.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to collect information on the cost of housing benefit paid to households renting properties formerly owned by local authorities. [81598]

Mr. Plaskitt: We are currently looking at the information we collect and considering the feasibility of various options. Were it feasible, the earliest date that any such additional information could be collected would be April 2007.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of housing benefit was in each year from 1985-86 at 2004-05 prices; and if he will make a statement. [81747]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the table.

Housing benefit expenditure in Great Britain, Real Terms 2004-05 prices

	£ million
1985-86 [1]	6,274
1986-87 [1]	6,536
1987-88 [1]	6,411
1988-89 [1]	6,367
1989-90 [1]	6,736

Housing benefit expenditure in Great Britain, Real Terms 2004-05 prices

	£ million
1990-91 [1]	7,491
1991-92 [1]	8,804
1992-93 [1]	10,479
1993-94 [1]	12,053
1994-95 [1]	13,012
1995-96 [1]	13,624
1996-97 [1]	13,768
1997-98 [1]	13,134
1998-99 [1]	12,675
1999-2000 [1]	12,431
2000-01 [1]	12,381
2001-02 [1]	12,518
2002-03 [1]	13,232
2003-04 [1]	12,596
2004-05 [1]	13,145
2005-06 [2]	13,698

[1] outturn
[2] estimated outturn
Note:
Figures are consistent with Budget 2006.
Source:
DWP benefit expenditure tables and historic information.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been in receipt of housing benefit in each year from 1985-86; and if he will make a statement. [81748]

Mr. Plaskitt: The housing benefit scheme was reformed in April 1988. Information for the old scheme is not available. The available information is in the table.

Housing benefit recipients in Great Britain each November 1988 to 2005

	Number
1988	3,934,000
1989	3,889,000
1990	3,925,000
1991	4,155,000
1992	4,381,970
1993	4,628,110
1994	4,710,860
1995	4,759,860
1996	4,709,820
1997	4,546,650
1998	4,382,390
1999	4,147,870
2000	3,900,620
2001	3,818,400
2002	3,796,260
2003	3,806,590
2004	3,943,900
2005	3,975,230

Notes:
1. Figures for 1988 to 1991 are rounded to the nearest thousand and figures from 1992 onwards have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude any Extended Payment cases.
Source:
Social Security Statistics 1993. Housing Benefit and council tax benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in November 1992 to 2005.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals in *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset and *(c)* the south west are claiming (i) short-term and (ii) long-term incapacity benefit. [82141]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance (SDA) claimants in the Yeovil parliamentary constituency, Somerset and the south-west at 30 IB credits *November 2005.*

	All IB/ SDA	IB short term (lower)	IB short term (higher)	IB long term	IB credits	SDA
Yeovil constituency	3,470	150	130	1,720	990	480
Somerset county local authorities	18,510	760	730	8,960	5,490	2,570
Mendip	3,600	170	150	1,610	1,230	440
Sedgemoor	4,520	190	180	2,280	1,220	650
South Somerset	4,840	210	200	2,430	1,350	670
Taunton Deane	4,030	140	150	1,880	1,260	610
West Somerset	1,520	50	50	780	430	200
Somerset unitary authorities:	13,210	490	480	5,930	4,880	1,420
Bath and North East Somerset	5,120	190	200	2,180	2,010	540
North Somerset	8,090	300	280	3,750	2,870	880
South West GOR	195,020	7,330	7,440	89,090	66,900	24,260

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. 'Claimant' figures include all incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance, including incapacity benefit credits only cases.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will make a statement on the findings of reviews of the work pension abatement threshold within incapacity benefit since 1999; [83599]

(2) what progress he has made in ensuring that the work pension abatement threshold for incapacity benefit is increased and does not erode savings. [83600]

Mrs. McGuire: We have no current plans to change the threshold at which income from an occupational pension or personal pension is taken into account in assessing incapacity benefit, although, as with all social security rules, this will be kept under review.

The incapacity benefit pension income rule was introduced for new claims from April 2001. The

threshold of £85 was set so that only people with above average pensions would be affected by the change.

The position was last considered in detail in October 2004. At that time, statistics showed that around one-fifth of people on incapacity benefit had an occupational pension and that the median pension income was £72.00 per week.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value of the work pension abatement threshold for incapacity benefits was in each year since 1999; and what the estimated value for each year would have been had the threshold been uprated in line with inflation since 1999. [83601]

Mrs. McGuire: The occupational or personal pensions threshold of £85 was introduced in April 2001.

Information on what the threshold would be if it had been uprated by the RPI from 2001 is in the table.

Occupational or personal pensions threshold if uprated by RPI from 2001

September	*Amount (£)*
2001	85.00
2002	86.45
2003	88.87
2004	91.62
2005	94.09
2006	96.35

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the total value of incapacity benefit claimants' savings *(a)* which would have been protected if the work pension abatement threshold had been uprated in line with inflation in each year since 1999 and *(b)* which have been protected at the level at which the threshold has remained at since 1999. [83602]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available. No details of incapacity benefit claimants' savings are held.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants whom Pathways to Work has placed in work were helped by private and voluntary sector organisations working in conjunction with JobCentre Plus. [73266]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 24 May 2006]:* The New Deal for Disabled People (NDDP) is offered as part of the Pathways to Work Choices package and is delivered through a network of job brokers from the private and voluntary sector who are contracted to help customers find, secure and sustain paid employment.

Between October 2003 and February 2006; 22,350 individuals have been helped into work through Pathways to Work, of which, 5,070 (22.7 per cent.) were helped by a New Deal for Disabled People Job Broker.

From 7 February 2005 those existing IB customers who started an incapacity benefit IB claim (excluding Personal Capability Assessment exempt cases) in the two years before the Pathways pilots started have been subject to three additional mandatory Work Focused Interviews (WFIs).

Between 7 February 2005 and the end of February 2006, the mandatory extension of Pathways has helped 980 individuals into work, of which, 260 (26.5 per cent.) were helped by an NDDP Job Broker.

The delivery of the mandatory extension to IB customers takes three months to complete and we would expect to see more people entering work in the months after this process. Therefore the latest available performance information does not yet give a true reflection of performance.

Note:

Pathways to Work data and data for the extension to existing customers is to February 2006.

Job Vacancies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were listed at Jobcentre Plus in Yeovil constituency in each year since 1997. [82142]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information on Jobcentre Plus vacancy data at parliamentary constituency level are only available from April 2004 and is set out in the following table.

Yeovil parliamentary constituency

Period	*Vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus*	*Average number of 'live' unfilled vacancies on any given day*
2004 (from April)	3,670	1,100
2005	4,630	850

Note:

Figures have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 10.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* national and *(b)* local targets have been set for Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre performance; and what data have been recorded to measure performance against such targets over the last two years. [54252]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. She will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what (a) national and (b) local targets have been set for Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre performance and what data has been recorded to measure performance against such targets over the last two years. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus contact centres report against two national Jobcentre Plus targets:

Job Entry Target—This target is the measure of our success in helping people in to work. Points are allocated according to

the customer's priority group. A higher points score is awarded for our harder to help customer groups. Contact Centres contribute to this target through a dedicated telephone service provided by Jobseeker Direct.

Customer Service Target—This measures Jobcentre Plus' performance in meeting the standards and commitments set out in the organisation's customer and employer charters. An independent company assess performance against these standards by conducting mystery shopping surveys over the telephone.

Contact Centres are responsible for Jobseekers Direct and the contribution that service makes to the overall performance targets. In 2004/05 the Contact Centre target was 885,870 points, performance was 32% below profile with 602,295 points being achieved. In 2005/06 the target was 707,187 points, performance was 9% below profile, with 643,615 points being achieved.

For 2004/05, there were a number of factors that contributed to the Contact Centres network (Jobcentre Plus Direct) failing to achieve the Job Entry Target;

New staff were recruited and had to be trained. There was a dip in performance whilst these staff became fully effective.

Some slippage in the rollout of the new Jobcentre Plus model meant that, for a limited period, job entries were captured at Jobcentres instead of through the contact centre network.

In 2004/05 Contact Centres exceeded the target for Customer Service achieving 84% against a target of 81.6%. In 2005/06 performance dipped to 62.4% against a target of 81.2%. This was the result of the difficulties Jobcentre Plus Contact Centres experienced in responding to customer calls during the summer months of 2005. Robust plans were put in place to improve levels of customer service and as you know 96% of calls made to our First Contact service i.e. customers calling to make new claims to working age benefits, are now answered. This has resulted in significant improvements in the Customer Service target in recent months, with a reported 74.2% achieved in Quarter 3 and 80.8% in Quarter 4.

In addition to contributing to the two national performance targets, Contact Centre performance data is collected and measured through a set of internal Key Management Indicators. This information is collected on a centre-by-centre basis, as well as nationally, allowing Jobcentre Plus to continually monitor performance.

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what action is being taken to stabilise the performance of Jobcentre Plus. [76508]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what action is being taken to stabilise the performance of Jobcentre Plus. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

During 2005-2006, Jobcentre Plus worked to a set of challenging objectives, including a commitment to improve the ease with which our customers could access our services, and to increase the numbers of people moving into work.

Performance against job entry targets was closely monitored throughout the year at all levels of the business and improvement plans were initiated where any delivery unit fell below agreed standards. A job entry national action plan was introduced in September 2005 to address the shortfall in job entry performance in three main areas:

improving adviser performance—managers were advised how to improve adviser productivity and individual adviser improvement plans were implemented to support advisers;

increasing Jobcentre Plus access to vacancies—a national campaign publicising Jobcentre Plus services to targeted employers was launched; and

process management—for example senior management monitored progress against the plan on a weekly basis.

These measures will be further reinforced by the new Job Outcome Target, implemented nationally on 10 April following a pilot phase which ran from January 2005, which reduces the administration burden of the previous target so allowing staff to focus more attention on delivering the jobseeker's allowance interventions and the job outcomes that flow from them.

It is true that a number of Contact Centres experienced some difficulties in maintaining service levels during the summer of 2005. Immediate steps were taken to tackle the problems, through the recruitment and training of staff coupled with some process and management adjustments. These measures have allowed us to bring performance back towards expected levels and the network is now delivering sustained performance with almost 95 per cent. of all calls being answered.

Jobcentre Plus has learned from its experience of Contact Centre management, in particular on forecasting demand and ensuring that sufficient staffing is in place to deal with that demand. These were implemented successfully to meet the expected peak of claims in January 2006.

In addition, we have put action in hand to address temporary delays in processing claims, occurring in the wake of individual elements of the restructuring of Jobcentre Plus, including the launch of a National Action Plan on 30 January. Senior Operational Managers provided a formal assurance at the end of February that they were complying with all elements of the National Action Plan. To support the action plan, the Key Management Indicators which monitored Actual Average Clearance Times in 2005-06 have been converted to specific Jobcentre Plus Targets for 2006-07 .

I believe that, during 2005-06, Jobcentre Plus again proved itself to be a strong delivery organisation. We have met the challenges we faced last year and we go into the next operational year a stronger organisation with clear plans to deliver our performance targets.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he will announce the provisional allocation of his Department's early release money for 2007-08 to Jobcentre Plus and other departmental businesses. [80286]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In line with previous years, it is proposed that an indicative allocation of early release funding will be shared with Jobcentre Plus and the other departmental businesses in December 2006.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data is *(a)* collated and *(b)* published on the performance of each Jobcentre Plus district. [80291]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what data is (a) collated and (b) published on the performance of each Jobcentre Plus district. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Collated information on Jobcentre Plus district performance is published quarterly on the Jobcentre Plus website (www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk). The most recent data is for the period ending 31 March 2006 and consists of performance against:

the Job Entry target, which measures performance in helping people into work;

the Customer Service target which helps us to measure our service to all our customers; and

the Employer Outcome target, which measures how quickly and effectively employers' recruitment needs are met.

From 1 April 2006 the Job Entry target was replaced by the Job Outcome target. From 1 April 2006 we also introduced the Average Actual Clearance Times target to measure and monitor how long it takes to process benefit claims for Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support and Incapacity Benefit. Clearance times performance in respect of each of our Benefit Delivery Centres will be available on the Jobcentre Plus website during the summer.

I hope this is helpful.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what steps he is taking to ensure that more staff in Jobcentres are trained to deal with clients suffering from mental illness. [83302]

Mrs. McGuire: All Jobcentre Plus staff who work directly with customers are provided with training and development during the first three months in their role to ensure they deal professionally with all customers including those with a mental illness.

Specifically, for dealing with customers with a mental illness, we have developed a two day learning event, with the co-operation of specialist organisations such as MIND, for all Advisers to equip them with the specialist skills they need.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the introduction of strengthened fortnightly job reviews for jobseeker's allowance claimants. [76513]

Mr. Plaskitt: The 2006 Budget announced the introduction of strengthened Fortnightly Job Reviews (FJRs). These put greater emphasis on claimants to show that they are fulfilling their responsibilities by being available for and actively seeking work.

Discussing with claimants what they have done to find work has always been a regular feature of FJRs. The more people look for work, the greater their chances of success.

However, following significant investment in the modernization of Jobcentre Plus services, people now have faster, easier access to jobs through, for example Jobseeker Direct (our telephone-based job search and matching service) and the Internet. As a consequence, proportionately more time at fortnightly jobsearch reviews can now be used to check people are actively seeking work and making best use of all available vacancy sources and to take action, including possible benefit sanction, against those who appear not to be fulfilling their responsibilities. Matching and submitting people to jobs will still be a feature of some jobsearch reviews, primarily for those who appear to need more help in identifying and applying for jobs.

The strengthened FJR is also supported by a revised and simplified Jobseeker's Agreement, which sets out individual job goals and responsibilities, and by a revised interview after 13 weeks on JSA. The 13 Week Review will ensure that claimants are prepared to take any suitable job from then on (some restriction to any usual occupation is permitted until that point) and that where previous jobsearch appears insufficient or ineffective they are submitted to suitable vacancies to test their continued eligibility for JSA.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of his Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80492]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Long-term Unemployed

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is for involving the long-term unemployed in service to the community. [81451]

Mr. Plaskitt: The valuable contribution voluntary work or paid participation in regeneration work can make to the community and the potential benefit it can bring for the individual is recognised by the Government. Such participation can help unemployed people to keep in touch with the labour market and enable them to develop skills and experience, with the possibility that it may help them find paid employment.

Jobseekers can do unlimited voluntary work without it affecting their benefit, as long as the usual entitlement conditions are met. Cases are decided on an individual basis according to the regulations, and people are required to report their participation in voluntary work. Jobseekers are exempt from the normal requirement to be immediately available for employment, being required only to be available at seven days notice, although they will be required to be available for interviews on being given 48 hours notice, if they are currently engaged in voluntary activity. Similar rules currently apply to Incapacity Benefit claimants and will apply when we introduce the Employment and Support Allowance.

By putting such easements in place we are trying to ensure entitlement conditions for benefits do not place unnecessary barriers in the way of undertaking voluntary work. However, this must sit within a benefit system that targets support at those who are not in full time remunerative work, and welfare to work policies that envisage full participation in the labour market for those who are able to do so. The current rules aim to strike a balance between allowing benefit recipients to pursue voluntary activity that can be of benefit to the community, while encouraging them to retain a clear focus on moving off welfare into paid employment.

We have improved the rules about expenses paid to volunteers to ensure all expenses incurred or to be incurred are disregarded when assessing claims to benefits. Also, volunteers who find a job are given a week to re-arrange their voluntary activity before taking up their employment.

Mesothelioma

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons attendance allowance is not paid automatically to people with mesothelioma who are awarded 100 per cent. industrial injuries disablement benefit. [68474]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Constant attendance allowance is paid where a person is assessed as being 100 per cent. disabled for the purposes of industrial injuries disablement benefit and it is determined that the person requires constant attendance for the necessities of life due to that disablement.

All people now diagnosed with diffuse mesothelioma are given an automatic assessment of 100 per cent. disablement, in most cases without the need for a medical examination to determine the extent of their disablement. This is because of the prognosis expected from the disease.

However, not everyone with mesothelioma will require constant attendance at the time of the claim for benefit. That is the reason why entitlement to constant attendance allowance is not decided automatically, but is considered separately according to the needs of the individual, and payment made if appropriate.

We have commissioned a review of the current industrial disablement benefit scheme. The scheme was introduced in 1948 and may no longer meet the needs of our modern society.

The review will look at all aspects of the scheme and all the options for the future. We intend to publish a discussion document later this year when we will engage fully with stakeholders and other interested parties.

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total amount recovered by the Compensation Recovery Unit was from compensation payments made in respect of mesothelioma cases in the last three years. [79111]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* Details of the total amount recovered under the Social Security (Recovery of Benefits) Act in respect of mesothelioma cases in the last three years are in the table.

Financial year	*Amount recovered (£)*
2003-04	3,113,949
2004-05	3,613,520
2005-06	4,222,944

Source:
Figures produced by the Compensation Recovery Unit.

Migrant Workers

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Trades Union Congress on the impact of Central and Eastern European migrants on *(a)* wage levels, *(b)* terms and conditions at work and *(c)* access to benefits. [71900]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Ministers have not met the Trades Union Congress to discuss these issues.

Ministerial Flights

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to ensure that all flights undertaken by Ministers and officials in his Department are carbon neutral; and if he will make a statement. [81394]

Mr. Plaskitt: All central Government ministerial and official air travel is being offset from 1 April 2006. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to a central fund. The fund purchases Certified Emissions Reductions credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

The Department has put in place a mechanism to collect air travel data, and is currently incorporating carbon offsetting into its financial systems.

Mystery Shoppers

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what use is made of mystery shoppers to evaluate departmental performance; and if he will make a statement. [80290]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 8 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1191-92W.

National Insurance

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people from the EU accession member states have registered in each of the London boroughs for a new national insurance number in each of the last five years. [83530]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The information is not available broken down by country of origin, nor is it available broken down below regional level.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what steps he takes to ensure national insurance numbers are not issued to illegal immigrants; and if he will make a statement; [75798]

(2) how many immigrants were given national insurance numbers in each quarter from April 1997 to April 2006; what measures were in place to prevent illegal immigrants obtaining national insurance numbers; and if he will make a statement. [75800]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer on 8 June 2006]:* All NINO applications are subjected to rigorous identity checking process. Where this raises questions over immigration status or authenticity of identity documents, individuals will be referred to the

Immigration and Nationality Directorate. Previously, where identity requirements were satisfied and the individual was in employment, a NINO would have been issued. In cases where false documents were presented, a NINO would not be issued.

On Monday 5 June 2006, I announced changes to improve this process. These will take place from July 2006 and will introduce a 'right to work' pre-condition for employment related national insurance number (NINO) applications. This will prevent illegal workers being allocated a NINO.

The available information regarding the number of overseas nationals allocated NINO is in the table.

Overseas Nationals entering the UK and allocated a National Insurance Number by quarter of Registration

	Number
6 April to 30 June 2002	53,730
1 July to 30 September 2002	94,450
1 October to 31 December 2002	90,560
1 January to 5 April 2003	110,530
6 April to 30 June 2003	69,660
1 July to 30 September 2003	94,730
1 October to 31 December 2003	87,320
1 January to 5 April 2004	119,060
6 April to 30 June 2004	89,730
1 July to 30 September 2004	94,420
1 October to 31 December 2004	109,590
1 January to 5 April 2005	146,020

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures are not available prior to 2002-03 due to unreliability of the registrations data.
3. Figures include EU Nationals.
4. This data is only available from 2002-03 to 2004-05 as reliable HMRC data prior to this date is unavailable. Information for 2005-06 will be available in October 2006.

Source:
100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System at 25 June 2005.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the allocation of national insurance numbers to illegal workers; and if he will make a statement. [76144]

Mr. Plaskitt: We have received a number of representations from hon. Members regarding the allocation of national insurance numbers to illegal workers.

On Monday 5 June 2006, we announced changes that will take place from July 2006 which will introduce a "right to work" pre-condition before a NINO can be allocated to employment-related applicants.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 517, on national insurance numbers (illegal immigrants), how many national insurance numbers were issued to those without the right to live or work in the UK in the last three years. [80828]

Mr. Plaskitt: From April 2005 to March 2006, DWP notified the immigration and nationality directorate of 2,537 cases where national insurance numbers were allocated to suspected immigration offenders. In addition, 772 cases involving false documents that have been refused a NINO were notified to the immigration and nationality directorate by DWP. Figures are not available prior to 1 April 2005 as the information was not formally recorded.

From July 2006 an additional 'right to work' pre-condition test will be introduced for employment related NINO applications. This will prevent illegal workers being allocated a NINO.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has held with HM Revenue and Customs on the use of national insurance numbers in determining eligibility for tax credits of an individual who has failed verification rule 12 of the Tax Credits manual Residency Criteria Not Met. [78953]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) works closely with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) on matters pertaining to national insurance numbers (NINOs). However, the administration of tax credits is the responsibility of HMRC.

New Deal

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of New Deal leavers has entered sustained, unsubsidised jobs. [54987]

Mr. Jim Murphy: A measure of sustainability is only available for New Deal for Young People, New Deal 25 plus and New Deal for Lone Parents.

The available information on the percentage of people who have left New Deal to an unsubsidised, sustained job is in the following table.

		Leavers to an unsubsidised, sustained job	
New deal programme	*All leavers (number)*	*Number*	*Percentage of all leavers*
New Deal for Young People	1,320,380	587,230	44
New Deal 25 plus	438,540	135,570	31
New Deal for Lone Parents	853,820	256,150	30

Notes:
1. Information relates to cumulative leavers to November 2005, which is the latest available data.
2. Information on leavers from New Deal 25 plus is only available for leavers from the post April 2001 enhanced programme.
3. As there are different measures of sustainability for New Deal for Lone Parents, results cannot be compared with those for New Deal for Young People and New Deal 25 plus.
4. People gaining unsustained employment through New Deal for Young People and the New Deal 25 plus are not regarded as leaving the programme so are not included in the figures.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

In addition to those leaving these New Deal programmes to an unsubsidised, sustained job, a further 301,160 people gained a job at some point during their time on the programme, but the employment was not recorded as sustained.

Even though some people return to jobseeker's allowance or income support after finding a job through New Deal, they will have benefited from their time in employment and will have more employment skills than they did before finding work through New Deal. Many of the people helped into work through New Deal have considerable barriers to employment, particularly those entering New Deal 25 plus, who will have been unemployed for at least 18 months, and helping them into employment is a considerable achievement.

Participation on New Deal for Lone Parents is voluntary and many lone parents will not be ready to start work immediately on leaving the programme, particularly when their children are below school age. However, the advice and support they receive whilst on NDLP will mean they will be better equipped to enter employment in the future.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of leavers from *(a)* New Deal for Young People and *(b)* New Deal 25 plus recommenced claiming benefits within 12 months of leaving the programme in each year since it began. [56973]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is in the following table.

Percentage of New Deal leavers who recommenced claiming benefits within 12 months of leaving the programme

	New Deal for Young People (percentage)	*New Deal 25 Plus (percentage)*
1998[1]	36	31
1999	50	33
2000	52	35
2001	53	35
2002	53	37
2003	51	37
2004	49	38
2005	48	36

Notes:
1. New Deal for Young People was launched in January 1998; New Deal 25 plus in July 1998.
2. The latest benefit data are to February 2006, therefore allowing for a 12 month gap only New Deal leavers to February 2005 are included.
3. The benefits included are bereavement benefit, incapacity benefit, invalid care allowance, income support, jobseeker's allowance, severe disablement allowance and widows benefit.
4. A benefit claim has only been included if it is a new claim after leaving the New Deal spell. People can leave New Deal and continue a benefit claim—these people are not included as recommencing a claim to benefit.

Source:
Information Directorate, DWP

The New Deal has been successful in helping more than 1.5 million people into work including more than 920,000 people through New Deal for Young People (NDYP) and New Deal 25 plus (ND25 plus). It has helped to virtually eradicate long term youth claimant unemployment and has also helped to cut long-term adult employment by almost three quarters, close to its lowest for 30 years. Of those who get a job through the mandatory New Deals, more than 80 per cent. stay off Jobseeker's Allowance for at least 13 weeks.

Inevitably, in a dynamic labour market, some people return to Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Support after finding a job through New Deal, nevertheless, they will have benefited from their time in employment and will have more employment skills than they did before finding work through New Deal.

Pathways to Work

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals are participating in Pathways to Work in *(a)* Lewisham, Deptford constituency and *(b)* Lewisham borough. [79150]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Our successful Pathways to Work pilots have been acknowledged internationally as the best way of helping people on incapacity benefits back into work quickly. They have resulted in 21,400 Pathways job entries, including over 3,360 from voluntary customers.

I recently announced my plans for the nationwide roll out of Pathways to Work. Pathways to Work will be rolled out to Lewisham, Deptford constituency and Lewisham borough in April 2008.

Pension Credit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset and *(c)* the south west receive pension credit. [82253]

James Purnell: The information is in the table.

Individual beneficiaries in Yeovil constituency, Somerset local authorities and the south west, February 2006

	Individual Beneficiaries[1]
Parliamentary constituency	
Yeovil	5,450
Local authority	
Bath and North East Somerset	7,770
North Somerset	10,200
South Somerset	8,230
West Somerset	2,510
Government office region	
The South West	274,020

[1] The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Notes:
1. These figures are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figures provided are the latest available figures which are taken from the GMS scan at 17 February 2006. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure. Average amounts are displayed as at the scan reference data of 17 February 2006.
2. The number of individual beneficiaries are rounded to the nearest ten.
3. Parliamentary constituency/Government office region and local authority are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.

Source:
DWP 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS). Pension credit scan taken as at 17 February 2006.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in each electoral ward in Yeovil constituency receive pension credit; and if he will make a statement. [82255]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Pension credit individual beneficiaries for wards in Yeovil parliamentary constituency, November 2005

Ward name[1]	Individual beneficiaries[2]
Blackdown	140
Brympton	150
Chard Avishayes	130
Chard Combe	190
Chard Crimchard	75
Chard Holyrood	235
Chard Jocelyn	200
Coker	240
Crewkerne	510
Eggwood	155
Hamdon	160
Ilminster	360
Neroche	140
Parrett	80
St. Michael's	150
South Petherton	285
Tatworth and Forton	145
Windwhistle	90
Yeovil Central	460
Yeovil East	500
Yeovil South	295
Yeovil West	440
Yeovil Without	285
Camelot[3]	125
Ivelchester[3]	140
Yeovil constituency total	5,470

[1] Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries.
[2] The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.
[3] Only part of Camelot and Ivelchester wards fall within Yeovil parliamentary constituency.
Note:
Number of households are rounded to a multiple of five, therefore ward totals do not always sum to area totals.
Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data.

Pension Service

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria were used to make decisions on changes in staffing levels taking effect between March 2004 and March 2008 for agencies of the Department, with particular reference to their application to the Pension Service; what assessment he has made of the changes in service levels necessitated by staffing changes, including partnership agreements with local authorities; and if he will make a statement. [78435]

James Purnell: The Department's headcount reduction challenge was determined primarily on the basis of productivity improvements delivered from the Department's modernisation projects and programmes. These include improvements to IT infrastructure, more efficient procurement, benefit and policy simplification, and re-engineering of business processes and organisations. These improvements will mean the Department will require fewer staff to deliver its services.

Among the measures introduced is a comprehensive transformation of the Pension Service that will deliver improved customer service and encourage take-up, while achieving significantly increased productivity and efficiency. The Pension Service headcount reductions are to be realised primarily from the Pension Transformation Programme.

The Department's efficiency target will be met if the overall efficiency savings, including the staff savings, are achieved without detriment to performance across all areas of DWP's activity and our customers, including corporate customers such as local authorities, experience no diminution in the service they receive. Latest details of performance can be found in the departmental report which was laid before the House on 11 May 2006.

Pensions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of pensioners will be eligible for means-tested assistance *(a)* under present policies and *(b)* under the proposals in the White Paper in each year up to 2020. [79615]

James Purnell *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* The information requested is not available in full. Information relating to pension credit is shown in the following tables. This includes the majority of pensioner households eligible for means-tested assistance.

Table 1 shows the estimated proportion of all pensioner households eligible for pension credit for 2006-07 and 2007-08 and Table 2 shows projections from 2008-09 to 2020-21.

Table 1: Estimated proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit under the current system

	Percentage
2006-07	45
2007-08	46

Table 2: Projected proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit for selected years under the current system and the White Paper proposals

	Percentage under:	
	Current system	White Paper proposals
2008-09	46	45
2009-10	46	45
2010-11	46	44
2011-12	48	45
2012-13	48	45
2013-14	48	44
2014-15	49	44
2015-16	50	44
2016-17	50	43
2017-18	50	42
2018-19	51	41
2019-20	53	41
2020-21	54	41

Notes:
1. Projections of the proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit are sensitive to modelling assumptions and to projected changes in the distribution of pensioner incomes.
2. The estimate of proportions shown are the mid-points of projections taken from two separate micro-simulation models. Modelling of the reform proposals does not assume any increase in private saving from the introduction of personal accounts, which would further reduce the numbers eligible for pension credit.
3. The projections under the current system assume that basic state pension is uprated in line with prices and the standard guarantee credit with earnings each year. It should be noted that there is a Government commitment to uprate the standard guarantee credit with earnings until 2008. Treasury projections for the current system assume price uprating of the standard guarantee credit beyond 2008.
4. The reform projections assume: continued earnings uprating of the standard guarantee credit; the savings credit maximum is uprated by earnings from 2008 and then by prices from 2015; earnings uprating of the basic state pension from 2012; measures to improve coverage of the basic state pension described in the White Paper.
5. Estimates cover all those aged above women's state pension age in the private household population of Great Britain.
6. Estimates account for equalisation of state pension age between 2010 and 2020.
7. Estimates are calibrated to the mid-points of the 2004-05 National Statistics range estimates of non-eligibility to pension credit, which adjust 2004-05 Family Resources Survey data to take account of possible biases in reporting. Although the estimates are not presented as ranges, they are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Personal Capability Assessment

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether before implementation the revised Personal Capability Assessment will be subject to an independent pilot and evaluation which will examine the impact on people with *(a)* mental illness, *(b)* learning disability and *(c)* autistic spectrum disorder. [81948]

Mrs. McGuire: As part of our transformation of the Personal Capability Assessment (PCA) we are working to improve the way that the assessment deals with the problems and difficulties that individuals with these conditions face.

To ensure that the review does just this, we have set up two working groups to look at the mental health component of the PCA. This review includes technical or medical experts from the field of mental health and learning disabilities as well as representatives from key stakeholder groups. MENCAP and the National Autistic Society are fully involved in the working groups carrying out the review.

When we have completed the review of the PCA we intend to test the changes to evaluate their effectiveness. The evaluation will look at the impact of the revised PCA on people with mental illness, learning disabilities and autistic spectrum disorders.

Post Office

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Government first announced its intention to phase out the Post Office card account. [83743]

Mr. Plaskitt: We are not "phasing out" the Post Office card account. We will fulfil our contractual obligations to fund the Post Office card account until March 2010 as was always clear when the contract was signed with Post Office Ltd. in March 2002.

I also refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Argyll and Bute (Mr. Reid) on 13 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1849W.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for which services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81537]

Mr. Plaskitt: The service contracts in place between the Department for Work and Pensions and Post Office Ltd are:

The Post Office card account contract, which was signed in March 2002 and will end on 31 March 2010.

A contract to ensure that customers who are receiving payment by cheque can continue to collect their cheques in the event of disruption to normal delivery services. The contract began in February 2005 and will be reviewed prior to its end date, which is March 2007.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies (i) make available and (ii) have made available in the last five years through the post office network; through how many outlets the service is or was made available; and how many relevant transactions were undertaken in each case in the most recent year for which figures are available. [79194]

Mr. Plaskitt: All of the information is not available in the format requested.

There are a number of services which have been made available through the post office network in the last five years, all of which are or have been made available at all post office outlets.

Since April 2003, DWP customers who receive their payments by direct payment into a Post Office card account have been able to collect their money from post office branches. Between April 2005 and March 2006, 210.3 million DWP payments were made into a Post Office card account.

Customers who cannot be paid by direct payment are paid by cheque. Through the Department's relationship with the Alliance & Leicester Commercial Bank plc., cheque payments with a value of less than £450.00 can be cashed at all post office branches. Between 24 March 2005 and 22 March 2006, 27.6 million DWP cheques were cashed at post office branches.

Since 1 February 2005 the Department has also had a contract with Post Office Ltd. to ensure that customers can continue to receive cheque payments in the event of disruption to normal postal delivery services.

Up to 31 May 2005 a contract was in place for the payment of DWP benefits and pensions by order book. This contract was terminated as part of the Governments plan to modernise the way benefits and pensions are paid. In April and May 2005 25,840 order book foils were cashed at post office branches.

Prior to 3 June 2004, DWP had a contract in place with Post Office Ltd. for the display of key

departmental leaflets and posters in post office display panels. Post Office Ltd. terminated this contract with effect from 2 June 2004.

Poverty

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children were living in poverty in (i) England, (ii) each English region and (iii) the Tees Valley in each year since 1997. [73651]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information below regional level is not available.

Information is presented in the tables for England as a whole and for the component English regions. This is consistent with the latest publication of the 'Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2004-05'.

The following tables show the proportions of working-age adults living in households with income below the threshold 60 per cent. of contemporary median in England and the English regions since 1995-96—1997-98. These are shown 'Before and After Housing Costs'. The threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

Proportions of working-age adults living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, for England and the English regions 1996-97—1998-99 to 2002-03—2004-05, before housing costs

	Proportion of working-age adults[1] as three-year moving averages						
	1996-97/ 1998-99	1997-98/ 1998-99	1998-99/ 2000-01	1999-2000/ 2001-02	2000-01/ 2002-03	2001-02/ 2003-04	2002-03/ 2004-05
England	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
North East	20	21	20	19	18	18	18
North West and Merseyside	17	17	17	16	16	15	15
Yorkshire and Humberside	18	18	17	16	16	16	15
East Midlands	15	14	15	15	15	15	15
West Midlands	15	14	15	15	16	16	16
Eastern	11	10	10	10	10	11	11
London	14	14	14	14	14	15	15
South East	9	10	9	9	9	9	9
South West	14	14	14	13	13	13	12

Proportions of working-age adults living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, for England and the English regions 1996-97—1998-99 to 2002-03—2004-05, after housing costs

	Proportion of working-age adults[1] as three-year moving averages						
	1996-97/ 1998-99	1997-98/ 1998-99	1998-99/ 2000-01	1999-2000/ 2001-02	2000-01/ 2002-03	2001-02/ 2003-04	2002-03/ 2004-05
England	20	19	19	19	19	19	19
North East	25	26	25	23	22	21	21
North West and Merseyside	22	21	21	21	20	19	19
Yorkshire and Humberside	21	22	21	21	20	20	19
East Midlands	18	18	18	18	19	19	19
West Midlands	18	18	19	19	20	20	20
Eastern	16	15	14	14	14	15	15
London	24	24	23	23	23	23	24
South East	15	15	15	15	14	15	15
South West	19	19	19	19	18	18	17

[1] Figures are provided using a three-year moving averages, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year on year changes. Hence, figures are not consistent with previously published single-year estimates and there may be differences in changes over time.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

The following tables show the proportions of children living in households with income below the threshold 60 per cent. of contemporary median in England and the English regions since 1996-97. These are shown before and after housing costs. The threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

Proportions of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, for England and the English regions 1996-97—1998-99 to 2002-03—2004-05, before housing costs

	Proportion of children[1] as three-year moving averages						
	1996-97/ 1998-99	1997-98/ 1998-99	1998-99/ 2000-01	1999-2000/ 2001-02	2000-01/ 2002-03	2001-02/ 2003-04	2002-03/ 2004-05
England	24	24	22	21	20	20	20
North East	31	32	32	27	29	27	28

Proportions of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, for England and the English regions 1996-97—1998-99 to 2002-03—2004-05, before housing costs

	Proportion of children[1] as three-year moving averages						
	1996-97/ 1998-99	1997-98/ 1998-99	1998-99/ 2000-01	1999-2000/ 2001-02	2000-01/ 2002-03	2001-02/ 2003-04	2002-03/ 2004-05
North West and Merseyside	30	30	28	25	23	23	22
Yorkshire and Humberside	30	30	28	26	25	24	24
East Midlands	23	23	23	23	24	22	21
West Midlands	27	26	25	26	24	24	24
Eastern	18	18	16	15	13	14	14
London	25	24	24	23	23	23	24
South East	16	15	14	14	13	13	12
South West	22	21	19	17	17	17	16

Proportions of children living in households with less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median household income, for England and the English regions 1996-97—1998-99 to 2002-03—2004-05, after housing costs

	Proportion of children[1] as three-year moving averages						
	1996-97/ 1998-99	1997-98/ 1998-99	1998-99/ 2000-01	1999-2000/ 2001-02	2000-01/ 2002-03	2001-02/ 2003-04	2002-03/ 2004-05
England	33	32	32	31	29	29	28
North East	38	38	38	34	34	32	32
North West and Merseyside	37	37	35	33	32	30	29
Yorkshire and Humberside	35	35	33	32	30	30	29
East Midlands	29	29	29	28	29	27	26
West Midlands	33	32	33	33	32	31	30
Eastern	27	26	25	24	23	22	22
London	41	41	40	39	38	38	39
South East	25	24	23	23	22	21	21
South West	31	31	29	28	27	27	25

[1] Figures are provided using a three-year moving averages, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year on year changes. Hence, figures are not consistent with previously published single-year estimates and there may be differences in changes over time.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Redundancies

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of the staff made redundant by his Department and the agencies for which it is responsible since 6 April 2004 had been recruited by the Department or its predecessor Department and their respective agencies since 1 May 1997. [82496]

Mrs. McGuire: As part of its Efficiency Programme, the Department has run a number of staff early release schemes since April 2004. All but one early release under these schemes has been on a voluntary basis. As at the end of March 2006 a total of 335 staff (full-time equivalent) who left the Department under these schemes had been recruited since 1 May 1997.

Remploy

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when approval was given for the chief executive of Remploy to take on an external commitment in the form of a directorship of Hill Executive Action Ltd.; and who gave such approval. [80445]

Mrs. McGuire: The position of director of Hill Executive Action Ltd. does not have any impact on his role as chief executive of Remploy and, as such, does not require approval by Remploy.

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many hours a week the chief operating officer of Remploy is contracted to work for the organisation. [80449]

Mrs. McGuire: The chief operating officer is contracted to work for 35 hours a week for Remploy.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the remit was of the review team looking at the future of Remploy Ltd. including information on the more detailed work that was requested of the team as announced in his written statement of 6 June. [81679]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The remit of the review was announced in my ministerial statement of 16 March 2006, and a copy of the terms of reference for the review was placed in the Library.

I asked PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) to provide expert independent advice on the options for a radical strategy that would lead to Remploy being able to help more disabled people into work at unit costs comparable with other providers of supported employment, specifically: the options for a strategy within the existing budgeted funding envelope of £111 million per year; and what alternatives approaches compatible with the Government's overall policy direction are possible without the need for significant further investment.

The review team were asked to do some more detailed work to ensure that we are in the best possible position to make robust decisions about the future of Remploy.

The recommendations of the review team will be considered very carefully, and I hope to make a further statement to Parliament before the summer recess.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written statement of 6 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 26WS, on Remploy, when the Minister expects to be in a position to make a further statement to the House on the future of Remploy. [82625]

Mrs. McGuire: I have not yet received PricewaterhouseCoopers' report on Remploy, but expect to do so shortly. I hope to make a further statement about the review before recess.

Savings Credit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of savings credit was in 2005; what his estimate is of the cost in each year from 2006 to 2030; and if he will make a statement. [70298]

James Purnell: The cost of the savings credit from 2004-05 to 2007-08 is in the following tables. Figures for the projected costs of the savings credit beyond 2007-08 are currently not available. I will write to the hon. Member when they become available.

Table 1: Savings credit expenditure—outturn

£ billion

	Pension credit (savings credit) expenditure in the UK nominal terms	Pension credit (savings credit) expenditure in the UK real terms 2006-07 prices
2004-05	1.0	1.0

Table 2: Savings credit expenditure—projections

£ billion

	Pension credit (savings credit) projected expenditure in the UK nominal terms	Pension credit (savings credit) projected expenditure in the UK real terms 2006-07 prices
2005-06	1.1	1.1
2006-07	1.2	1.2
2007-08	1.5	1.4

Seasonal Workers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support his Department provides for *(a)* seasonal workers when they are out of work and *(b)* the rural unemployed; and if he will make a statement. [82032]

Mr. Jim Murphy: All customers who are unemployed and eligible for benefits, including seasonal workers and the rural unemployed, are able to access a wide range of services and programmes provided by Jobcentre Plus provided they meet the eligibility criteria. In instances where a seasonal worker may not be eligible for benefits they are still able to use the services of Jobcentre Plus in their search for temporary employment.

The Jobcentre Plus website displays details of job opportunities and advisers encourage customers to access these facilities through their local libraries or community centres to maintain their contact with the labour market. Where a customer has to travel to the local office they are paid their fares at the local transport rates. For customers who live in remote or island areas Jobcentre Plus staff can carry out interviews locally.

Jobcentre Plus also offers the facility of postal signing to customers living further than one hour by public transport from the nearest local office, or where the journey would involve using transport not regarded as local such as an aircraft or ferry.

Rural areas with particular problems of unemployment and worklessness will also benefit from the Deprived Areas Fund, to be operational from October 2006. This will provide Jobcentre Plus district managers with flexibility to invest funds at a local level in a way which they decide best meets the needs of their local workless residents.

SERPS

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are estimated to have contracted out of the state earnings related pension scheme. [81860]

James Purnell: Information on the number of people contracted out of the additional state pension (the state second pension, formerly the state earnings related pension scheme) in each year during the period 1978-79 to 2003-04 is in the table.

Type of Scheme

Million

		Defined Contribution	
Tax year	Defined Benefit	Occupational	Personall Stakeholder
1978-79	9.3	0.1	—
1979-80	9.6	0.1	—
1980-81	9.6	0.1	—
1981-82	9.3	0.1	—
1982-83	9.1	0.1	—
1983-84	8.9	0.1	—
1984-85	8.7	0.1	—
1985-86	9.0	0.1	—
1986-87	9.0	0.2	—
1987-88	8.8	0.2	2.6
1988-89	9.0	0.5	2.9
1989-90	8.9	0.7	3.6
1990-91	8.7	0.7	3.9
1991-92	8.4	0.6	4.0
1992-93	8.1	0.6	4.1
1993-94	7.8	0.6	3.9
1994-95	7.6	0.6	3.8
1995-96	7.7	0.7	3.6
1996-97	7.7	0.7	3.5
1997-98	7.6	0.8	3.5

Type of Scheme

Tax year	*Defined Benefit*	*Defined Contribution: Occupational*	*Defined Contribution: Personal/ Stakeholder*
			Million
1998-99	7.7	0.8	3.5
1999-2000	7.6	0.7	3.5
2000-01	7.8	0.7	3.5
2001-02	7.7	0.7	3.5
2002-03	7.7	0.6	3.3
2003-04	7.6	0.6	2.9

Notes:
1. The data for 2003-04 are provisional and may be subject to change in future publications.
2. 2003-04 is the latest year for which NIRS2 contracted-out data are available.
3. The state earnings related pension scheme was reformed by the state second pension from 2002-03.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Second Tier Pension Provision 1978-79 to 2003-04.

State Pension Age

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those in employment would be affected by the state pension age rising to *(a)* 66 by 2026, *(b)* 67 by 2036 and *(c)* 68 by 2046, assuming they continue in employment until state pension age. [82601]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Estimated numbers of people currently in paid work and not in full-time education, of an age to be potentially affected by such changes in state pension age (SPA), first quarter 2006, in Great Britain

Age in first quarter 2006	*Number (million)*
38 to 46 (SPA 66 or between 65 and 66)	6.4
29 to 37 (SPA 67 or between 66 and 67)	5.7
16 to 28 (SPA 68 or between 67 and 68)	4.9
Total	17.0

Note:
Each increase in the SPA is phased in gradually over two years.

Source:
Labour Force Survey.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women who are currently in employment will be affected by the increase in the state pension age from 60 to 65. [82602]

James Purnell: Around 10.5 million women in paid work, and not in full-time education, in Great Britain in the first quarter of 2006 were of an age to be potentially affected by the equalisation of state pension age from 2010 to 2020.

Source:
Labour Force survey

Vulnerable Households (Pathfinder Areas)

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many vulnerable households in the private sector in pathfinder areas have *(a)* accrued arrears, *(b)* been served a notice of possession and *(c)* been evicted. [80361]

Mr. Plaskitt: Four per cent. of claimants in the pathfinder areas have accrued arrears of eight weeks or more, and payment of their benefit has transferred to their landlord. A further 12 per cent. of claimants have had payment of their benefit transferred to their landlord on the grounds of vulnerability or that they are unlikely to pay.

Information on the level of arrears accrued by vulnerable claimants is not available as the nine local housing allowance (LHA) pathfinders have each interpreted the LHA vulnerability safeguards according to local circumstances and operational practices.

Information on the numbers of tenants in the pathfinder areas who have been served a notice seeking possession and/or who have been evicted is also not available. However, evidence from the interviews with local authority and voluntary sector stakeholders, undertaken as part of the evaluation in the pathfinder areas, has not indicated that there has been any noticeable rise in levels of possessions or evictions due to the introduction of the LHA.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of local housing allowance on vulnerable tenants in private rented schemes in pathfinder areas. [80362]

Mr. Plaskitt: The impact of the local housing allowance (LHA) on vulnerable tenants in private rented accommodation is a key theme of the evaluation. The working of the vulnerability safeguards have been examined at the six, 15 month and final stages of the evaluation. The six and 15 month stages have been reported upon and published and copies are available in the Library. The reporting of the final evaluation has now commenced.

The findings to date suggest that the safeguards have been applied appropriately to the various local conditions of the pathfinders and are generally working well. Consequently, very few problems have been identified by the welfare and advice agencies that are also included in the evaluation or in the research undertaken by the CAB and Shelter.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to give vulnerable *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* local housing allowance claimants in the private sector the choice of direct payments to landlords. [80363]

Mr. Plaskitt: One of the key principles of the local housing allowance is to encourage personal responsibility, which is why local housing allowance will be paid to the tenant wherever possible.

In the local housing allowance pathfinders there are safeguards in place to enable a local authority to identify when payment should be made to the landlord, rather than the tenant. These safeguards have worked well, and we shall continue to review them as we develop the details of the scheme for national roll out.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received in respect of the local housing allowance vulnerability procedures; and if he will make a statement. [80364]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Government outlined their proposals for extending the local housing allowance in the Green Paper "A new deal for welfare: Empowering people to work" on Tuesday 24 January 2006. As part of the consultation process, and in informal discussions, representations have been received on all aspects of the local housing allowance scheme, including the vulnerability procedures. These comments will be considered as the details of the scheme are developed for national roll out.

The findings to date from the evaluation of the local housing allowance suggest that the safeguards have been applied appropriately to the various local conditions of the Pathfinders and are generally working well. Consequently, very few problems have been identified by the welfare and advice agencies that are also included in the evaluation or in the research undertaken by the CAB and Shelter.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 10 July 2006

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Departmental Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the carbon emissions of her Department; what commitment she has made to reducing such emissions; and if she will make a statement. [81336]

Bridget Prentice: My Department's last published statement on carbon emissions is 14,900 tonnes of carbon equivalent (tC) for the 2004-05 reporting year. The DCA is fully committed to reducing carbon emissions and invests in a programme of energy surveys to identify areas of potential energy savings. In addition to this the Department has also opened discussions with the Carbon Trust to look at further methods of reducing emissions including further reduction in usage and self generation.

Dr. David Kelly

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to her answer of 14 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1267W, on Dr. David Kelly, on what date she expects the original documents supplied to the Hutton inquiry, currently held at the National Archives, to be made available for public inspection. [81166]

Ms Harman: The inquiry papers are at the National Archives for cataloguing in accordance with archival standards. No date has been set for completion of this work.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what matters were discussed when officials met the Oxfordshire coroner on 11 August 2003; and whether they included consideration of the issuing of a death certificate for Dr. Kelly. [83739]

Ms Harman: I understand that only the certification and registration of the death were discussed.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs who requested the meeting between officials and the Oxfordshire coroner on 11 August 2003; and who was at the meeting. [83740]

Ms Harman: The meeting was requested by the Oxfordshire coroner. The Worcestershire coroner and Honorary Secretary of the Coroners Society, a senior lawyer and the Head of Tribunals Strategy Branch of the then Lord Chancellor's Department, were also present.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to her answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 304W, on Dr. David Kelly, under what authority the Oxfordshire coroner conducted a resumed hearing of the inquest into the death of Dr. Kelly on 14 August 2003; and for what purpose. [83742]

Ms Harman: The coroner resumed the inquest on 14 August 2003 in accordance with the authority he has under section 17A(2) of the Coroners Act 1988. The purpose of the resumed hearing was to take evidence as to the interim cause of death thus enabling the coroner to fulfil his duty of sending the Registrar of Deaths the necessary particulars concerning the death.

Elections

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she is taking to increase *(a)* voter registration and *(b)* electoral turnout in areas of deprivation. [83665]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have embarked on a number of initiatives to promote participation in democracy. It does not directly promote voter turnout in elections; that is the role of political parties, the candidates and the Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Administration Bill makes a number of changes to improve the registration process. These include a new duty setting out the minimum steps that the electoral registration officer will be expected to take to ensure a comprehensive register and enabling people to register after an election has been called. The Bill also provides a new power for returning officers to promote participation at elections, and the Government have made available £2.5 million to support the new power.

Family Proceedings

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many judges were involved in family proceedings in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; [83253]

(2) how many vacancies for judges in family proceedings there were in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06; [83254]

(3) what plans he has to recruit judges in family proceedings. [83255]

Ms Harman: This information is not available in the form requested. There are 19 Judges of the Family Division of the High Court, apart from its President, and 20 District Judges in the Principal Registry of the Family Division. A further 166 judges are authorised to hear High Court family cases as Deputy High Court Judges. Family cases might also be heard in the Court of Appeal by any of the five Heads of Division, or 37 Lords Justices of Appeal, or on appeal to the House of Lords by any of the 12 Lords of Appeal in Ordinary.

There are currently 446 judges below the High Court with authorisations to hear private law Children Act cases in the county courts (dealing, for example, with contact and residence orders) and 594 judges below the High Court with authorisations to hear public law Children Act cases in the county courts (such as care proceedings).

Not all judges with such authorisations will, however, sit in family proceedings in any particular year. Other judges may deal with other forms of family proceedings including divorce and ancillary relief. Family proceedings other than divorce and ancillary relief are also dealt with by District Judges (magistrates courts) when sitting in the family proceedings courts.

Apart from the Family Division of the High Court and the Principal Registry there has been no fixed number of judges dealing with family proceedings, and so the number of vacancies for judges in family proceedings is impossible to quantify. No posts have been left vacant in the Family Division or the Principal Registry. Judges at different levels are deployed according to the needs of the courts.

The Judicial Appointments Commission is running a selection exercise for the District Bench and this may include judges who will sit in family proceedings. In addition it will be possible to ask the JAC to run selection exercises to fill vacancies in the High Court Bench and Circuit Bench and this may include specific family posts.

Inquests

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will list the occasions on which an inquest has been adjourned under section 17A of the Coroners Act 1988; and how many deaths were involved in each case. [83735]

Ms Harman: Inquests have been adjourned under section 17A of the Coroners Act 1988 on four occasions: (1) Ladbroke Grove Rail Crash—inquests involving 31 deaths adjourned in February 2000; (2) deaths connected with Dr. Harold Shipman—inquests totalling 311 were adjourned in May 2001 and July 2002; (3) Dr. David Kelly—inquest adjourned in August 2003; (4) the Gaul fishing vessel—inquests involving four deaths were adjourned in November 2003.

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to her answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 305W, on inquests, how many inquests have been adjourned since 1 January 1997 because of the creation of an inquiry; and how many of these were subsequently *(a)* resumed and *(b)* not resumed. [83774]

Ms Harman: A total of 347 inquests have been adjourned under section 17A of the Coroners Act 1988 since 1 January 1997 following the setting up of an inquiry. None of these inquests has been resumed.

Judges (North-west)

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what proportion of judges in the north-west are themselves from the north-west; and if she will make a statement. [83552]

Ms Harman: The northern circuit, which covers the north-west, includes 93 circuit judges, 70 district judges, 15 district judges (magistrates courts), 177 recorders, eight deputy circuit judges and 129 deputy district judges. Judges are required to live within reasonable travelling distance of their home courts, although this need not necessarily be within the boundaries of the circuit.

Four High Court judges are especially linked to the circuit and act as the two presiding judges of the circuit, the Family Division liaison judge and the Vice-Chancellor of the County Palatine of Lancaster. They divide their time between London and the north-west. Other judges may also sit in the north-west as required.

The Department does not collect information about the place of origin of judicial office-holders.

Legal Profession (Complaints)

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) how many solicitors have refused to accept decisions of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal in each of the last 10 years; [83900]

(2) what rights of redress are available to those who have won decisions at both the Law Society Adjudication Panel and the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal; [83901]

(3) what sanctions are available against solicitors who refuse to accept decisions of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal; [83902]

(4) what performance standards she has set for the length of time a consumer complaint to the Law Society takes to be resolved, including where the solicitors refuses to accept decisions of the Law Society Adjudication Panel and the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal. [83899]

Bridget Prentice: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Tynwald Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what representatives the Government will be sending to the Tynwald Day celebrations on the Isle of Man. [83112]

Ms Harman: Her Majesty's Government was not represented at Tynwald Day on 5 July this year. Her Majesty the Queen was represented by the Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man, His Excellency Vice Admiral Sir Paul Haddacks KCB.

Voter Registration

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the net change in voter registration as a result of its 2006 local elections registration campaign. [82998]

Bridget Prentice: The Government led a successful campaign using young urban artists to raise awareness of voter registration among 18 to 24-year-olds in London before the May 2006 local government elections. We are currently undertaking an evaluation of the campaign and the results will be available later this year.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what the cost was of her Department's voter registration campaign for the 2006 local elections. [82999]

Bridget Prentice: In London for the May 2006 local government elections, the Government spent £192,571 on the 1824 Collective campaign which promoted awareness of voter registration among London's urban youth using the creative concept of an urban music collective to appeal to 18 to 24-year-olds.

HEALTH

Alcohol Detoxification Programmes

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to allow pastoral outreach workers assisting alcoholics without families engaged in detoxification programmes to be treated as next-of-kin for health information purposes. [81869]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* Patients who have the capacity to consent to the release of their personal information may consent to its release to pastoral outreach workers.

In the case of those patients who do not have that capacity, healthcare professionals may release such information to pastoral outreach workers where they consider the release would be in the best interests of their patient and that it would be in accordance with the right to respect for private life which is guaranteed by the European Convention of Human Rights.

These provisions are designed to provide a balance between the protection of the privacy of personal healthcare information and the communication of that information where that is appropriate, whether to pastoral outreach workers or to others.

Clinical Trial Regulations

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will bring forward the proposed amendment to the Clinical Trials Regulations of 2004 on consent; and what steps she is taking *(a)* to halt and *(b)* to reverse the reductions in emergency care research in the meantime. [83472]

Andy Burnham: The Government are committed to the support for emergency care research. Following detailed consultation with those involved in emergency research, a provision was included in the UK Clinical Trials Regulations[1] which precludes incapacitated adults participating in trials without the prior consent of their legal representative. However, after the regulations came into force, researchers involved in a large trial requiring immediate administration of a clot busting drug to resuscitate patients following a heart attack found it was impracticable to obtain consent using the provisions of the regulations. This was because the patient had usually lost capacity to consent and the limited time available for administering the trial drug did not allow contact to be made with the legal representative.

The Government therefore consulted on a proposed amendment to the regulations which would enable incapacitated adults to be entered into trials prior to the consent of a legal representative having been obtained where the trial was of a medicine to be used in emergency situations. Consent would subsequently need to be obtained. The proposal received wide support.

However, the occurrence of serious adverse reactions in a drug trial in healthy volunteers in March has led to heightened scrutiny of all clinical trial regulation, including a re-examination of this proposal to ensure that it can be justified. That re-examination is ongoing.

[1] The Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004 [SI 20004/1031].

Clostridium Difficile

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths have been caused by the bacterium Clostridium difficile in *(a)* Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS and *(b)* England in the last three years; and what guidance her Department has issued to (i) hospitals and (ii) primary care trusts on preventing such deaths. [83738]

Andy Burnham: The data requested is not available centrally. The Office for National Statistics published figures on the number of deaths where Clostridium difficile was mentioned on the death certificate from 1999 to 2004 in Health Statistics Quarterly 30 in May 2006. The number of deaths where Clostridium difficile was mentioned on the death certificate and the number where it was also the underlying cause of death are given in the following table. The full paper is available at www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/HS030.pdf. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Number of death certificates with Clostridium difficile mentioned and as the underlying cause, England, 2002-04

	Mentioned	*Underlying cause*
2002	1,338	709
2003	1,702	912
2004	2,155	1,187

A joint professional letter from the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Nursing Officer went out to NHS trusts in December 2005 to remind them of the importance of this infection. This letter listed the key actions to control Clostridium difficile and highlighted the guidance available.[1,2] The letter is available at www.dh.gov.uk/assetroot/04/12/55/23/04125523.pdf. A copy has been placed in the Library.

As part of our delivery programme "Saving lives: a delivery programme to reduce healthcare associated infections including MRSA" a high impact intervention that is a tool to help reduce Clostridium difficile infections was published in June 2006.

A simple guide to Clostridium difficile is also available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetroot/04/11/58/84/04115884.pdf. A copy has been placed in the Library.

[1] Clostridium Difficile Infection, Prevention and Management A Report by a Department of Health/PHLS joint working group. 1994

[2] Guidelines for optimal surveillance of Clostridium difficile infection in hospitals Brazier JS and Duerden BI. Guidelines for optimal surveillance of Clostridium difficile infection in hospitals. Comm.Dis.Pub.Health. 1998:1;(4) 229-230.

Contraception

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what types of contraceptive are available to *(a)* men and *(b)* women through family planning clinics; what the price of each item is; and what the cost of providing each contraceptive free of charge was in the last year for which figures are available. [83200]

Caroline Flint: The type of contraceptives available to men and women through community contraceptive services are shown in the following list. However, availability will vary between clinics.

Available contraception at family planning clinics

Available to men

- Male condoms
- Vasectomy (referral)
- Contraception advice

Available to women

- Oral contraceptive methods (pill)
- Intrauterine devices (IUD)
- Intrauterine system (IUS)
- Implants
- Intertable contraceptives
- Male and female condoms (femidoms)
- Female sterilisation (referral)
- Contraception patch
- Cap/diaphragm
- Other chemicals/spermacides
- Natural family planning awareness

The price of each item is available from the British National Formulary and is available on their website at www.bnf.org

The cost of providing each contraceptive free of charge via community contraceptive (family planning) clinics is not collected centrally.

Death Certificates

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the Government have to audit death certificates. [81894]

Andy Burnham: The Government are considering what else might be done to strengthen the overall system within which deaths are certified and investigated, to complement the draft Bill on coroner reform published by the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 12 June 2006[1].

[1] Coroner Reform: The Government's draft Bill—Improving death investigation in England and Wales, June 2006, Cm 6849

Diet

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions the Government has had on plans to promote healthy eating; and with whom. [83750]

Caroline Flint: As part of the obesity prevention programme, the Government have a well developed stakeholder engagement process to promote healthy eating. The Department has been working closely with a development group of about 40 stakeholders drawn from the non-government organisations, physical activity, food manufacturing and food retailing sectors. The group also includes the frontline services within the national health service, local government, and the Departments for Culture, Media and Sports, for Education and Skills, for Transport and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The work of the Department is well informed by an expert review group of leading experts from the fields of behavioural psychology, nutrition and physical activity.

Doctors

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to ensure the retention of junior doctors in NHS posts. [83634]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Training opportunities are agreed locally between service and educational representatives. However, it is likely that most doctors in training posts in England, and who therefore have a reasonable expectation of competing successfully for further training, will be able to do so. As always, some doctors may need to be flexible about the specialities or locations in which they work.

Fertility Services

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of fertility services in Shropshire. [81849]

Caroline Flint: NHS West Midlands reports that both Shropshire county primary care trust and Telford and Wrekin PCT provide two cycles of in vitro fertilisation treatment to couples in which the woman is aged 37.5 or under at the time of treatment. Their policy on eligibility for treatment was determined before the publication of the clinical guideline on the assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

The PCTs are currently reviewing their policies against the NICE guidelines and a paper will be produced for consideration by the respective boards in the autumn.

Healthcare-acquired Infections

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital patients have *(a)* contracted and *(b)* died from exposure to healthcare-acquired infections in the constituency of North-West Cambridgeshire since 1997. [82248]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* The information requested is not available in the format requested. However, data for meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood stream infections, Clostridium difficile reports and glycopeptide resistant enterococci (GRE) blood stream infections have been set out in the following tables.

Meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus

Trusts in North West Cambridgeshire constituency	*Number of MRSA bacteraemias April to March each year*			
	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	12	25	26	12
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	12	10	10	16

Clostridium difficile reports and glycopeptide resistant enterococci (GRE) blood stream infections

Trusts in North West Cambridgeshire constituency	*Number of Clostridium difficile reports for patients 65 and over January 2004 to December 2004*	*Number of Glycopeptide resistant enterococci (GRE) blood stream infections reports October 2003 to September 2004*
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	73	1
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	166	0

Notes:
Information on deaths due to hospital acquired infections is not available. The Office for National Statistics publishes statistics on deaths with Clostridium difficile[1] or MRSA[2] mentioned on the death certificate. However, no information is available on where these infections were acquired either in terms of hospital or community acquisition or of strategic health authority.
[1] Deaths involving Clostridium difficile: England and Wales, 1999 to 2004 Health Statistics Quarterly 30, summer 2006, pp56-60
[2] Deaths involving MRSA: England and Wales, 2000 to 2004 Health Statistics Quarterly 29, spring 2006, pp63-8.
Source:
Health Protection Agency

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital patients have *(a)* contracted and *(b)* died from exposure to MRSA or similar infections in each year since 1997. [82454]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* The information requested is not available. The best available information is from the mandatory surveillance system which provides data on the number of reports of meticillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) blood stream infections from April 2001 to 30 September 2005 as shown in the table. Figures from October 2005 to March 2006 will be published later this month.

MRSA blood stream infections in England from 1 April 2001 to 30 September 2005

Period	*Number of MRS bloodstream infections*
1 April 2001 to 30 March 2002	7,281
1 April 2002 to 30 March 2003	7,390
1 April 2003 to 30 March 2004	7,705
1 April 2004 to 30 March 2005	7,214
1 April 2005 to 30 September 2005	3,580

Source:
Health Protection Agency

The total number of reports of Clostridium difficile associated disease in England between January and December 2004 was 44,350 and the total number of reports of clinically significant glycopeptide resistant enterococci blood stream infections in England from October 2003 to September 2004 was 620.

A national prevalence survey of hospital acquired infection was carried out this spring and interim results will be published in the autumn.

Information on deaths due to hospital acquired infections is not available. The Office for National Statistics publish statistics on deaths with *Clostridium difficile*[1] or MRSA[2] mentioned on the death certificate. However, no information is available on where these infections were acquired, either in terms of hospital or community acquisition or of strategic health authority.

[1] Deaths involving Clostridium difficile. England and Wales, 1999 to 2004 Health Statistics Quarterly 30, summer 2006, pp56-60

[2] Deaths involving MRSA: England and Wales, 2000 to 2004 Health Statistics Quarterly 29, spring 2006, pp63-8.

Human Pappiloma Virus Vaccine

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the human pappilloma virus vaccines will be considered at the meeting of the joint council on vaccination and immunisation in February 2007. [82547]

Caroline Flint: A joint committee on vaccination and immunisation subgroup met in May 2006 to review all available information on human pappilloma virus vaccines and will hold further meetings during 2006, reporting to the main JCVI committee once they have all the relevant information.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress the Government have made on its plans to introduce the human pappilloma virus vaccine; and if she will make a statement. [82548]

Caroline Flint: The joint committee on vaccination and immunisation subgroup met in May 2006 to review all the available information on human pappilloma virus vaccines and will hold further meetings during 2006. Implementation plans will be based on the advice of JCVI as to the most effective immunisation schedule should HPV vaccine be judged to be beneficial.

Manor Hospital, Walsall

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects a decision to be announced on approval for the contracts for the major development at the NHS Manor hospital, Walsall. [83960]

Caroline Flint: The announcement of decisions following the private finance initiative revalidation exercise will be in two waves. It is anticipated that the announcement for schemes which are most advanced--generally those that have already appointed their preferred bidder—will be in late July. The remainder will be announced later in the year.

NHS Finances

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the level of NHS trust deficits in areas with greater than average deprivation; and what steps she is taking to reduce differences in the level of deficits between areas of above and below average deprivation; [80946]

(2) what assessment she has made of the level of NHS trust deficits in *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban areas; and what steps she is taking to reduce the difference between the level of deficits in each type of area. [80947]

Andy Burnham: Our analysis of the 2005-06 financial positions of national health service organisations has shown that there is no strong relationship between financial performance and any single factor, including the level of deprivation and the extent to which areas are urban or rural.

A full report on 2005-06 NHS financial performance is available in the Library.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the values were of purchases of health care from non-NHS providers by *(a)* Rochdale, *(b)* Bury, *(c)* North Manchester and *(d)* Oldham primary care trust in each year since 2001. [83040]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

Primary care trusts—total purchase of health care from non-national health service bodies

£000

PCT Name	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Rochdale	n/a	n/a	9,081	5,422	5,166
Bury	n/a	n/a	214	287	5,913
North Manchester	615	1,999	31	6,001	1,472
Oldham	n/a	n/a	11,660	11,988	11,652

Source:
Annual financial returns of the named primary care trusts.

NHS Professionals

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who is responsible for auditing NHS Professionals. [83745]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The annual accounts of NHS Professionals are audited by the National Audit Office.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage mark-up NHS Professionals adds in each region to the rates charged by private agencies for the supply of each category of temporary staff. [83746]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS Professionals does not place any mark up, or agency handling charge, on agency invoices.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to change the structure of NHS Professionals. [83747]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The future organisational form of NHS Professionals is yet to be determined. My officials are working with NHS Professionals on its future structure.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when NHS Professionals is budgeted to break even in its annual running costs. [83748]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is working closely with NHS Professionals to ensure it becomes self-financing from 2007-08.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what were the set-up costs of NHS Professionals; and what the annual running costs have been in each year since its establishment. [83749]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government initially invested £7 million in the pilot sites of St. Mary's national health service Trust, Paddington; Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust; West Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service; John Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust; East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust; North Bristol NHS Trust in 2001-02 and a further £24 million to roll out operations more widely in 2002-03. NHS Professionals became a special health authority on 1 January 2004 and details of its running costs are available in its annual accounts which are available in the Library.

Nurse Training

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment she has made of the syllabus for nurse training; and if she will make a statement; [82869]

(2) whether there is a preliminary training school module in nurse training; [82870]

(3) in what module of nurse training discipline and courtesy is taught. [82871]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* The Department is not responsible for setting curricula for nurse training. The Nursing and Midwifery Council sets the standards for registration as a qualified nurse or midwife. The education standards set by the NMC are at a broad level of principle and are used by higher education institutions to inform their curriculum development. The NMC closely monitors the standards of pre-registration education and quality assures courses to ensure that they are teaching the required skills and knowledge to the right standard. This includes the development of communication skills, both with patients and with other members of the health care team.

Palliative Care for the Terminally Ill

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations she has received about the Palliative Care for the Terminally Ill Bill; how many *(a)* supported and *(b)* opposed the Bill; and if she will make a statement. [73279]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have received 20 letters concerning the Palliative Care for the Terminally Ill Bill forwarded by hon. Members on behalf of constituents, and one from a member of the public directly. All of these were supportive of the Bill.

The Government are still considering the Bill, and will make their position known in due course.

Performance Management

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures her Department has introduced to improve performance management and local delivery monitoring. [81521]

Andy Burnham: The Department has an established system of local delivery planning over the past decade that establishes trajectories for delivery of the key national targets set out in the planning and priorities framework 'National Standards, Local Action' (2005).

To support this, monthly and quarterly returns from the national health service are collected which report local progress against these plans. Under the performance regime established in 'Shifting the Balance of Power' (2001) and 'The NHS Improvement Plan' (2004), the Department performance manages strategic health authorities, and SHAs performance manage delivery by NHS trusts and primary care trusts.

The monthly and quarterly returns are routinely revised to ensure that the data tracks the most significant issues that drive delivery.

'Health Reform in England' (2005) signals developments in the performance regime over the next few years, especially an emphasis on early warning of potential poor performance.

Physiotherapists

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for physiotherapy in each year since 1997. [81805]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Reproductive Health

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations she has received about *(a)* death and *(b)* disability resulting from the contraceptive pill in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [81284]

Andy Burnham: In the last year, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), which is the Government agency responsible for evaluating the safety, quality and efficacy of all licensed medicines, has received eight reports of suspected adverse drug reactions in association with the use of a contraceptive pill that were considered to be disabling or incapacitating by the reporter.

The reporting of a suspected adverse reaction does not necessarily mean that the drug was responsible. It is possible that, in some cases, a new or underlying medical condition or concomitant medication may have been responsible. In two of these cases, (an)other medicine/medicines were also considered to be causally related to the reaction by the reporter. Furthermore, the coincidental occurrence of some adverse events in women taking hormonal contraceptives is inevitable given their widespread use.

Regarding the number of suspected reactions with a fatal outcome that have been reported, the MHRA is unable to release information when it relates to five or fewer cases of any suspected ADRs in order to prevent identification of the patients or the reporter. For this reason we are unable to disclose the exact number of reported cases.

Turnaround Teams

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid by *(a)* Yorkshire Wolds and Coast primary care trust and *(b)* other PCTs in turnaround to (i) Ernst and Young and (ii) other companies assisting with turnaround. [80714]

Andy Burnham: This information is being collected for the Health Select Committee and is not yet ready for release.

Vaccine Damage Payments

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vaccine damage payments were made in respect of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine in each of the last five years; and what proportion this represents of *(a)* all vaccine damage payments and *(b)* all doses of measles, mumps and rubella. [82325]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

The Vaccine Damage Payments Unit (VDPU) do not hold information about specific vaccinations linked to successful claims. Claimants are asked to specify on the claim form all the vaccinations that the disabled person has received, not just the vaccine that is claimed to have caused the disablement. As a number of vaccinations are often given in close proximity, often on the same day, it is not always possible to state categorically which has caused the adverse reaction. It is therefore not possible to state how many vaccine damage payments have been made in respect of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.

(a) The VDPU does however record details of all the vaccinations noted on the claim form. Out of 24 successful awards in the last five years, there have been two where the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine was among those listed on the claim form.

(b) If those two claims were awarded in respect of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine this would represent one per 4.3 million doses of the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine.

Waiting Times

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for functional electrical stimulation treatment in *(a)* England and *(b)* Dorset in the last year for which figures are available. [84122]

Andy Burnham: The official figures on waiting times show the length of time that people currently on the list for treatment have been waiting. The data are collected at consultant-led speciality level, for example neurology and clinical neuro-physiology. It is not possible to split this data down to show waiting list data for specific operations and treatments such as functional electrical stimulation.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the case for *(a)* changes in the basis of air passenger duty from payment per passenger to payment per flight and *(b)* relating the level of such payments to the amount of carbon dioxide and other pollutants produced during the flight; and if he will make a statement. [82849]

John Healey: A discussion paper published jointly by Her Majesty's Treasury and the Department for Transport in March 2003, entitled "Aviation and the Environment: Using Economic Instruments", considered the role of economic instruments and the environmental costs of aviation. This was also considered in the Air Transport White Paper, "The Future of Air Transport", published on 16 December 2003 and in chapter 5 of "Aviation and Global Warming", published by the Department for Transport on 10 February 2004.

The Air Transport White Paper set out the conclusions of the Government's analysis, including our view that aviation should be brought within the EU emissions trading scheme by 2008, as the most effective way of tackling the climate change impact. Along with other measures to tackle local environmental impacts, this will help to ensure that the air transport sector meets its environmental costs.

In the Financial Statement and Budget Report 2006 the Government stated that:

"the Government is aware that economic instruments, including APD, may provide a route through which improved environmental performance in the aviation sector can be incentivised and so will continue to explore options for developing further such measures."

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason transit flights are exempt from air passenger duty; and what estimate he has made of how much extra revenue would be raised per annum were such flights subject to this duty. [82850]

John Healey: Not all transit flights are exempt from air passenger duty and in order to qualify specific criteria must be met. These are set out in Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs' public notice 550, which gives details of the specific requirements of the exemption criteria. This notice can be obtained from the Revenue and Customs website at www.hmrc.gov.uk

Exempting connecting flights ensures that passengers are not taxed twice for a journey when making a connecting flight within the UK, or that if they are entering the UK in transit to an end destination outside the UK they are not taxed merely for the short stopover in the UK that is necessary to catch a connecting flight.

HMRC does not collect data on the number of transit passengers that pass through UK airports, and therefore we have not made any analysis on the extra revenue that charging APD on these passengers would raise.

Arms Imports

Nick Harvey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 5767W, on AK-47s, what UK custom entry clearance has been issued to UK based companies for the importation of pallets of small arms from Bosnia since June 2003. [83921]

Dawn Primarolo: Since June 2003 UK Customs have issued no entry clearances to UK companies in respect of items that might be classed as small arms under commodity code 9302 or 9304.

Bank Notes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the expected period of use is of the *(a)* £5, *(b)* £10, *(c)* £20 and *(d)* £50 note. [83456]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the then Financial Secretary, my hon. Friend the Member for East Ham (Mr. Timms), to my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 14 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 84W.

Barker Review

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Barker review of land use planning policy to report. [83003]

John Healey: The interim report of the Barker review of land use planning was published on 4 July 2006. The final report is due later in 2006.

Child Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of child tax credits on child poverty since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [83898]

Dawn Primarolo: Between 1998-99 and 2004-05, 700,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty. Macroeconomic stability, active labour market policies such as the new deal, policies to make work pay such as the working tax credit, and financial support for families, including the child tax credit, have all contributed to this success.

Since 2002-03, the last year before child tax credit and working tax credit were introduced, 200,000 children have been lifted out of relative poverty.

As a result of the Government's reforms to the tax and benefit system since 1997, by October 2006, in real terms, families with children will be, on average, £1,500 a year better off, while those in the poorest fifth will be, on average, £3,400 per year better off.

Civil Service, Wales

Albert Owen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what measures he plans to take to ensure that civil service job cuts in Wales do not adversely affect economic regeneration of Objective 1 areas. [83934]

Mr. Timms: The Government are committed to strengthening the Welsh economy and regenerating Objective 1 areas.

Following Sir Michael Lyons' independent review of public sector relocation the Government undertook to relocate 20,000 posts out of London and the south-east by 2010. By April 2006 7,800 posts had moved to every country and region in the UK, including more than 1,600 to Wales.

Since 1997 employment in Wales has increased by more than 10 per cent., with an additional 123,000 jobs created.

In order to target resources into improving key front-line services, the Government are committed to reducing the number of civil servants engaged in non-frontline functions by 70,600 (net) by 2008. Departments are responsible for implementing their work force targets and HM Treasury does not hold data showing the location of each affected site.

Regeneration spending, including the Objective 1 programme, is a devolved matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 410W, on correspondence, what estimate he has made of the cost of answering the question; and if he will make a statement. [82678]

John Healey: It is not possible to identify separately the average cost of officials' time in replying to letters from hon. Members and members of the public. Such correspondence is often of a varied and complex nature. Therefore any exercise to determine the average cost in officials' time in responding to letters would incur disproportionate cost.

It is not possible to identify separately stationery and postage costs for the Department when replying to correspondence from hon. Members and members of the public.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 18 May regarding a constituent; and what the reason is for the delay in replying. [83400]

Dawn Primarolo: I understand that HMRC wrote to the hon. Member on 6 July and that they will be writing again very shortly.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Tax Credit Office will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 23 May; ref: 2006-05 008197. [83401]

Dawn Primarolo: The Tax Credit Office replied to the hon. Member on 6 July.

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter of 2 May 2006 from the hon. Member for Castle Point enclosing one from Mr. Layzell of 27 April 2006. [84144]

Dawn Primarolo: I have done so.

Double Taxation Agreements

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many requests from overseas tax authorities HM Revenue and Customs has received in the past three years pursuant to the operation of actual assistance provisions of UK double taxation agreements; from which countries these requests have been received; what amount of tax was claimed in each case; and what checks HMRC applied in pursuance of provisions corresponding to *(a)* article 27 para 2 and *(b)* other articles of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development mutual convention to satisfy itself that the tax they were asked to collect was properly due and payable. [83221]

Dawn Primarolo: At present the UK has no provisions in any of its double taxation agreements that correspond to article 27 of the OECD model convention nor has it ratified the Council of Europe/OECD convention on mutual administrative assistance in tax matters.

Draft Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what draft Bills have been produced by his Department since October 2005; how many were *(a)* examined and *(b)* are planned to be examined by (i) a departmental Select Committee and (ii) a Joint Committee; what draft Bills are still to be produced by his Department; when each is to be published; how many clauses each has; and if he will make a statement; [81250]

(2) what his practice is regarding meeting, discussing and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81251]

John Healey: The Treasury has not introduced any Bills in draft in the period covered by the hon. Member's question. Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation that will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be indicated in the Queen's Speech.

The Treasury seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy making process, both formal and informal. The Treasury holds regular meetings with representatives of the principal stakeholder groups for our policy areas and with relevant experts. Organisations and individuals can also contribute to the Treasury's formal consultations that abide by the code of conduct on consultation. As required by the code, the Department then gives feedback on the responses received and on how the consultation process influenced the policy decision.

Economically Inactive Persons

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the ratio is of economically inactive persons to the number of persons engaged in manufacturing industry in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland. [83803]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 10 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the ratio of economically inactive persons to the number of persons employed in manufacturing in (a) England (b) Wales and (c) Scotland. I am replying in her absence. (83803)

The attached table gives the ratio of persons economically inactive to people employed in manufacturing for the 3 countries of Great Britain for the period three month ending March 2006.

Estimates are taken from the Office for National Statistics' Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Economically inactive people and people employed in the manufacturing[1] industry by country of residence for people of working age[2] not seasonally adjusted

	Three months ending March 2006		
	Economically inactive (Thousand)	*Employed in manufacturing industry (Thousand)*	*Ratio[3]*
England	6,455	3,008	2.1
Wales	446	183	2.4
Scotland	652	254	2.6

[1] Standard Industrial Classification (SIC92) code D.
[2] Men aged 16-64 or women 16-59.
[3] Economically active people divided by the number of those in employment in manufacturing industry.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey

Education Capital Projects

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which education capital projects are VAT exempt; [84183]

(2) what criteria are used to decide what type of education capital projects are VAT exempt; [84184]

(3) what representations he has received from the further education sector about the VAT status of further education capital projects; [84185]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of VAT on further education capital projects; [84269]

(5) if he will take steps to ensure that further education and schools capital projects receive the same treatment. [84270]

Dawn Primarolo: VAT is chargeable on the construction of all buildings in the education sector, except those that will be used at least 90 per cent. for a relevant charitable purpose, such as the provision of free-of-charge education by a charity. In such cases, construction of the building is VAT zero rated. VAT agreements with our European partners mean that, while we can maintain this relief for the construction of charitable buildings, it cannot be extended further.

However, where VAT is chargeable on capital projects, it can be reclaimed from HMRC to the extent that it relates to taxable business use of the facilities. In addition, local authorities can usually reclaim from HMRC all VAT costs relating to the educational institutions that they maintain.

Refund arrangements for local authorities reflect a commitment, made when VAT was first introduced, that VAT would not fall as a burden on local taxation. Accordingly, since 1997, bodies have been admitted to these refund arrangements only where they undertake a function ordinarily carried on by local government and have the power to draw their funding directly from local taxation. Unlike local authority maintained institutions, further education colleges do not meet the second of these conditions.

It is reasonable to expect that bids for public funding by further education colleges should take into account that they are not eligible for the VAT refund arrangements that apply for local authority maintained institutions. However, no detailed assessment has been made of the impact of VAT on further education capital projects.

Representations are regularly made to Treasury Ministers by MPs and stakeholders on a wide range of issues, including VAT and extended use of educational facilities.

Engagements

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many military establishments he has visited in each of the last five years. [65762]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth) on 13 January 2005, *Official Report*, column 595W.

Extradition

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has made to the Home Secretary on the taking of emergency measures to alter the Extradition Act 2003. [83041]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers discuss a wide range of issues on a regular basis with their colleagues in the Home Office and other Departments.

Financial Capability

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which citizens advice bureaux are working in partnership with the personal finance education group on financial capability in schools; and what plans he has to expand this project. [81078]

Ed Balls: I welcome the excellent work that citizens advice bureaux are doing with PFEG to improve the financial capability of students in schools, including the successful pilot they ran with independent financial advisers as part of the FSA-led national strategy for financial capability. In addition, I welcome the involvement of citizens advice bureaux in the £45 million financial inclusion fund project to deliver a significant increase in the capacity of free face-to-face debt advice for the financially excluded. I look forward to the outcome of these important projects with interest.

Financial Support (Pregnancy)

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of providing financial assistance to low-income families during pregnancy; and whether there are any plans to provide any such financial support. [82824]

Dawn Primarolo: Statutory maternity pay, maternity allowance and the Sure Start maternity grant provide financial support for low-income families during pregnancy. Statutory maternity pay and maternity allowance are worth £108.85 a week for up to 26 weeks, and may be taken from 11 weeks prior to the birth of the child. The Sure Start maternity grant is worth £500 per baby and may be claimed from the 29th week of pregnancy. The Government also run the welfare food scheme, which provides free milk, infant formula and vitamins to pregnant women on low incomes.

Health Statistics

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate was of *(a)* cancers and *(b)* stroke in West Suffolk in each of the past five years. [82729]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 10 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the rate was of *(a)* cancers and *(b)* stroke in West Suffolk in each of the past five years. I am replying in her absence. [82729]

A: Cancers—incidence

The latest available rates for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2003. Incidence rates are not available centrally for parliamentary constituencies. Cancer incidence rates for all malignant cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer for the years 1999-2003 are given in Table 1 below for the Forest Heath and St. Edmundsbury local authorities.

B: Stroke—incidence

There is no complete register of stroke cases. Information is available centrally on emergency admission to hospital from the NHS Hospital Episode System (HES), and on death registrations.

Figures on emergency admissions to hospital for strokes can be found on the Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base website: http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/. (Table reference numbers: 10C_5281SR7CM_04-V2 (males) 10C_5281SR7CF_04-V2 (females)). Figures are available for England, Government Office Regions, Strategic Health Authorities, Local Authorities and Primary Care Organisations. The latest year for which data are available is for the financial year 2003/04.

C: Cancers and Stroke—mortality

Mortality rates for parliamentary constituencies cannot be provided because population estimates are not available for these areas. Figures in Table 2 below are provided for the local authorities making up the requested constituency. The figures for 2000 have been adjusted to take account of revisions to the International Classification of Diseases where appropriate.

The introduction of ICD-10 for coding cause of death in England and Wales in 2001 means that data for cancer are not completely comparable with data for years before this date. The effect of the change in classification in 2001 on deaths from these causes is described in a report published in May 2002: "Office for National Statistics. Results of the ICD-10 bridge coding study, England and Wales, 1999. Health Statistics Quarterly 14 (2002), 75-83".

For cancer (malignant neoplasms) the introduction of ICD-10 caused an increase of 2.3 per cent. in the number of deaths coded to these conditions in England and Wales. Deaths in 2000 from these causes have been adjusted to provide rates which are comparable with those for 2001-2004.

The local authority of Forest Heath falls wholly within West Suffolk parliamentary constituency. The local authority of St. Edmundsbury comprises parts of West Suffolk, South Suffolk and Bury St. Edmunds parliamentary constituencies.

Table 1: Incidence rates[1] per million population for all malignant cancers[2], by sex, registered in the local authorities of Forest Heath and St. Edmundsbury, 1999-2003

	All cancers excluding nmsc	
	Male	*Female*
1999	3,849	3,671
2000	3,611	3,432
2001	3,706	3,295
2002	4,040	3,500
2003	4,430	3,495

[1] Rates per million population standardised to the European Standard Population.

[2] "All malignant cancers" are defined by codes C00-C97 excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (nmsc) code C44 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10).

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Table 2: Death rates[1] for cancer and stroke[2] for the local authorities of Forest Heath and St. Edmundsbury[3], 2001-04

	Death rates cancer		Death rates stroke	
	Forest Heath	St. Edmundsbury	Forest Heath	St. Edmundsbury
2000	1,961	1,590	510	601
2001	1,447	1,723	767	679
2002	2,145	1,676	610	664
2003	2,095	1,845	560	553
2004	1,609	1,815	541	464

[1] Rates per 1,000,000 population standardised to the European Standard Population.
[2] The cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9), 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10), 2001-2004. The codes used are: Cancer ICD9 140-208, ICD10 C00-C97 and Stroke ICD9 430-438, ICD10 160-169. Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause.
[3] Usual residents of this area.
[4] Deaths registered in each calendar year..

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of infant mortality was in West Suffolk in each of the past five years. [82730]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the rate of infant mortality was in West Suffolk in each of the past five years. (82730)

The infant mortality rates for West Suffolk parliamentary constituency from 2000 to 2004 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are given in the table below.

Infant mortality rate[1] for West Suffolk parliamentary constituency[2], 2000-04

	Number
2000	4.5
2001	5.9
2002	2.3
2003	5.2
2004	7.0

[1] Deaths aged under one year per 1,000 live births.
[2] West Suffolk parliamentary constituency boundary based on May 2006 All Fields Postcode File.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* perinatal and *(b)* infant mortality rates were in each health authority in England in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [83198]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the *(a)* perinatal and *(b)* infant mortality rates were in each health authority in England in each of the last five years. (83198)

The perinatal and infant mortality rates for the health authorities in England from 2000 to 2004 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are given in the attached table.

Perinatal mortality rate[1], England health authorities[2], 2000-04

Strategic health authority	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
England	8.2	8.0	8.4	8.5	8.1
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	6.9	6.6	6.6	7.3	6.4
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	7.0	8.3	7.8	7.5	8.4
Essex	7.2	6.0	8.5	7.1	8.1
North West London	8.6	8.8	9.4	8.3	8.6
North Central London	8.4	9.9	9.0	8.5	9.3
North East London	10.1	9.3	9.4	10.9	9.5
South East London	9.6	9.5	10.2	11.6	9.7
South West London	8.3	6.9	8.0	7.6	7.0
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	7.8	7.8	8.5	7.6	7.3
County Durham and Tees Valley	9.2	8.0	7.8	7.9	8.0
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	8.2	6.0	7.7	7.0	7.6
West Yorkshire	10.6	8.4	10.3	10.1	9.4
Cumbria and Lancashire	8.6	8.4	7.8	9.4	7.2
Greater Manchester	9.1	9.4	8.8	9.7	8.9
Cheshire and Merseyside	7.9	8.2	8.5	8.1	8.2
Thames Valley	6.9	8.3	7.4	7.3	7.3
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	6.7	7.0	6.3	6.5	6.7
Kent and Medway	6.2	6.8	6.8	7.9	7.0
Surrey and Sussex	6.5	5.1	6.9	6.3	6.8
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	6.9	7.8	6.9	6.2	7.1
South West Peninsula	6.1	6.5	7.1	8.3	8.5
Dorset and Somerset	6.7	6.6	6.5	6.9	5.7
South Yorkshire	9.4	8.0	8.5	9.1	8.7
Trent	7.3	7.8	7.9	9.7	7.9
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	8.4	8.1	9.3	9.0	8.7
Shropshire and Staffordshire	9.2	9.2	8.3	9.3	7.6
Birmingham and the Black Country	10.8	10.0	11.8	12.1	11.3
Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire	8.1	7.1	8.6	7.2	7.9

[1] Stillbirths and deaths aged under one week per 1,000 live and stillbirths.
[2] Health authority boundaries based on May 2006 All Fields Postcode File.

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the most recent infant mortality rate was in *(a)* Stoke-on-Trent, *(b)* the west midlands and *(c)* England. [80606]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 10 June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the most recent infant mortality rate was in (a) Stoke-on-Trent, (b) the West Midlands and (c) England. I am replying in her absence. (80606)

The table below gives the infant mortality rate for the most recent year available.

Infant mortality rate[1], Stoke-on-Trent, West Midlands and England, 2004

	Rate
Stoke-on-Trent	7.7
West Midlands	6.3
England	5.0

[1] Rate per 1,000 live births.

HM Customs and Excise

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials were employed by HM Customs and Excise in each year since 1997; and how many were front-line staff in each year. [83576]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the full-time equivalent numbers of staff employed by HM Customs and Excise at 1 April 1997 to 1 April 2005, split between those in "front-line" work (i.e. dealing with traders and customers) and those in support and policy work.

Year at 1 April	*Front line*	*Support and policy*	*Total*
1997	19,236	4,256	23,492
1998	19,476	4,240	23,716
1999	18,704	4,171	22,875
2000	18,659	3,933	22,595
2001	18,723	3,822	22,545
2002	18,408	3,877	22,285
2003	18,042	4,497	22,539
2004	18,591	4,392	22,983
2005	19,219	4,138	23,353

HM Revenue and Customs Offices

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether local HM Revenue and Customs offices are meeting their targets for responding to postal enquiries; and if he will make a statement. [83380]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC has a service standard which aims to deal with 80 per cent. of postal contact within 15 working days of receipt and 95 per cent. within 40 working days, against which the Department achieved cumulative results in 2005-06 of 79.2 per cent. and 91.7 per cent. respectively. Results for 2006-07 are not yet available.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the latest estimate is of the number of open cases at each HM Revenue and Customs office in each month since January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [83444]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC does not have records of open cases at the level of each local HMRC office.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people HM Revenue and Customs employs in collecting taxes; how many there were *(a)* 5, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 20 years ago; what his estimate is of the cost of tax collection in 2006-07; and what it was (i) 5, (ii) 10 and (iii) 20 years ago. [83453]

Dawn Primarolo: The average number of HM Revenue and Customs staff employed in collecting taxes in 2005-06 was 93,574.

HM Revenue and Customs estimate for 2006-07 anticipates the cost of collecting taxes in that financial year to be £4,122 million.

The number of staff involved in collected taxes and the associated costs for 5, 10 and 20 years ago can be obtained from the annual reports of HM Customs and Excise and HM Inland Revenue for the financial years 1985-86, 1995-96 and 2000-01. These publications—Command Documents 9831, 5, 230, 3427, 3446, 5304 and 5309—can be obtained from the Library of the House.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on plans for the future of the HM Revenue and Customs offices in Yeovil. [82888]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC have no plans at present to alter their presence in Yeovil.

Income Statistics (West Lancashire)

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the income per head was in West Lancashire constituency in each of the last five years. [83549]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest estimates for the mean and median of total income (for taxpayers only) by constituency can be found in table 3.15 Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency on HM Revenue and Customs website http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315.

The information is based on the latest surveys of personal incomes (2003-04 and 2003-04).

Because sample sizes at constituency level are small and estimates can demonstrate a large variability from year to year, inference from the information in the table for 2003-04 should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.15a Income and tax by Parliamentary Constituency, Confidence Intervals.

Similar information including non taxpayers is not available.

Income Tax

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the standard income tax reliefs are; and which attract relief at the *(a)* basic rate and *(b)* payer's marginal rates. [83801]

Dawn Primarolo: The standard income tax reliefs are the personal allowance, £5,035 in 2006-07, and the age related levels of the personal allowance, £7,280 in 2006-07 for people aged 65-74 and £7,420 for people aged 75 and over. All attract relief at the marginal rate.

Incomes (Tax Allowances)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the loss of revenue to the Exchequer would be if allowances against tax on incomes were raised by *(a)* £50, *(b)* £100, *(c)* £150, *(d)* £200, *(e)* £250 and *(f)* £300; [83799]

(2) what increase in tax revenue would follow from raising the standard rate of income tax by *(a)* two pence and *(b)* six pence at current levels of income and with no changes in the income tax allowances and rates. [83800]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested can be calculated from the figures shown in table 1.6 "Direct effects of illustrative tax changes" on HM Revenue and Customs website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/menu.htm.

The cost of changing the personal allowance or the basic income tax rate is proportional to the changes to allowances and rates provided in the table.

Inheritance Tax

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents in the West Lancashire constituency paid inheritance tax in each of the last five years. [83548]

Dawn Primarolo: Figures for estates paying inheritance tax are not available at local levels.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review against his Department in each year since 1997; and what the (i) reason for the review and (ii) outcome was of each. [80167]

John Healey: Our records show that the number of occasions on which persons have written a letter before action or instituted a claim for judicial review against HM Treasury have been one each in 1997 and 1998, three in 1999, 0 in 2000, five in 2001, 0 in 2002, two in 2003, one in 2004 and four in 2005.

There were three applications for judicial review in 2005. Two of these were unsuccessful at permission stage and the other one was withdrawn on the basis of a settlement agreed between the parties. The former cases concerned the award of a waste management contract and a refusal to permit the payment of taxes into a separate fund out of which military expenditure is not paid. The latter case concerned the operating and financial review for public companies. It is not possible to provide similar information for cases in earlier years without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Treasury has been involved in other litigation since 1997 in addition to the cases mentioned but it is not possible to distinguish those further cases which were judicial reviews without incurring disproportionate cost.

Local Government Workers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the UK economy of the local government workers strike on 28 March. [82497]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Minimum Wage

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged *(a)* 22 years and over, *(b)* 18 to 21 years and *(c)* under 18 years are receiving the minimum wage in each (i) London borough and (ii) constituency; and if he will make a statement. [82934]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to ask how many people aged (a) 22 years and over, (b) 18 to 21 years and (c) under 18 years are receiving the minimum wage in each (i) London borough and (ii) national constituency. (82934)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the minimum wage for Parliamentary Constituencies and Local Authorities are not available. However the Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates the number of jobs paid less than national minimum wage rates for the United Kingdom and Government Office Regions. A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles and data can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Named Day Questions

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer *(a)* how many named day written parliamentary questions his Department received in each of the last three years; *(b)* what percentage of named day written parliamentary questions his Department answered within the requested time limit; and *(c)* what the average delay was for those questions which were not answered within the requested time limit. [83214]

John Healey: Information in respect of *(a)* and *(b)* for the 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 sessions is given in the following table:

Session	Questions tabled	Percentage answered on the named day
2003-04	518	74.7
2004-05	287	79.4
2005-06	762	72.6

The information sought at *(c)* could only be calculated and related to the pattern of sittings of the House of Commons at disproportionate cost.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people his Department calculated as being liable for payment of national insurance contributions in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [83590]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the estimated number of individuals making national insurance contributions is shown in Table CQY 1.0 on the Department for Work and Pensions internet website http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/dsu/contsandqualify/Conts_and_Qual_Years_tables05.xls

Official Visit (Nigeria)

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on which date the Prime Minister gave written approval for his trip to Nigeria on 22 May. [84093]

Mr. Gordon Brown: Arrangements were in line with normal procedures.

Orphan Funds

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the total amount of money held in orphan funds in banks and financial institutions. [82979]

Ed Balls: The term orphan funds can refer to unclaimed assets. The Government and the industry have agreed that the definition of an unclaimed asset should generally cover bank and building society accounts where there has been no customer activity for a period of 15 years as that will best identify those accounts that are genuinely unclaimed. On this basis, initial record searches by the industry suggest that several hundred million pounds may currently lie unclaimed.

Orphan funds may also refer to certain assets of insurance companies. The Treasury has made no official estimate of the value of these assets.

Pensions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what annual savings to 2012 he estimates would be made if the lifetime allowance for tax privileged pension savings was frozen at £1.5 million. [83071]

Ed Balls: As announced in Budget 2004 the lifetime allowance on the amount of pension saving that can benefit from tax relief has been set for years to and including financial year 2010-11.

The revenue yield is very difficult to estimate and the figures provided are, consequently uncertain. In particular there are consequences for transitional protection arrangements and scope for behavioural change. The estimate is based on the number of individuals constrained in their contributions to pension saving by the LTA.

If the LTA were fixed at £1.5 million for a further five years until 6 April 2012, we estimate reduced pension contributions would yield additional income tax of around £150 million, aggregated over five years. This estimate takes into account the estimated reduction in tax yields as a result of reduced pensions in payment these contributions would otherwise have funded.

Personal Finance Education

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the Treasury, the Financial Services Authority and the Department for Education and Skills will measure the effectiveness of personal finance education being introduced into the school curriculum. [83258]

Ed Balls: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority will monitor the effectiveness of personal finance education in the curriculum to ensure it remains current and appropriate for the needs of individuals and the nation. The FSA recently conducted a benchmark survey measuring the extent to which personal finance education is being taught in schools and the confidence of teachers in delivering it. This survey will be repeated every four to five years.

Population Statistics

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of the population of *(a)* the UK and *(b)* each region of the UK is (i) under 25, (ii) between 25 and 34, (iii) between 35 and 44, (iv) between 45 and 54, (v) between 55 and 64 and (vi) over 65 years of age. [82922]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about what percentage of the population of (a) the UK and (b) each region of the UK is (i) under 25, (ii) between 25 and 34, (iii) between 35 and 44, (iv) between 45 and 54, (v) between 55 and 64 and (vi) over 65 years of age. (82922)

The latest available data, for mid-2004, are shown in the attached table.

Mid-2004 Population Estimates: Population, percentage in selected age groups, by countries and Government office regions (GOR) within the United Kingdom

	Percentage of the population who are aged:					
Country/GOR	Under 25	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over
United Kingdom	31	13	15	13	12	16
England	31	13	15	13	12	16
North East	31	12	15	14	12	17
North West	32	13	15	13	12	16
Yorkshire and the Humber	32	12	15	13	12	16
East Midlands	31	12	15	13	12	16
West Midlands	32	13	15	13	12	16
East	30	13	15	13	12	17
London	32	20	17	11	9	12
South East	31	13	16	13	12	17
South West	29	12	15	13	13	19
Wales	31	12	14	13	13	18
Scotland	30	13	16	14	12	16
Northern Ireland	36	13	15	12	10	14

Note:
Percentages may not add due to rounding.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population of *(a)* Southend-on-Sea and *(b)* Essex was in each year between 1976 and 2005; what it is estimated to be in 2006; and what assessment has been made of the future trend. [83457]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question about what the population of (a) Southend-on-Sea and (b) Essex was in each year between 1976 and 2005; what it is estimated to be in 2006; and what assessment has been made of the future trend. (83457)

Mid-2005 population estimates for England and Wales are due to be published on 24 August 2006. The attached table therefore provides the requested data for the years 1976 to 2004 and 2003-based projections for 2005 and 2006. In addition, projections for 2011, 2016, 2021, 2026, and 2028 are also shown to indicate future projected trend. These projections show a projected increase in population of 10.5 per cent for Southend and 13.7 per cent for Essex over the 25 years between 2003 and 2028.

Population estimates and projections for Essex[1] and Southend-on-Sea

	Essex[1]	Southend-on-Sea
Population Estimates		
1976	1,140,600	159,600
1977	1,152,100	157,400
1978	1,163,700	157,300
1979	1,176,200	157,500
1980	1,189,100	157,700
1981	1,196,900	157,600
1982	1,199,700	157,000
1983	1,209,300	156,400
1984	1,216,500	155,500
1985	1,224,800	155,600
1986	1,231,900	156,600
1987	1,239,500	158,300
1988	1,245,100	160,400
1989	1,247,100	160,100
1990	1,247,500	160,600
1991	1,249,100	161,200
1992	1,253,600	162,400
1993	1,255,500	163,500
1994	1,261,600	164,400
1995	1,267,700	163,900
1996	1,273,300	163,300
1997	1,278,300	165,100
1998	1,284,200	163,800
1999	1,295,000	162,900
2000	1,304,400	161,600
2001	1,312,600	160,400
2002	1,318,100	160,400
2003	1,324,100	160,300
2004	1,330,400	159,600
Population Projections[2]		
2005	1,337,700	161,000
2006	1,344,500	161,400
2011	1,379,100	164,000
2016	1,416,200	167,500
2021	1,455,100	171,600
2026	1,491,900	175,600
2028	1,505,400	177,100

[1] All data are for current county of Essex which excludes Southend and Thurrock.
[2] The population projections data shown in this table are taken from the 2003-based subnational population projections, the latest set of projections currently available. Therefore they may not be consistent with the 2004 mid-year estimate.
Note:
Data are rounded to the nearest 100.
Sources:
Office For National Statistics.

Poverty, Chester

Christine Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to reduce poverty in the City of Chester since 1997. [84046]

Dawn Primarolo: The Treasury has, in partnership with other Government Departments, tackled poverty and promoted economic opportunity through:

Promoting macro-economic stability

Supporting work for those who can and ensuring that work pays, through the new deals, a national minimum wage and the working tax credit

Providing financial support for groups at particular risk of poverty, such as child Benefit and the child tax for families, and the pension credit for pensioners.

Across the UK, these measures have helped lift more than a million people out of poverty since 1997. Tax credits are benefiting more than 550,000 families in the north west region, and in the City of Chester, claimant unemployment has fallen by 48 per cent. youth unemployment has fallen by 63 per cent. and long-term unemployment has fallen by 85 per cent.

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many public appointments are within his patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83194]

John Healey: Details of the public appointments to bodies sponsored by the Treasury can be found in "Public Bodies", copies of which are in the Library. "Public Bodies" has been published annually since 1980 and the most recent edition provides figures for 2005. Each edition of "Public Bodies" contains details on the number of public appointments and remuneration details for that particular year. Comparable information for 1976 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Seasonal Workers

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of seasonal workers in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [82031]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about seasonal workers in employment in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* non-rural areas in each year since 1997. (82031)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of types of seasonal employment from the annual Local area Labour Force Survey (LLFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS). The urban and rural identifier is not available on the annual datasets.

The table overleaf shows the available data for the 12 month periods ending from 1999-2005.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Employees in seasonal work, 1999 to 2005, March to February each year, United Kingdom

12 months ending	*Thousand*
February 1999	106
February 2000	95
February 2001	102
February 2002	87
February 2003	90
February 2004	89
December 2004	93
December 2005	80

Note:
Changes in the estimates from year-to-year should be treated with caution.
Source:
Annual datasets

Sickness Absence

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days work have been lost through sickness among staff working on tax credits in each of the last three years. [81479]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of sickness days taken by staff working in the tax credit office in the last three years is:

	Number
2002-03	56,345
2003-04	67,085
2004-05	69,060

The figures for 2005-06 are not yet available.

Suicide

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people committed suicide in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* ethnic origin, in each (i) London borough and (ii) constituency; and if he will make a statement. [82959]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people committed suicide, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* ethnic origin, in each of the last five years in each (i) London Borough and (ii) national constituency. (82959)

Although information on country of birth is collected at death registration, ethnicity is not collected.

The most recent year for which figures are available is 2005. A table which shows the number of deaths with an underlying cause of suicide or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent by age group for each parliamentary constituency in England and Wales and for each London Borough for the years 2001 to 2005 has been placed in the House of Commons library.

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the costs of administering tax credits in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; what the original spending plans were for each year; and if he will make a statement. [82833]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 18 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 949W and 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 861W.

Tobacco

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent discussions his Department has had with the tobacco industry on introducing an anti-counterfeiting labelling scheme for tobacco products; [83128]

(2) if he will bring forward proposals for introducing an anti-counterfeiting scheme for tobacco products in the UK; [83130]

(3) to what extent he has examined technological solutions which other countries are using to tackle the trade in counterfeit tobacco. [83131]

John Healey: In a paper published at the 2006 Budget—"New Responses to New Challenges: Reinforcing the Tackling Tobacco Smuggling Strategy"—we announced that Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and the tobacco manufacturers would jointly be examining a range of practical measures that could be implemented against counterfeit cigarettes, such as covert markings. HMRC and the largest UK tobacco manufacturers have established a joint working group to identify the best means of detecting counterfeit tobacco products and preventing them from infiltrating the UK retail sector. As part of its work programme, the group has shared experiences of technological anti-counterfeiting measures introduced in other countries. Several possible solutions are now being closely examined by the group, with a view to informing the Government's decisions on the way forward.

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the money lost to the UK Exchequer through the illicit trade in tobacco in the last three years. [83129]

John Healey: The most recent HM Revenue and Customs estimate of the money lost to the UK Exchequer through the illicit trade in tobacco is for 2003-04. The money lost to the UK Exchequer through the illicit trade in tobacco between 2000-01 to 2003-04 for cigarettes and hand rolling tobacco is given in Table 3.3 and Table 3.5 respectively of "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses-2005", published by HM Revenue and Customs in December 2005 and available from the House of Commons Library.

Under-age Pregnancy

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many girls under the age of 16 years *(a)* became pregnant and *(b)* gave birth in each London borough in each of the last five years, broken down by age; and if he will make a statement. [82954]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 10 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many girls under the age of 16 years (a) became pregnant and (b) gave birth in each London borough in each of the last five years, broken down by age. (82954)

(a) Numbers of conceptions to girls aged under 16 in each London Borough for the years 2000-2004 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2004 are provisional.

Conceptions are made up of pregnancies that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or termination.

ONS does not publish figures by single year of age below the age of 16 by either local or health authority because of the risk of disclosing individual's information.

(b) Numbers of maternities in each London Borough for the years 2000-2004 are shown in the attached table.

Maternity counts are for girls aged under 16 in each year at which either one or more live birth or stillbirth occurred.

(a) Number of conceptions to girls aged under 16 years by area of usual residence—London boroughs, 2000-04[1]

Area of usual residence	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[1]
London	1,246	1,252	1,229	1,247	1,127
Barking and Dagenham LB	45	51	43	44	41
Barnet LB	35	34	27	38	34
Bexley LB	22	34	36	27	36
Brent LB	55	52	50	54	49
Bromley LB	35	33	38	39	26
Camden LB	24	22	25	23	14
Croydon LB	78	72	68	57	63
Ealing LB	41	31	32	29	32
Enfield LB	48	43	51	58	46
Greenwich LB	43	51	45	45	49
Hackney LB and City of London	69	62	56	62	52
Hammersmith and Fulham LB	21	22	21	25	11
Haringey LB	60	59	59	46	62
Harrow LB	15	24	21	18	25
Havering LB	31	23	18	29	25
Hillingdon LB	32	37	39	48	50
Hounslow LB	34	38	25	34	36
Islington LB	27	37	30	33	35
Kensington and Chelsea LB	19	14	13	8	5
Kingston upon Thames LB	10	9	8	9	9
Lambeth LB	78	80	95	100	64
Lewisham LB	62	61	70	74	59
Merton LB	34	20	22	27	24
Newham LB	69	71	59	45	47
Redbridge LB	26	26	28	25	25
Richmond upon Thames LB	9	10	9	8	12
Southwark LB	63	68	77	83	66
Sutton LB	17	17	23	25	20

(a) Number of conceptions to girls aged under 16 years by area of usual residence—London boroughs, 2000-04[1]

Area of usual residence	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004[1]
Tower Hamlets LB	39	42	34	28	35
Waltham Forest LB	41	41	49	50	30
Wandsworth LB	44	48	41	39	27
Westminster City of LB	20	20	17	17	8

[1] Figures for 2004 are provisional.

Note:
To preserve confidentiality, counts for City of London have been combined with those for Hackney LB.

(b) Number of maternities to girls aged under 16 years by area of usual residence—London boroughs, 2000-04

Area of usual residence	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
London	178	205	197	141	149
Barking and Dagenham LB	5	5	7	—	—
Barnet LB	—	5	—	—	5
Bexley LB	6	—	—	—	—
Brent LB	11	8	11	9	5
Bromley LB	5	—	—	—	6
Camden LB	—	5	—	—	—
Croydon LB	5	13	13	5	5
Ealing LB	7	6	8	—	—
Enfield LB	—	7	—	5	6
Greenwich LB	8	8	—	5	7
Hackney LB and City of London	8	14	9	7	7
Hammersmith and Fulham LB	—	—	—	—	—
Haringey LB	10	17	17	10	10
Harrow LB	—	—	—	—	—
Havering LB	—	—	—	—	—
Hillingdon LB	—	—	10	—	5
Hounslow LB	10	8	5	—	9
Islington LB	5	—	5	6	—
Kensington and Chelsea LB	—	—	—	—	—
Kingston upon Thames LB	—	—	—	—	—
Lambeth LB	16	13	14	17	11
Lewisham LB	11	10	13	12	7
Merton LB	—	5	—	—	—
Newham LB	14	11	16	10	6
Redbridge LB	—	10	5	6	5
Richmond upon Thames LB	—	—	—	—	—
Southwark LB	11	14	9	13	10
Sutton LB	—	—	—	—	—
Tower Hamlets LB	—	—	6	—	7
Waltham Forest LB	—	—	—	—	5
Wandsworth LB	—	9	12	—	5
Westminster City of LB	6	—	—	—	—

Note:
To preserve confidentiality, counts for City of London have been combined with those for Hackney LB also counts of less than 5 have been suppressed and shown as —.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many full-time equivalent officers the Valuation Office Agency employed in 2005-06. [83007]

Dawn Primarolo: At March 2006, the Valuation Office Agency employed 4,850 full-time equivalent staff.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press releases the Valuation Office Agency issued in 2005-06. [83008]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2005-06 the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) issued five press releases.

The following press release was distributed to media with national coverage:

7 June 2005—"VOA Appoints New Non-Executive Director".

The agency issued the following press releases locally:

2 February 2005—"Businesses in South West Warned to Protect Themselves Against Fraudulent Agents"

24 May 2005—"Business in Blackpool Warned to Wise Up on Appeals"

27 September 2005—"The VOA and Kerrier District Council Celebrate 25-year Working Partnership"

22 December 2005-"Support and Advice for Householders and Businesses Following Buncefield Explosion".

Additionally, where it is brought to the VOA's attention that there is a need to warn council taxpayers locally of bogus inspectors, they will issue a standard press release—"Alert for Bogus Council Tax Inspectors".

HOME DEPARTMENT

Drug Smuggling

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British citizens have been convicted of drug smuggling in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* abroad, broken down by country, in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82917]

Mr. McNulty: Information on British citizens convicted abroad is not available centrally.

Available data relates to persons found guilty at court or cautioned in England and Wales between 2000 and 2004 for drug trafficking offences. Trafficking offences include: possession with intent to supply, unlawful supply, unlawful production and unlawful import or export. Citizenship details of these offenders are not collected centrally.

Persons found guilty or cautioned for drug trafficking offences[1] England and Wales, 2000 to 2004

	Number of persons (rounded)
2000	13,930
2001	12,290
2002	12,610
2003	13,470
2004	14,690

[1] Unlawful import and export, unlawful production of drugs (including cannabis), unlawful supply and possession with intent to supply unlawfully.

Air Guns

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many injuries due to air weapons have been recorded in *(a)* the constituency of Houghton and Washington, East, *(b)* the Northumbria police area and *(c)* England and Wales in each of the last five years. [82291]

Mr. McNulty: Data relating to Houghton and Washington, East are not collected centrally. Injuries for Northumbria and England and Wales police from 2000-01 up to and including 2004-05 are given in the following tables.

Table a: Air weapon injuries, 2000-01 to 2001-02

	Northumbria	England and Wales
2000-01	69	1,821
2001-02	68	1,915

Note:
The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Because of this figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Table b: Air weapon injuries, 2002-03 to 2004-05

	Northumbria	England and Wales
2002-03	53	2,377
2003-04	44	2,395
2004-05	45	1,502

Note:
The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced in April 2002. Because of this figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

Anti-drugs Initiatives (Departmental Funding)

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding his Department is making available for activities to reduce the use of drugs among young people; and if he will make a statement. [82266]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has committed £55.3 million in 2006-07 alongside contributions from other Government Departments to support work on reducing young people's drug use. This includes the contribution to the young people's substance misuse partnership grant made available to local areas in addition to mainstream funds to deliver a comprehensive range of substance misuse interventions for young people; FRANK, the Government's drug awareness campaign, and the Positive Futures social inclusion programme which engages with young people.

Asylum Seekers

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to end the practice of transporting asylum seekers arriving in Northern Ireland to Dungavel dentention centre in Lanarkshire. [82021]

Mr. Byrne: There are no plans to change the current arrangements whereby individuals in Northern Ireland who are detained under Asylum and Immigration Act 2004 powers are transferred to a detention facility in Great Britain either on the day of detention or within 24 hours. In the majority of cases individuals are, initially, detained at Dungavel house immigration removal centre.

British Muslim Citizenship Toolkits

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many British Muslim citizenship 'toolkits' have been dispatched by his Department. [71939]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 18 May 2006]:* I have been asked to reply.

The development of a British Muslim citizenship toolkit was one of the recommendations of the "Preventing Extremism Together" report published in November 2005 by work groups from the Muslim community.

The Government's view is that this toolkit should be developed by Muslim organisations with our support.

The Government are supporting individuals and organisations to implement the recommendations but responsibility for this lies with the Muslim community. Good progress is being made on a number of the recommendations and the Government are encouraging Muslim organisations to develop this toolkit.

Brothels

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* brothels and *(b)* massage parlours have been shut down by the police in each London borough in each of the last five years. [83691]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not available centrally. For the future, we are looking to introduce monitoring arrangements as part of the prostitution strategy.

Child Rape

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* minimum, *(b)* maximum and *(c)* average sentence was imposed for child rape in (i) Luton, (ii) Bedfordshire and (iii) England and Wales in 2005-06. [80367]

Mr. Sutcliffe: According to information reported to the Home Office, 339 persons were sentenced for rape of a child under 16 in England and Wales in 2004, the latest year for which data are currently available. Where an offender was sentenced for more than one offence the statistics relate to where this offence attracted the longest sentence. The average custodial sentence length, excluding 21 life sentences, was 93.9 months.

Minimum and maximum sentences can be affected by errors in the data reported or may reflect very specific circumstances for a particular case. For this reason we have excluded the 5 per cent. of cases getting the longest sentences and the 5 per cent. of cases getting the shortest sentence to give a more robust estimate of the typical range of sentences given. This shows that 90 per cent. of cases received a sentence of between 36 months and life.

Figures reported to the Home Office for Luton and for Bedfordshire were too small for the corresponding figures to be meaningful.

Child Welfare

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are followed to safeguard the welfare of dependent children when single parents with custody are given a custodial sentence immediately following conviction for an offence. [69945]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the rare event that this situation arises, the court duty probation staff should offer assistance. In cases where they are not available, and court staff are made aware of an urgent child care need, an appropriate member of staff will contact the relevant children's services. Prison staff will also assist prisoners with any urgent issues on reception into custody, including child care. We recognise the need to strengthen such arrangements and the national offender management service will achieve this as part of the framework for the children and families of offenders which it is developing.

Colnbrook Detention Centre

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detainees at Colnbrook detention centre were on hunger strike on 28 June. [83089]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that Immigration and Nationality Directorate records indicate that, at Colnbrook removal centre on 28 June 2006, nine detainees did not take their evening meal that day and that there were five detainees who had refused to take the meals provided for three days or more. All were taking fluids.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on conditions at Colnbrook detention centre. [83090]

Mr. Byrne: It is Government policy that all detainees must be treated with dignity and respect. The operation of all removal centres is governed by the detention centre rules 2001 which are reinforced by operating standards. The Immigration Service and its contractors are committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all detainees. Detention is essential to effective immigration control and must be undertaken with humanity and dignity. Oversight of conditions in all removal centres is provided through independent monitoring boards. An IMB is appointed to all removal centres and members report regularly to me on the state of the premises, the administration of the centre and the treatment of detainees. Centres are also inspected by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons and the comprehensive reports produced are used to produce auditable action plans to achieve improvements.

Similar action is also undertaken in response to investigation reports into any deaths that may occur in centres which are undertaken by the prisons and probation ombudsman.

Convention on Human Trafficking

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK will ratify the convention on human trafficking; what work remains to be done prior to ratification; and if he will make a statement. [83744]

Mr. Coaker: The UK is currently considering whether to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Human Trafficking. In July last year a questionnaire was issued seeking information about the methods of support in place in other European Union countries. The responses to that questionnaire are now being analysed for evidence on how the automatic granting of reflection periods and residence permits to those presenting as victims of trafficking are operating in other European transit or destination countries where they have been introduced. A case-by-case approach, as operated in the United Kingdom, does not appear to be less effective at offering targeted support than these new approaches. The Government are examining how the convention's approach could best be harmonised with effective immigration controls. They are also considering responses to the recent consultation paper on a proposed UK action plan on trafficking in humans. We intend to publish this action plan in the autumn.

Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer the letter of 11 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman) with regard to Mr. Abdul Halim. [79415]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 27 June 2006.

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department will reply to the letter of 29 March 2006 from the right hon. Member for Warley regarding Mohammed Uddin of Dorlton Drive, Smethwick. [80498]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to my right hon. Friend on 28 June 2006.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Immigration will reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, dated 30 March 2006 on behalf of Mrs. Fadumo Mohd Sharif-Said, Home Office reference S1175012, acknowledged on 5 May 2006, reference B8779/6. [80860]

Mr. Byrne: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to my right hon. Friend on 29 June 2006.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the immigration and nationality directorate will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood of 29 March on behalf of Halrick Thompson (Home Office reference T1077292, acknowledgement reference B8645/6). [81441]

Mr. Byrne: The immigration and nationality directorate wrote to my right hon. Friend on 30 June 2006.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 2 May, about Government consultation on new laws to promote gay rights. [81449]

Mr. McNulty: The letter dated 28 April was received on 3 May and transferred to the Department for Trade and Industry on 4 May. The subject matter subsequently became the responsibility of the Department for Community and Local Government. It has advised that a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Worcestershire (Sir Michael Spicer) shortly.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer the letter of 15 May from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Gordon Okome. [81896]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to my hon. Friend on 3 July 2006.

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 26 April (Your Ref: M10324/6), on the sexual orientation regulations. [81930]

Mr. Coaker: The Department for Communities and Local Government is leading on issues relating to the Sexual Orientation Regulations. The Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Meg Munn) replied to the correspondence on 29 June.

Credit Unions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his Department will provide information and membership forms for credit unions to its employees. [79938]

Mr. Byrne: The Government welcome the contribution made by the various savings institutions in providing for greater choice and diversity in the financial services sector. The Government's guiding principles are to ensure impartiality and to help create a level playing field for all providers of financial services in order that their specific attributes can be properly harnessed.

Crime Statistics

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females (i) were found guilty of and (ii) pleaded guilty to complicity in or assisting *(A)* a suicide and *(B)* infanticide in (1) Tamworth and (2) the west midlands in the last period for which figures are available. [80134]

Mr. McNulty: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform shows that there were no convictions for aiding and abetting suicide in the West Midlands in 2004. Offences of complicity in or assisting infanticide cannot be separated from the offence of infanticide itself in the data held. However the records show that there were no convictions for infanticide in the west midlands in 2004. Had there been conviction data for the west midlands, we would be unable to provide a convictions figure for Tamworth constituency, as the data are not available at the level of detail required.

Figures for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Daniel Dyakov

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will return the passport of Daniel Dyakov, Ref. No. D1054256. [82275]

Mr. Byrne: Daniel Dyakov's passport was returned by recorded delivery to his representatives, Summer Star solicitors, on 28 June 2006.

Deaths in Prison

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths in prison have resulted from *(a)* natural causes, *(b)* accident and *(c)* self-inflicted injury in each prison in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82914]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested with respect to natural causes deaths and "other non-natural deaths" (which include accidents) in prisons in England and Wales, 2001-05, is shown in the following table. For the

information with respect to self-inflicted deaths, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham) on 20 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 122W.

Prison	*Type of death*	*2001*	*2002*	*2001*	*2004*	*2005*
Acklington	Natural Causes	2	2	3	3	4
Albany	Natural Causes	3	2	4	2	3
Altcourse	Natural Causes	3	1	2	—	2
Ashwell	Natural Causes	1	—	1	—	1
Bedford	Natural Causes	—	1	—	—	—
Belmarsh	Natural Causes	1	2	3	2	1
	Other non-natural	—	—	—	—	1
	Unclassified	—	—	—	—	1
Birmingham	Natural Causes	2	—	1	1	1
Blakenhurst	Natural Causes	3	1	—	1	1
Blundeston	Natural Causes	—	1	—	—	—
Bristol	Natural Causes	—	—	—	5	—
Brixton	Other non-natural	—	—	—	1	—
Brockhill	Natural Causes	1	—	—	—	—
Bronzefield	Natural Causes	—	—	—	—	2
Bullingdon	Natural Causes	—	1	1	2	1
Camp Hill	Natural Causes	—	—	—	1	—
Canterbury	Natural Causes	—	1	—	—	—
Cardiff	Natural Causes	—	—	—	1	—
Castington	Other non-natural	—	—	—	—	1
Channings Wood	Natural Causes	—	1	1	—	—
Chelmsford	Natural Causes	—	1	—	1	—
Coldingley	Natural Causes	—	1	—	—	1
Cookham Wood	Natural Causes	—	—	—	—	1
Dartmoor	Natural Causes	1	—	1	—	1
Doncaster	Natural Causes	—	2	2	1	—
	Other non-natural	—	—	—	1	—
Dovegate	Natural Causes	—	2	1	1	1
Durham	Natural Causes	1	—	1	3	1
East Sutton Park	Natural Causes	1	—	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	Natural Causes	—	1	—	3	—
Edmunds Hill	Natural Causes	—	1	—	—	—
Elmley	Natural Causes	1	1	—	2	3
	Unclassified	—	—	—	—	1
Everthorpe	Natural Causes	2	—	—	—	—
Exeter	Natural Causes	1	—	1	—	1
Ford	Natural Causes	—	—	—	1	—
Forest Bank	Natural Causes	—	1	—	—	—
Foston Hall	Natural Causes	—	—	—	1	—
Frankland	Natural Causes	3	4	1	3	4
Full Sutton	Natural Causes	—	1	2	1	—
	Other non-natural	—	—	—	1	—
Garth	Natural Causes	—	—	1	1	—
Gartree	Natural Causes	—	—	1	—	—
Gloucester	Natural Causes	1	1	—	—	1
Grendon	Natural Causes	—	1	—	—	—
Guys Marsh	Natural Causes	—	—	1	—	1
Haslar	Natural Causes	—	—	—	1	—
Haverigg	Natural Causes	—	—	—	1	—
Hewell Grange	Natural Causes	1	—	—	—	—
High Down	Natural Causes	—	—	1	—	1
Hollesley Bay	Natural Causes	1	—	—	—	—
Holloway	Natural Causes	—	—	1	1	—
	Other non-natural	—	—	—	—	1
Holme House	Natural Causes	2	—	1	1	2
	Other non-natural	—	—	—	1	—
Hull	Natural Causes	2	—	1	4	—
	Other non-natural	—	—	—	1	—

Prison	Type of death	2001	2002	2001	2004	2005
Kingston	Natural Causes	1	2	2	4	—
Kirkham	Natural Causes	—	—	—	1	2
Latchmere House	Natural Causes	—	1	—	—	—
Leeds	Natural Causes	—	1	1	—	4
Leicester	Natural Causes	—	—	—	1	—
Lewes	Natural Causes	—	—	—	1	1
Leyhill	Natural Causes	—	2	—	1	1
Lincoln	Natural Causes	1	—	—	1	—
	Other non-natural	—	1	—	—	—
Lindholme	Natural Causes	1	—	—	1	—
Littlehey	Natural Causes	—	2	3	1	3
Liverpool	Natural Causes	1	2	3	1	—
	Other non-natural	—	—	—	—	1
Low Newton	Natural Causes	—	—	—	1	—
Lowdham Grange	Natural Causes	—	—	—	—	1
Maidstone	Natural Causes	1	1	2	2	—
Manchester	Natural Causes	1	2	2	—	2
Mount	Natural Causes	1	—	—	1	—
New Hall	Natural Causes	—	1	—	—	—
North Sea Camp	Natural causes	—	—	—	1	1
Norwich	Natural Causes	—	2	2	1	1
Nottingham	Natural Causes	1	2	1	—	1
Parc	Natural Causes	1	1	3	2	2
	Other non-natural	—	—	1	—	—
Parkhurst	Natural Causes	—	—	2	1	3
Pentonville	Natural Causes	3	4	1	—	2
Peterborough	Natural Causes	—	—	—	—	1
Preston	Natural Causes	2	—	—	2	—
Ranby	Natural Causes	—	—	—	2	—
Risley	Natural Causes	4	1	1	—	—
	Other non-natural	1	—	—	2	—
Rye Hill	Natural Causes	—	1	3	5	4
	Other non-natural	—	—	—	1	—
Shepton Mallet	Natural Causes	—	—	—	2	—
Stafford	Natural Causes	—	—	2	1	—
Standford Hill	Natural Causes	—	—	1	—	—
Stocken	Natural Causes	—	2	—	1	1
Sudbury	Natural Causes	—	—	—	—	1
Swaleside	Natural Causes	—	2	2	1	4
	Other non-natural	—	1	—	—	—
Swansea	Natural Causes	—	—	2	—	1
Usk\Prescoed	Natural Causes	1	—	1	—	1
Verne	Natural Causes	1	—	1	—	—
Wakefield	Natural Causes	5	1	6	4	3
Wandsworth	Natural Causes	3	1	1	—	2
	Other non-natural	—	—	—	1	—
Wayland	Natural Causes	1	—	—	—	—
Wealstun	Natural Causes	—	—	1	—	—
Weare	Natural Causes	—	—	—	1	—
Whatton	Natural Causes	—	—	—	2	—
Whitemoor	Natural Causes	—	—	2	2	—

Prison	Type of death	2001	2002	2001	2004	2005
Winchester	Natural Causes	2	—	1	3	1
	Other non-natural	—	1	—	—	—
Wolds	Natural Causes	—	1	—	—	—
Woodhill	Natural Causes	2	—	3	1	4
Wormwood Scrubs	Natural Causes	—	—	3	—	1
Wymott	Natural Causes	1	3	2	7	5

Notes:
Unclassified deaths are those where further information is awaited. "Other non-natural Deaths" includes apparent accidents and non-intentional drug overdoses, but not homicides.

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many advertisements have been placed by his Department *(a)* in newspapers, *(b)* on the radio, *(c)* on television, *(d)* on billboards and *(e)* in other media warning those who do not comply with the law (i) of the possibility of (A) fines, (B) a prison sentence and (ii) that they are putting themselves and others at risk of personal harm in each of the last five years; and what the cost of such advertisements was in this period. [55266]

Mr. Byrne: To actually count the number of advertisements would not be possible since advertising campaigns are not purchased in terms of number of adverts—they are purchased in terms of what percentage of our target audience we expect to reach, or to a given budget level. However we are able to set out the level of total media expenditure in the following table:

Advertisements warning of fines in last five years

Alcohol Misuse enforcement campaign	£
2005-06	93,865

Advertisements warning that they are putting themselves and/or others at risk of personal harm in last five years

	£
Domestic violence	
2001-02	0
2002-03	0
2003-04	936,587
2004-05	450,635
2005-06	162,696
Child Protection on the Internet	
2001-02	1,281,529
2002-03	763,290
2003-04	825,557
2004-05	299,094
2005-06	[1]879,001

[1] To date

Advertisements warning of a prison sentence in last five years

Rape	£
2006	346,430

Departmental Staff

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of *(a)* staff and *(b)* new staff employed in (i) his Department and (ii) each of the agencies for which he has responsibility were registered as disabled in each of the last three years for which data is available. [61377]

Mr. Byrne: The Cabinet Office collects and publishes annually statistical information on the civil service by Department. These include data on the number of staff in Departments who have declared a disability. Declaration of a disability is voluntary. The latest available information at April 2004 is available in the Library and on the civil service website and the following addresses: http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/publications/xls/disability_apr04_4nov04.xls for data relating to 1 April 2004, and http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/archive/index.asp for previous reporting periods.

Home Office

In addition to the above data, the figures shown are available for the Home Office and are set out in the tables. Data has been taken from central HR systems unless otherwise stated.

Home Office Agencies

The UK Passport Service records staff who declare themselves as disabled. The source of its figures is the published employment monitoring reports for the years in question. New entrant disability data are not available for 2002-03 and 2003-04. In 2004-05 fewer than 1 per cent. of new entrants declared a disability

The numbers of public sector Prison Service staff over the past three years recorded as having a disability, and the total number of recruits to the public sector Prison Service who declared themselves disabled on entry during the past three years, are shown in the tables. There is no longer such a thing as a "registered disabled" person. Someone is said to have a disability if their condition meets with the definition contained in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. A full re-survey of all staff was carried out in 2004, resulting in the increased numbers declaring themselves disabled after 2003.

Home Office (including Immigration and Nationality Directorate)

	1 April 2003	1 April 2004	31 December 2005
Disabled	489	474	489
Total staff	17,965	20,052	[1]21,119
Proportion (percentage)	2.72	2.36	2.31

	2003[2]	2004[2]	2005[2]
Disabled	27	16	4
Total recruits	3,334	2,786	[4]4,169
Proportion (percentage)	0.8	0.57	[3]—

Home Office Agencies

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
UKPA			
Disabled	200	216	196
Total staff[4]	2,740	2,919	3,266
Proportion (percentage)	7.3	7.4	6

	31 December		
	2003	2004	2005
HM Prison Service			
Disabled	588	1468	1629
Total staff	47,427	48,633	48,425
Proportion (percentage)	1.2	3.0	3.4

	2003	2004	2005
Disabled	43	76	55
Total recruits	6,993	6,167	5,528
Proportion (percentage)	0.6	1.2	1.0

[1] Figures include approximately 1,000 National Offenders Management Service (NOMS) HQ staff, moving into Home Office responsibility.
[2] Because of the transfer of staff records between HR systems data is here given for fiscal years i.e. 2004 = 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004.
[3] Not available. Disability data is unrecorded for 95 per cent. of 2005 new entrants, consequently no valid percentage can be derived at present.
[4] Approximate value from published disability value and percentage.

Deportation

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on the deportation of British-born children to foreign countries; and what the legal basis is for this policy. [80630]

Mr. Byrne: British-born children who are not British citizens may be deported under Section 3(5)(b) of the Immigration Act 1971 as family members of a person i) whose removal the Secretary of State considers to be conducive to the public good or ii) who has been recommended for deportation by a court. Deportation of family members is carried out in accordance with paragraphs 365-368 of the Immigration Rules (HC395).

Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate how much of the heroin trafficked into the United Kingdom in each year since 1996 came from Afghanistan. [83138]

Mr. Coaker: Since 1996 we believe that the vast majority of heroin entering the United Kingdom each year has originated in Afghanistan. In recent years we estimate that it has accounted for more than 90 per cent.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost of *(a)* administrating and *(b)* buying allocations for each prison included in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme was in its first year of operation. [82739]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Only the Garth/Wymott prison complex currently comes within the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. The cost to the prison service during the first year of operation was £8,500 and no carbon certificates were bought.

Foreign Prisoners

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 107 foreign nationals released from prison whose whereabouts are known to the Home Office should have been deported; and how many his Department has identified as living in Oxfordshire. [67209]

Mr. Byrne: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary updated the House on this matter on 29 June 2006 in a written ministerial statement, *Official Report*, column 18WS, and the director general of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote on this date to the chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries of the House.

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the foreign nationals recently released from prison and recommended for deportation, broken down by *(a)* prison from which they were released, *(b)* date of release and *(c)* offence; how many have re-offended since release; and in how many cases current whereabouts are unknown. [67570]

Mr. Byrne: *[holding answer 2 May 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary updated the House on this matter on 29 June 2006 in a written ministerial statement, *Official Report*, column 18WS, and the director general of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote on this date to the Chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee on the number of cases where foreign national prisoners were released without proper deportation consideration. A copy of the letter has been placed in both Libraries.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals have escaped from open prisons in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [82256]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of absconders who were foreign nationals could be obtained only by examination of individual records at a disproportionate cost.

Honours

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials currently in the Department received honours in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List; and at what rank of honour. [5118]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 22 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1059.

IT Costs

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the likely costs of implementing new IT systems arising from the options under consideration from the merger of police forces in the south-west. [82151]

Mr. McNulty: There is currently careful consideration of a number of options for the way forward for the south-west and each option will have differing implications for IT provision. Each option has been analysed financially in relation to both set-up costs and savings and the forces will be informed of this detail once a decision is made.

A joint Home Office, Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Association of Police Authorities (APA) and Police Information and Technology Organisation (PITO) working group has been established to work in conjunction with police force project teams to ensure that all ICT requirements, and associated costs, are identified.

Knife Amnesty

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* serious and *(b)* fatal attacks were recorded by police during the recent knife amnesty. [83117]

Mr. McNulty: Recorded crime figures for April to June 2006 are due to be published in October.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many knives have been handed in during the amnesty in *(a)* East Yorkshire constituency and *(b)* the east riding of Yorkshire area. [83610]

Mr. Coaker: Figures for the number of items handed in during the knife amnesty are being collected at police force level and will be released shortly. 17,715 items were handed in in England and Wales during the first week of the amnesty. We worked closely with ACPO to develop the arrangements for the amnesty, which was part of our wider strategy to tackle knife crime. We are also focusing on legislation, enforcement, education and prevention. We have brought forward provisions in the Violent Crime Reduction Bill that will raise the age at which someone can be sold a knife to 18; are introducing a new offence of using someone to mind a weapon; and giving head teachers powers to search pupils for knives. The Home Secretary announced on 19 June that he was giving very serious consideration to the suggestion that the maximum sentence for having a knife or blade in a public place should be increased from the current sentence of two years. Many police forces are undertaking tough enforcement operations, for example, the Metropolitan police's Operation Blunt and the British Transport police's Operation Shield, which uses search equipment to detect those carrying knives and other weapons on our transport network. We are also supporting educational initiatives that demonstrate to young people the dangers of carrying knives, and reinforce the message that carrying a knife can result in it being turned on you. Through our small grants programme, the connected fund, we are also supporting a wide range of local community projects which work with young people to provide mentoring, training, education and other support.

Labour Party Conference

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Greater Manchester police will be responsible for the interviewing of delegates, hotel staff and other associated workers in advance of the Labour party conference in Manchester. [84195]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* This is an operational matter for Greater Manchester police. I understand they are working with Labour party officials in the accreditation of delegates, hotel staff and other associated workers as part of their work to ensure the safety of those attending the event and the citizens of Manchester.

Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which private Members' Bills were drafted by his Department in each Session since 1997; and which subsequently received Royal Assent. [77770]

Mr. McNulty: Members will consider a range of possible subjects before introducing their private Members' Bills.

Government draftsmen do draft some Bills in advance which are available as one of the options for Members to consider before they make their selection.

However, Members may make subsequent amendments or revisions to a Government drafted Bill, or use it as the basis for a private Members' Bill in the future.

The information requested is therefore not collected.

Miscarriages of Justice (Compensation)

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his written statement of 19 April 2006, *Official Report*, columns 14-17, on miscarriages of justice (compensation), how much will be saved by the reforms to *(a)* the statutory and *(b)* the discretionary compensation scheme for victims of miscarriages of justice. [82061]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is estimated that in a full year savings of approximately £3 million could result from the changes that had immediate effect on 19 April (the abolition of the discretionary scheme, the assessor taking greater account of applicants' other convictions or any contributory conduct, and the payment of legal costs at legal aid rates). Full-year savings will take some time to accrue because of the number of cases that were already in the system prior to 19 April. Legislation to cap the maximum amount payable to £500,000; to enable the assessor to make deductions from both the non-pecuniary and pecuniary awards; and to reduce awards to nil in exceptional cases could yield further savings of some £2 million per year. It should be noted that the changes to the compensation schemes were not driven by a desire to make savings, rather to ensure that compensation following a miscarriage of justice is more proportionate to the level of injustice, to achieve a better balance with the treatment of victims of crime, and to make the system simpler and fairer, ensuring that applications are settled much more quickly than in the past.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many compensation claims for miscarriage of justice have been accepted under the discretionary scheme as a result of *(a)* serious default on the part of the police or another public authority, *(b)* complete exoneration, *(c)* judicial error and *(d)* other exceptional circumstances. [82334]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the five-year period from 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2006, a total of 53 applications for compensation for miscarriages of justice were approved under the discretionary scheme. Of these, 40 were approved on the basis of serious default by a public authority, five on the basis of complete exoneration, four on the basis of judicial error, and four on the basis of other exceptional circumstances.

Offenders

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research the Department has undertaken on rehabilitation rates of offenders. [82761]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A number of interventions are made in custody and the community to support the rehabilitation of offenders. These include offending behaviour programmes, drug treatment, unpaid work and education and employment. There is robust evidence, originating mainly from north America, to support the effectiveness of offending behaviour programmes in reducing re-offending; the UK research is more limited and mixed. The evaluations to date of drug treatment programmes also suggest that these programmes can reduce re-offending. There is some evidence of employment schemes helping to secure employment for ex-prisoners and of basic skills training improving prisoners' skills. However, evidence on the extent to which improvements in these skills can lead to reductions in re-offending is still limited (Harper & Chitty, 2005). The current Home Office research programme includes further research on the effectiveness of a wide range of interventions aimed at reducing re-offending.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the number of offenders serving custodial sentences who re-offend within *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three years of serving their sentence. [82762]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The most recent information on the re-offending of adults in England and Wales was published in December as "Adult re-offending: results from the 2002 cohort". Home Office Statistical Bulletin 25/05". The report is available on line at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb2505.pdf and covers offenders starting community sentences or being discharged from prison in the first quarter of 2002. Table A5 provides information which can be used to calculate the number of offenders who re-offended within two years. Re-offending rates have not been calculated on a one and three-year basis for offenders released from prison.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance he has issued to the probation service in the last 12 months on whether offenders on licence should be granted permission to travel abroad; [79597]

(2) what changes have been made in the last 12 months to regulations governing whether offenders under the supervision of the probation service may travel abroad; and if he will make a statement. [79599]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Probation circular 4/2006 sets out the revised policy in respect of determinate sentence prisoners who request permission to temporary travel abroad. A copy of the circular is available in the Library of the House. The circular requires the probation service to consider all applications to travel on their individual merits, and stipulates that such requests should not be granted if there are any concerns on grounds of risk. Permission should be granted only in the most exceptional circumstances and where the prisoner has demonstrated that the need to travel is so pressing that it must be given priority over the statutory aims of supervision.

Official Residences

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Government have to sell or rent the empty official residence at Belgravia House; and what the estimated *(a)* capital and *(b)* rental value is. [83031]

Mr. Byrne: The future use of the residence is under consideration. The property was routinely re-valued on 1 April 2006 at £2.4 million. A full rental valuation has not been prepared.

Operation Pentameter

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under 18-year-olds have been identified in recent raids by Operation Pentameter; and how many of these have been subsequently referred to the Poppy Project. [79231]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* Operation Pentameter rescued 12 minors aged between 14 and 17. None of these minors was referred to the Poppy Project as victims have to be over 18 to meet the criteria for the project. Three of the minors have been repatriated and the remaining nine are in the care of social services.

Opiate Products

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 815W, on opiate products, what assessment he has made of whether the Republic of Ireland's interpretation of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotics of 1961 would permit the importation of oxycodone hydrochloride raw material from *(a)* the United States and *(b)* the European Union. [80574]

Mr. Coaker: None.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 815W, on opiate products, what assessment he has made of the restrictiveness of the interpretation of the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotics of 1961 within *(a)* the Republic of Ireland and *(b)* the UK. [80576]

Mr. Coaker: None in relation to the Republic of Ireland. For the UK the only assessment of the restriction of importation has been made in respect of codeine where importation has been restricted to 10 per cent. of the estimate of domestic consumption.

Parliamentary Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make it his policy to make copies of deposited papers available in *(a)* the Vote Office and *(b)* Printed Paper Office at the same time as copies are deposited in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [82358]

Mr. Byrne: Departments regularly deposit papers in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members and Peers. It is for Departments to assess the level of interest in a deposited paper and in cases where there is likely to be wider interest to provide sufficient copies of the document to the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office accordingly.

Departments are always happy to provide copies of deposited papers to Member and Peers on request.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer questions *(a)* 62603, *(b)* 62604, *(c)* 62605 and *(d)* 62606, on the occupants of registered aircraft landing at airports in the UK, tabled on 27 March by the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk. [76890]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* I replied to the hon. member on 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1061W.

Parole

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for parole have been heard in each of the last five years; and how many of these applications were successful in each year. [79918]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table gives the total number of releases of determinate sentence prisoners on parole, broken down by fiscal year, for each of the last five years, as set out in the annual report and accounts of the Parole Board for England and Wales 2004-05.

	Cases considered	*Number granted*[1]	*As percentage of cases considered*[1]
2000-01	5,576	2,584	46.3
2001-02	5,514	2,791	50.6
2002-03	6,012	3,175	52.8
2003-04	6,038	3,206	53.1
2004-05	7,297	3,794	52

[1] Excludes cases where the Parole Board's recommendation of parole was not accepted by the Home Secretary (as the Home Secretary is the arbiter of parole applications in respect of determinate sentence prisoners serving a sentence of 15 years or more) and those where the decision to allow parole was suspended before release

Police

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average response time is of police to emergency call-outs in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Taunton constituency. [64064]

Mr. McNulty: Data on the time taken to respond to emergency call-outs is not collected centrally.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of creating a West Midlands regional police force. [69977]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 May 2006]:* The gross costs of merger are currently calculated at £57 million. There would be net set-up costs, after projected savings, in the first two years of restructuring. During the first five years of operation of the new force a net saving of £72 million is projected. The Government are committed to paying 100 per cent. of reasonable set-up revenue and capital costs of restructuring, net of reasonable savings.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding will be made available to support the merger of police forces in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [70884]

Mr. McNulty: The estimated set-up cost of a strategic police force for Wales is £35 million. We are committed to paying 100 per cent. of reasonable set-up revenue and capital costs, net of reasonable savings. The precise projected level of these costs and savings is a matter for negotiations currently taking place.

Long-term savings made possible by the merger are currently estimated at around £16 million a year.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why *(a)* levels and *(b)* the impact of tourism was taken out of the police funding formula; and if he will make a statement. [71703]

Mr. McNulty: Following the review, a new funding formula for allocating police general grant was introduced in 2006-07.

During the review, we concluded that the tourism indicator used in the previous formula was out of date. Alternative and more up-to-date indicators of tourism were considered, but we were not satisfied that these were reliable and therefore did not include them in the new formula.

Representatives from ACPO and the APA and the wider policing community were involved in the review. A full consultation on options for change took place last summer. All representations were fully taken into account.

Dorset benefited overall from the revised formula changes and their position was further protected by application of a virtually flat rate grant increase for all police authorities for 2006-07.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the net expenditure was on police per head of the population in *(a)* Devon, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England in each year since 1999. [72794]

Mr. McNulty: The information is set out in the following table. Devon and Cornwall is a combined police authority and data on policing costs for the two counties separately are not available

	Devon and Cornwall			*England*		
	Net expenditure[1] (£)	*Resident population*	*Expenditure per head of population (£)*	*Net expenditure[1] (£)*	*Resident population*	*Expenditure per head of population (£)*
1999-2000	175,055,000	1,551,480	112.83	7,074,920,000	49,279,007	143.57
2000-01	182,367,000	1,558,758	117.00	7,372,617,000	49,489,372	148.97
2001-02	191,117,000	1,569,666	121.76	7,852,807,000	49,746,857	157.86
2002-03	198,375,000	1,586,655	125.03	8,153,101,000	49,990,718	163.09
2003-04	220,160,000	1,578,595	139.47	8,910,451,000	49,174,123	181.20
2004-05	233,170,000	1,590,699	146.58	9,408,454,000	49,553,944	189.86
2005-06	243,711,000	1,601,215	152.20	9,631,146,000	49,847,697	193.21

[1] *Source for net expenditure:*
The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Police Statistics (Estimates for 2005-06)

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 903W, on police, if he will collect data centrally on the numbers of *(a)* police officers and *(b)* other employees who have taken early retirement in each police force in England and Wales in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [73786]

Mr. McNulty: We do not currently collect data centrally on the number of early retirements amongst police staff and there are no comparable figures to collect in respect of police officers. In view of the operational requirements of policing officers may retire under the police pension scheme of 1987, which applies to those who joined the service before 6 April 2006, with an immediate ordinary pension after 30 years' service or from age 50 if they have at least 25 years' service. The only means by which officers can retire earlier than that with a pension is on the grounds of ill-health. The rate of ill-health retirements among police officers has fallen from 14 per 1,000 officers in service in 1997-98 to three per 1,000 in 2004-05. We will consider the case for widening the scope of the data we collect from forces in the way suggested by the hon. Member.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the net change in the number of police force posts following the creation of a single strategic force for Wales. [82368]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The business case for amalgamation of the four Welsh police forces, which was sent to the forces and police authorities concerned on 3 March, assumed no change in the total number of police officers in Wales .

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of police officers in each police authority area come from ethnic minority backgrounds. [83681]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is available in the "Police Service Strength publication as at 31 March 2005". This report was published on 25 July 2005 and is available in the Library of the House and on:http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb0106.pdf.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former police officers are in receipt of injury pensions. [84116]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers *(a)* were recruited and *(b)* left the service in Yeovil constituency in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06. [82136]

Mr. McNulty: Police personnel data are collected on a financial year basis by police force area. The latest information available is for 2004-05.

In 2004-05 Avon and Somerset police force recruited 139 full-time equivalent (FTE) police community support officers (PCSOs), and no PCSOs were recorded as leaving the force during this period.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints about police conduct and behaviour have been *(a)* submitted and *(b)* upheld in each police force in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82986]

Mr. McNulty: The data requested is not held centrally.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police pursuits of motorbike thieves have resulted in injury to the operator of the motorbike in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [82818]

Mr. McNulty: The data requested is not held centrally.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the mechanism will be for the equalisation of council tax precepts across Wales following the proposed merger of the four Welsh police forces. [67830]

Mr. McNulty: The new strategic police authority will be the precepting authority for the strategic police force. No final decisions have yet been taken on transitional arrangements to allow for convergence of precepts over several years.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police force have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for racism in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82929]

Mr. McNulty: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* resignations and *(b)* retirements of police officers from the Suffolk constabulary there have been in each year since 1997. [82111]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is provided in the following table:

Full-time equivalent[1] police officer resignations and retirements in Suffolk, 1997-2005

As at 31 March each year	Voluntary resignations[2]	Retirements[3]
1997	5	56
1998	10	51
1999	8	44
2000	11	37
2001	12	52
2002	19	36
2003	14	32
2004	28	35
2005	26	27

[1] Prior to 2003, FTE figures excluded those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[2] Voluntary resignations does not include those who are dismissed and required to resign.
[3] Retirements includes normal retirements and medical retirements.

Pornography

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress is being made on preventing children from gaining access to hardcore pornography. [56007]

Mr. Coaker: Strong controls already exist to protect children from hardcore pornography in the UK. I refer my hon. Friend to the answers that my hon. Friend the Member for Wythenshawe and Sale, East (Paul Goggins), then Under-Secretary of State at the Home Department, gave on 23 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 607W, and 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 909W, and the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 651W. In addition, DCMS Ministers have agreed a code of practice with the British Hospitality Association to prevent children under the age of 18 from exposure to video works classified at 18/R18 provided through pay to view systems in hotels.

Port Security

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which UK ports have 24-hour security; and what plans the Government have to introduce 24-hour security at further ports. [82029]

Mr. Byrne: There are currently 19 ports in the UK and in juxtaposed locations which are staffed 24 hours a day. A further 16 have staff based there during operating hours. Other ports are covered on a regular basis to cover scheduled services with all remaining points of entry attended on a risk assessed basis or in response to specific intelligence.

Post Office Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81539]

Mr. Byrne: Two services are made available by Post Office Ltd. on behalf of the Department. The cash payment facility for asylum seekers is provided by National Asylum Support Services (NASS) through the Sodexho Pass contract which subcontracts to the Post Office the distribution of cash to asylum seekers. The contract commenced on 7 January 2000, and has been extended in accordance with the contract, it expires on 31 December 2006. A new cash payment contract however is due to be let in July 2006 with a view to going live no later than 31 December 2006. Post Office Ltd. provides a passport application Check and Send service and holds passport applications packs at post office branches on behalf of the Identity and Passport Service (IPS). This service has operated since 1996. The current agreement for the Check & Send service runs until 30 September 2007. Before the expiry of the current agreement IPS expect to run a procurement exercise for a continuation of this provision.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies (i) make available and (ii) have made available in the last five years through the Post Office network; through how many outlets the service is or was made available; and how many relevant transactions were undertaken in each case in the most recent year for which figures are available. [79198]

Mr. Byrne: Two services are made available by Post Office Ltd. on behalf of the Department. The cash payment facility for asylum seekers is provided by National Asylum Support Services (NASS) through the Sodexho Pass contract which subcontracts to the Post Office, the distribution of cash to asylum seekers, using a total of 530 outlets throughout the UK (although only about 420 outlets are currently used). The contract commenced on 7 January 2000 and has been extended in accordance with the contract. It expires on 31 December 2006. A new cash payment contract however is due to be let in July 2006 with a view to going live no later than 31 December 2006. Post Office Ltd. provides a passport application Check and Send service and hold passport applications packs at 2,513 branches on behalf of the Identity and Passport Service. This service has operated since 1996 and from June 2005 to May 2006 POL processed 2,721,334 passport applications through this service.

Prisoner Information Points

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the *(a)* deployment, *(b)* availability and *(c)* use of prisoner information points; which prison establishments have such facilities; what plans he has to extend availability in each prison; how much has been spent in each prison establishment on prisoner information points; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure public protection through these facilities. [73747]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In 2004, British Telecommunications plc was awarded a contract to construct and install prisoner information points. HM Prison Service has assisted BT in developing the product, but has no obligation to purchase any terminals. It is therefore left to individual establishments to decide whether they wish to purchase the PIPs. The eastern region of the Legal Services Commission has purchased 14 terminals to serve prisons in the east midlands area, as part of their resettlement agenda. In exchange, HMPS has provided facilities for LSC to present local information on the PIPs in these prisons, which are based on the seven resettlement pathways. Currently there are orders for a total of 22 PIPs based in 17 establishments. The information on the terminals is based on the 21 Prison Service Standards which directly affect prisoners' day-to-day life. The terminals are a stand-alone system and do not permit prisoner access to the internet.

Prisoners

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) of 7 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 57W, on prisoners, how many crimes were committed by people released from prison before the end of their sentence in 2005-06. [76915]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of prisoners released on parole licence who were recalled to prison in 2005-06 because of being charged with a further offence will be published in the Parole Board annual report for 2005-06 available towards the end of 2006. In the year 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, around 16,600 prisoners were released on home detention curfew, according to the prison IT system. By the end of May 2006 the Home Office had been notified of 965 offences, reported as committed during the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, for which a prisoner on HDC had been cautioned, convicted or was awaiting prosecution (which may not result in a conviction). This figure will change in future as further reports are received of acquittals, charges dropped, further offences identified, or convictions.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the breakdown of the prison population was in terms of *(a)* ethnic background, *(b)* religion, *(c)* age and *(d)* sex in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82935]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the breakdowns requested of the prison population is to be found in tables 8.4, 8.4a, 8.5, and 8.6 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library. The internet tables for Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004 are available at the following internet address:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/omcs.html.

Prisons

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what spending on the prison service is *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable for the purposes of the public expenditure statistical analysis. [48788]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The departmental expenditure limit for HM Prison Service during 2004-05 was £2,446,412,000 of which: £167,791,000 is regarded as identifiable expenditure and £2,278,621,000 is regarded as non-identifiable expenditure.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of the total prison population released in each year since 1990 completed *(a)* 100 per cent., *(b)* 90 to 99 per cent., *(c)* 80 to 89 per cent., *(d)* 70 to 79 per cent., *(e)* 60 to 69 per cent., *(f)* 50 to 59 per cent. and *(g)* less than 50 per cent. of their total prison sentence. [77189]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on average time served for prisoners discharged under sentence is published in tables 10.1 and 10.2 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library. Comprehensive information on time served for the different bands specified could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inmates have had added days awarded to them by the independent adjudicator and subsequently also had days restored to them by prison governors in each prison in each of the last 12 months; how many days were (i) awarded by the independent adjudicator and (ii) restored by the governor in each case; what the reasons were for the restoration in each case; and if he will make a statement. [78104]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The numbers of added days imposed or remitted in each prison will vary according to the size of the establishment and the nature of the population. Detailed information is not collated centrally. The reasons for restoration of added days in individual cases are not recorded centrally, but in each case the governor (or controller in contracted prisons) considers applications for remission according to criteria set out in Prison Service guidance.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many independent adjudications were carried out in each prison establishment in each of the last 15 months. [78128]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A monthly breakdown of independent adjudications is not available but according to returns from prisons. Independent adjudicators only attend to hear the more serious disciplinary charges for which added days are a likely punishment.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of independent adjudications was in each prison establishment for each of the last 12 months. [78129]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The cost of each visit by an independent adjudicator (district judge) to an establishment is estimated at £700, including an estimated average for expenses of £100 per visit.

A monthly breakdown of independent adjudicators' visits to each prison is not available.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civilian staff are employed at HM Prison Wandsworth. [78167]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As at 15 June 2006, Wandsworth prison employed 191 civilian staff out of a total of 735 staff.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Irish nationals are being held in each prison establishment. [78187]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of Irish national prisoners held in prison establishments within England and Wales, as recorded on the prison IT system, is contained within the following table;

Irish national prisoners by prison establishment in England and Wales 30 April 2006

	Number
Altcourse	11
Askham Grange	1
Acklington	1
Albany	11
Ashfield	1
Ashwell	4
Aylesbury	3
Belmarsh	17
Buckley Hall	3
Blundeston	6
Bedford	5
Blantyre House	0
Brockhill	0
Bristol	5
Birmingham	12
Bullingdon	9
Brinsford	1
Blakenhurst	4
Bullwood Hall	0
Brixton	18
Bronzfield	7
Chelmsford	9
Cardiff	5
Camp Hill	2
Cookham Wood	3
Coldingly	2
Castington	0
Channings Wood	5
Canterbury	3
Dartmoor	4
Dovegate	8
Drake Hall	0
Durham	1
Doncaster	1
Dorchester	1
Deerbolt	0
Dover	0
Downview	4
Erlestoke	4
Standford Hill	3
East Sutton Park	1
Everthorpe	1
Eastwood Park	1
Exeter	3
Elmley	11
Forest Bank	12
Ford	7
Foston Hall	1
Frankland	6
Feltham	10
Full Sutton	9
Featherstone	8
Garth	5
Gloucester	0
Guys Marsh	8
Grendon (Spring Hill)	10
Glen Parva	2
Gartree	5
Hollesley Bay (Warren Hill)	2
Huntercombe	2
Moorland Open	0
Hewell Grange	1
Holme House	2
Hindley	2

Irish national prisoners by prison establishment in England and Wales 30 April 2006

	Number
Hull	3
Highdown	10
Highpoint South	12
Haslar	0
Haverigg	0
Holloway	10
Kirkham	1
Kirklevington	0
Lancaster	1
Leicester	3
Leeds	7
Lancaster Farms	1
Lowdham Grange	9
Lindholme	4
Lincoln	0
Long Lartin	5
Latchmere House	3
Low Newton	0
Liverpool	6
Littlehey	8
Lewes	5
Leyhill	4
Moorland	1
Morton Hall	0
Manchester	13
Maidstone	7
Mount	15
Highpoint North	9
New Hall	3
Nottingham	2
Northallerton	0
North Sea Camp	4
Norwich	2
Onley	6
Peterborough	5
Portland	7
Parkhurst	6
Preston	3
Pare	10
Kingston (Portsmouth)	5
Pentonville	29
Rochester	2
Reading	1
Rye Hill	6
Ranby	11
Risley	4
Send	3
Stafford	9
Stoke Heath	3
Stocken	6
Swaleside	6
Shepton Mallet	1
Swinfen Hall	0
Styal	2
Sudbury	4
Swansea	6
Shrewsbury	2
Thorn Cross	0
Usk (Prescoed)	2
Verne	2

Irish national prisoners by prison establishment in England and Wales 30 April 2006

	Number
Wellingborough	3
Winchester	6
Wakefield	9
Wealstun	2
Woodhill	13
Warren Hill	1
Wayland	7
Wymott	6
Werrington	0
Wolds	0
Whitemoor	5
Wormwood Scrubs	35
Whatton	5
Wandsworth	24
Wetherby	1
Total	693

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* psychologists and *(b)* psychology assistants are employed (i) at each prison establishment and (ii) at Prison Service headquarters. [78195]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the number of psychologists and psychology assistants employed at each prison establishment, public sector Prison Service headquarters and National Offender Management Service can be found in the following table. Information for contracted prisons does not include psychological assistants.

	Public sector prison establishments	
	Full-time equivalent staff in post 31 May 2006	
Prison name	*Psychologist*	*Psychological Assistant*
Acklington	4.5	1.0
Albany	9.0	15.0
Ashwell	5.0	2.0
Askham Grange	—	—
Aylesbury	10.8	3.0
Bedford	—	—
Belmarsh	—	—
Birmingham	2.0	2.0
Blakenhurst	—	5.0
Blantyre House	—	—
Blundeston	4.0	4.0
Brinsford	2.0	5.0
Bristol	4.8	4.0
Brixton	2.0	3.0
Brockhill	—	—
Buckley Hall	1.0	2.0
Bullingdon	6.0	2.0
Bullwood Hall	3.4	6.0
Camp Hill	—	—
Canterbury	—	—
Cardiff	9.0	6.0
Castington	5.0	7.0

Public sector prison establishments

Full-time equivalent staff in post 31 May 2006

Prison name	*Psychologist*	*Psychological Assistant*
Channings Wood	9.0	9.0
Chelmsford	1.7	2.0
Coldingley	—	—
Cookham Wood	—	—
Dartmoor	4.0	5.0
Deerbolt	4.5	3.0
Dorchester	—	—
Dover	—	—
Downview	—	—
Drake Hall	3.0	1.0
Durham	3.0	3.0
East Sutton Park	—	—
Eastwood Park	1.0	1.0
Edmunds Hill	—	—
Elmley	—	—
Erlestoke	3.0	4.0
Everthorpe	1.0	1.0
Exeter	—	4.0
Featherstone	1.6	3.0
Feltham	—	—
Ford	—	—
Foston Hall	1.0	1.0
Frankland	32.7	6.0
Full Sutton	18.7	2.0
Garth	5.0	3.0
Gartree	20.9	5.0
Glen Parva	7.0	4.5
Gloucester	—	—
Grendon	13.6	1.0
Guys Marsh	—	2.0
Haslar	—	—
Haverigg	—	—
Hewell Grange	—	—
High Down	—	—
Highpoint	2.5	5.0
Hindley	—	—
Hollesley Bay	2.0	—
Holloway	8.8	4.7
Holme House	2.6	0.3
Hull	12.0	11.0
Huntercombe	—	4.0
Kingston	3.6	1.0
Kirkham	2.0	1.0
Kirklevington Grange	—	—
Lancaster	—	—
Lancaster Farms	4.8	1.0
Latchmere House	—	—
Leeds	4.0	3.0
Leicester	—	—
Lewes	—	—
Leyhill	8.6	4.0
Lincoln	1.0	1.0
Lindholme	7.0	7.5
Littlehey	8.0	6.0
Liverpool	5.7	3.0

Public sector prison establishments

Full-time equivalent staff in post 31 May 2006

Prison name	*Psychologist*	*Psychological Assistant*
Long Lartin	10.0	5.0
Low Newton	5.0	4.0
Maidstone	—	—
Manchester	5.4	3.0
Moorland	6.0	4.0
Morton Hall	1.4	—
New Hall	6.0	2.0
North Sea Camp	1.0	—
Northallerton	1.0	2.0
Norwich	4.0	3.0
Nottingham	1.0	1.0
Onley	3.0	4.0
Parkhurst	2.8	—
Pentonville	3.0	8.5
Portland	3.0	6.0
Preston	—	—
Ranby	2.0	3.0
Reading	2.0	—
Risley	10.3	9.3
Rochester	—	—
Send	1.8	1.0
Shepton Mallet	4.8	1.0
Shrewsbury	—	—
Stafford	11.5	10.0
Standford Hill	—	—
Stocken	1.0	4.0
Stoke Heath	1.0	7.0
Styal	3.0	2.0
Sudbury	2.0	2.0
Swaleside	—	—
Swansea	—	1.0
Swinfen Hall	15.7	17.6
The Mount	2.7	3.5
The Verne	1.0	4.0
Thorn Cross	3.0	2.0
Usk/Prescoed	8.0	4.0
Wakefield	18.7	3.0
Wandsworth	12.4	1.0
Warren Hill	1.0	3.0
Wayland	7.0	4.0
Wealstun	5.5	—
Weare	—	—
Wellingborough	4.0	2.0
Werrington	—	—
Wetherby	3.0	2.0
Whatton	17.3	8.0
Whitemoor	13.0	4.0
Winchester	—	—
Woodhill	4.0	5.0
Wormwood Scrubs	3.0	4.0
Wymott	7.0	4.2
Prison Service HQ	76.1	33.0
National Offender Management Service HQ	3.0	—
Total	569.5	367.1

Contracted prisons

Prison name	*Psychologist*
Altcourse	2
Ashfield	4
Bronzefield	—
Doncaster	3
Dovegate Main	7
Dovegate Therapeutic	4
Forest Bank	—
Lowdham Grange	1
Parc	—
Peterborough	—
Rye Hill	4
Wolds	[1] —
Total	21.0

[1] No permanent staff, sessional staff as required

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what mechanisms exist to monitor inmates' cars parked at prison establishments to ensure that the vehicles are *(a)* legally registered as owned by the inmate claiming ownership and *(b)* displaying valid tax discs; and if he will make a statement; [78210]

(2) what proportion of inmates at HM Prison Latchmere House are currently allowed to park their cars in the establishment's car park; and if he will make a statement. [78211]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no mandatory instructions on how to monitor cars belonging to prisoners. Each establishment requires prisoners to comply with the law. For example, at Latchmere House, vehicle registration documents must be in the prisoner's own name and have the address as Latchmere House. Documents are kept in prisoners' valuables and an application must be made, with a reason, for any withdrawals. The tax disc is photocopied and a renewal date entered on the car document log which is checked monthly by the Job Club to ensure tax is still current. Thirty prisoners, as at 16 June 2006, use the establishment's car park, out of a population of 169.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which prisons have been re-roled since 1997; how many prison places there are in each establishment; when the re-roling took place; and what the cost of re-roling was. [79709]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 22 June 2006]:* The following table provides details of prisons that have changed function since 1997, including number of places at the time of the change. It does not include individual wings or prisons that have changed their security category but retained their previous function. Information on change of function costs is not available as accounting records do not identify these separately from other operating costs.

Prison	*Year*	*Changed from*	*Changed to*	*Number of places*
Foston Hall	1997	Male Prison	Female Prison	150
Send	1998	Male Prison	Female Prison	220
Low Newton	1999	Male Prison	Female Prison	245
Downview	2001	Male Prison	Female Prison	227
Morton Hall	2001	Male Prison	Female Prison	192
Haslar	2002	Male Prison	Immigration Removal Centre	160
Dover	2002	Male Prison	Immigration Removal Centre	205
Buckley Hall	2002	Male Prison	Female Prison	390
Wolds	2003	Male Local Prison	Male Training Prison	360
Canterbury	2003	Male Local Prison	Male Training Prison	304
Edmunds Hill	2004	Female Prison	Male Prison	310
Buckley Hall	2005	Female Prison	Male Prison	385
Brockhill	2006	Female Prison	Male Prison	150
Bullwood Hall	2006	Female Prison	Male Prison	184

Mr. McLoughlin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners have escaped from HMP Sudbury in Derbyshire in the last year for which figures are available; what the *(a)* offence and *(b)* sentence of each absconder was; what the remaining length of sentence was of each absconder; how many have been caught; and if he will make a statement. [79992]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* Seventy-six prisoners absconded from Sudbury open prison during 2005-06, the latest year for which data are available. Of these 14 remain unlawfully at large. Details of each absconder's offence and sentence could be obtained only by examination of each prisoner's record at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inmates who absconded from *(a)* all open prisons and *(b)* Spring Hill open prison since 1999 have not been recaptured; and how many of those who absconded committed further crimes before being apprehended. [80312]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* Information for all open prisons is available since 1997. As at 24 May 2006, 357 prisoners remained unlawfully at large from those who had absconded from open prisons in England and Wales between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2006. As at 22 June 2006, 29 prisoners remained unlawfully at large from those who absconded from Springhill open prison between 1 April 1999 and 31 March 2006. Information is not held centrally on further offences committed by absconders while unlawfully at large.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Prison Service

Instructions and *(b)* Prison Service Orders were issued without being published in each of the last nine years for which figures are available. [81204]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prison Service Orders and Instructions are available to prisoners through prison libraries, unless their circulation is restricted on security or commercial grounds. Extant non-restricted Orders and Instructions are also published on the Prison Service website except for a few early examples for which no electronic copy exists. Hard copies of these can be obtained on request to Prison Service headquarters.

The numbers of restricted Instructions and Orders by year of issue are detailed in the table.

The numbers of restricted Prison Service Instructions and Orders by year

	Restricted circulation Prison Service Orders issued	*Restricted circulation Prison Service Instructions issued*
1997	0	0
1998	5	1
1999	2	0
2000	2	1
2001	1	0
2002	2	0
2003	0	0
2004	0	0
2005	1	0
2006	1	2

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many spare places in open prisons were available in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [81207]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is set out in the table.

	Places available
1995	750
1996	283
1997	34
1998	380
1999	761
2000	712
2001	604
2002	236
2003	286
2004	334
2005	360

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prisoners under the age of 18 years are in each prison; what plans he has to transfer those individuals to specialist youth institutions; and if he will make a statement. [81515]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of young people under 18 accommodated in each young offender institution (run by the Prison Service or private contractors) on 28 April (the most recent date for which figures are available) is set out in the following table. On the same date, 243 under-18s were accommodated in secure training centres and 230 in secure children's homes. These figures and those in the table were provided by the Youth Justice Board.

The Youth Justice Board has responsibility for deciding, on behalf of the Secretary of State, where young people serving detention and training orders are to be accommodated. The board's decisions take account of the age and sex of the young person, his or her individual needs and where he or she normally lives. The Prison Service performs the same function in relation to under-18s sentenced to longer periods of detention. Young offender institutions, secure training centres and secure children's homes are all specialist youth institutions, with staff who are trained in the needs of young people. The higher staff-to-trainee ratios in secure training centres and secure children's homes are more suited to the needs of younger trainees and those who are more vulnerable.

Young people under 18 in young offender institutions as at 28 April 2006

	Number
Male establishments	
Ashfield	286
Brinsford	187
Castington	134
Feltham	194
Hindley	147
Huntercombe	296
Lancaster Farms	201
Parc	22
Stoke Heath	172
Thorn Cross	20
Warren Hill	186
Werrington	144
Wetherby	289
Woodhill[1]	4
Total males under 18	2,282
Female establishments	
Cookhamwood	14
Downview	15
Eastwoodpark	[2]15
New Hall	20
Total females under 18	64
Grand total	2,346

[1] Woodhill is a high security establishment holding young people with category A status. Under-18s are held in a dedicated unit and follow the under-18 regime.
[2] One of these young women is in the mother and baby unit and another in the detoxification unit.

Probation Service

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the probation facilities in Hertfordshire; and if he will make a statement. [21089]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Details of the performance of the 42 probation areas in England and Wales against targets set for the National Probation Service for 2005-06 may be found in the National Probation Service

performance report issue 20 which is posted on the NPS website at: http://www.probation.homeoffice. gov.uk/output/page34.asp.

Issue 20 showed Hertfordshire as the worst performing area in the weighted scorecard, which ranks probation areas according to their performance across the range of key indicators. The greatest areas of concern are with performance in relation to the two key targets on OASys risk assessments on (a) high risk offenders and (b) prolific and other priority offenders (PPOs). Performance on both these targets was 14 per cent. in 2005-06. The target for both high risk and PPOs is 90 per cent.

Hertfordshire's performance on the enforcement target is the worst of all the probation areas at 80 per cent. The target is 90 per cent. and the aggregate of all areas in England and Wales was 91 per cent. Hertfordshire achieved 77 per cent. on compliance against a target of 85 per cent. and an England and Wales average of 81 per cent. Against a target of 645 completions of unpaid work orders, Hertfordshire achieved 464 (72 per cent.). 49 per cent. of victims were contacted within the timescale required by national standards—the target is 85 per cent. and nationally the NPS is achieving 93 per cent. The remaining key performance indicators are at or around target with the exception of basic skills awards where double the awards target was achieved in 2005-06.

HM Inspectorate of Probation, as an independent inspectorate reporting to Ministers on the work of the National Probation Service, published an inspection report on Hertfordshire probation area in March 2004 under its effective supervision inspection programme. This showed poor performance, particularly in the assessment and supervision of offenders who posed a high risk of harm to others, and that the area needed to make significant improvements in its overall operation.

In view of the results of this inspection, HM Inspectorate of Probation undertook a follow-up inspection of Hertfordshire which was published in January 2005. This indicated considerable signs of improvement, but that further work was needed to improve the quality of effective supervision, and particularly of the management of risk of harm.

All HMI Probation reports are published, and copies are in the Library of the House.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have met trade union representatives to discuss improvements to the probation service in the last 12 months. [82685]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* The information is as follows:

(a) Junior Home Office Ministers have met frequently with the unions, both formally and informally, over this period and these discussions have included improvements in the service.

(b) My officials have met union representatives on a regular basis throughout the last twelve months in a wide range of contexts and improvement to the probation service has been discussed on many occasions.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people recruited by the Probation Service in the last 12 months have no formal qualifications. [82686]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* The Home Office does not collect information centrally on what, if any, qualifications are held by staff recruited to the Probation Service, and we cannot therefore provide a response to this question.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he uses consultants to advise on the work of the Probation Service. [82687]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 July 2006]:* The National Probation Directorate employs from time to time a number of consultants or consultancy firms to provide specialist support over a wide range of probation work..

Seasonal Agricultural Workers

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why his Department is proposing to change the contracts of employment for seasonal agricultural workers scheme students; when these changes were announced; and when they will take effect. [82027]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* It is the responsibility of the operators to ensure that each student employed on the seasonal agricultural workers scheme (SAWS) has a contract of employment and that it meets the terms and conditions of both the scheme and all appropriate employment legislation. Monitoring activities have found that many students employed on the SAWS are being paid as daily casual workers; a practice which is incompatible with the terms and conditions of the SAWS contract. The contract states that participants are to be offered work for a minimum period of five weeks and a minimum of 40 hours work per week. Officials sent a contract clarification letter to all SAWS operators on 22 June 2006 confirming that SAWS students must not be employed on daily contracts and that employment contracts must be amended accordingly. A working group of Home Office officials and SAWS operator representatives will now address how the operators should be seeking to comply with the requirements and the timescales for doing so.

Security Industry Authority

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* licence applications were received and *(b)* licences were issued by the Security Industry Authority in each of the last five months for which figures are available. [62261]

Mr. Coaker: The information is given in the table.

Month in 2006	Applications received	Licences issued
May	12,200	6,752
April	13,126	13,034
March	25,632	10,821
February	18,494	8,480
January	14,000	8,354

Security Service

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former *(a)* MI5 and *(b)* MI6 agents have been imprisoned in the UK in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82919]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is the established policy of successive Governments not to make public information that could assist in the identification of agents of the intelligence and security services.

Sex Offenders

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many registered sex offenders reside in each London borough. [82752]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This data will be made available in local multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) annual reports, which are due to be published in October.

Terrorism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many terrorist cells have been discovered in the United Kingdom since 11 September 2001; and if he will make a statement. [82356]

Mr. McNulty: It is our policy not to comment on the details of specific intelligence operations as these are operational matters for the police and the security service. However, on 11 May 2006, I informed the House that the police and agencies have disrupted many attacks against the UK since 9/11, including three since last July.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how he expects the EU plans to introduce a non-emotive lexicon to help combat terrorism to work in practice; and if he will make a statement. [82741]

Mr. McNulty: Under the UK presidency, in the context of the EU's action plan to counter radicalisation and recruitment to terrorism, the Government proposed the development of a "non-emotive lexicon". This proposal reflected our recognition, and that of the EU, that certain terms are potentially inflammatory if used inappropriately and there are those who wish to misrepresent Government policies as anti-Muslim or anti-Islam. The Austrian presidency took work on this forward with the development of a short list of key terms and a broader EU communications strategy, which was designed to provide a framework for discussing issues related to Islamist terrorism. The lexicon is a living document which the current presidency may or may not chose to expand, but, as part of the communications strategy, it is a guide to help EU Ministers and officials express themselves clearly and to minimise the chance of their statements and policies being misunderstood or misconstrued.

Victims of Crime

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are in place to prevent a person who has murdered their spouse organising the victim's funeral in their position as next-of-kin. [76783]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

There are no specific measures in place to prevent a person who has murdered their spouse organising the victim's funeral.

Being next-of-kin does not create a right to organise someone's funeral. A duty to dispose of a dead body is incumbent on the executors of the deceased. A court can refuse to issue a grant of representation to someone it considers unsuitable to be an executor or an administrator of the deceased's estate. It is an offence to detain a body and to refuse to deliver it to the executors for burial.

Under the victim advocate scheme which is being piloted in five Crown courts, families of the victims of murder or manslaughter will be able to receive up to 15 hours of publicly funded personal and social legal advice from a lawyer, who will be able to advise on issues such as this, in addition to questions about access to the deceased's property and their children's belongings, residency orders, next of kin status as well as financial and benefits matters.

Violent Crime

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crimes were recorded in each year since 1996 *(a)* in total, *(b)* in Northamptonshire and *(c)* in Wellingborough. [82053]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* The information requested is given in the tables. Since 1997, there have been two major changes to the way in which crime is recorded. The effect of the change in counting rules in 1998 was to artificially increase recorded violent crime nationally by more than 80 per cent. while it is estimated that the effect of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002 caused a further 20 per cent. increase in recorded violent crime in its first year.

Table 1: Recorded violent crime—1996 and 1997

	Number of offences	
	1996	1997
England and Wales	344,766	347,064
Northamptonshire	3,584	3,688
Wellingborough	n/a	n/a

n/a = not available.

Table 2: Recorded violent crime—1998-99 to 2001-02

	Number of offences			
	1998-99	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
England and Wales	605,797	703,107	733,374	813,121
Northamptonshire	5,995	5,896	6,051	6,973
Wellingborough	n/a	960	878	913

n/a = not available.

Notes:

1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Recorded violent crime—2002-03 to 2004-05

	Number of offences		
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
England and Wales	991,563	1,109,016	1,184,702
Northamptonshire	11,431	12,834	12,678
Wellingborough	1,544	1,462	1,491

Note:

The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Workers Registration Scheme

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of those who registered under the Workers Registration Scheme have worked for 12 months or more in the United Kingdom. [81015]

Mr. Byrne: The information is not available. The Worker Registration Scheme does not require those that register to notify the Home Office when they leave the UK.

Young Offenders

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of non-violent young offenders *(a)* sent to prison and *(b)* given alternatives to custody re-offended within two years of finishing their sentence in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [78648]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Re-offending rates are not available for non-violent young offenders by disposal. The most recent information on the re-offending of juveniles living in England and Wales was published in June as "Juvenile re-offending: results from the 2004 cohort". Home Office Statistical Bulletin 10/06. The report is available on line at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1006.pdf.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 11 July 2006

TRANSPORT

Community Transport

9. **Judy Mallaber:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the role of community transport in future transport policy. [83855]

Gillian Merron: Community transport has a vital role in helping to meet the transport needs of different groups. The Department works closely with the Community Transport Association and supports over 700 community transport operators in England through the Bus Service Operators Grant.

Concessionary Bus Travel Scheme

11. **Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his plans are for implementing the proposed free national concessionary bus travel. [83857]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: From April 2008 persons aged 60 and over and disabled people will be entitled to free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in the country. We will be consulting authorities, bus operators and other interested parties on the best framework for delivering the improved concessionary fares entitlement.

Buses

12. **Mr. Hendrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to increase the use of public transport by bus. [83858]

20. **Mr. Khan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to encourage more use of public transport buses. [83866]

Gillian Merron: We are committed to seeing an increase in bus use and improving bus services.

Over the coming months I will be looking closely at the issues, to come to a decision, later in the year, about the right framework to increase and improve bus travel.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to encourage the use of public transport by bus. [83123]

Gillian Merron: Within the context of delivering our long-term strategy for improving bus services across the country, the most recent steps taken by the Government include:

Providing local authorities in England with the resources to support their Local Transport Plan strategies, a large part of which are related to improving bus-related infrastructure (some £571 million invested by local authorities between 2001-02 and 2004-05 in bus improvements);

The introduction of free local concessionary fares for older and disabled people from April 2006, and the announcement of free national concessionary fares from April 2008;

Up to £200 million per year of the Transport Innovation Fund (from 2008-09) has been made available specifically to support packages of measures that will address congestion in towns and cities through demand management and public transport improvements, including better bus services;

Allocating £20 million to fund 43 Kickstart schemes to pump-prime promising local bus services;

£54 million available for 2006-07 to support rural bus services.

Providing capital funding for major bus schemes, such as the £42 million contribution towards the Greater Bristol Bus Network scheme.

Over the coming months we will be looking at the success of these, and other initiatives, with a view to developing future plans to encourage bus use.

Railways

13. **Mr. Rob Wilson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his plans are to overcome capacity problems on the rail network. [83859]

15. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his plans are to overcome capacity problems on the rail network. [83861]

Derek Twigg: We are increasing capacity in a number of ways. Through the franchising process, we are securing increases in train carrying capacity. And we are working with Network Rail on major projects to increase capacity, including the West Coast upgrade and Thameslink. Next year will see the opening of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link. And next summer we will publish the High Level Output Statement detailing what we expect to buy from the railway from 2009-14. Capacity will be a key element.

Bus Regulation

14. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to change bus regulation; and if he will make a statement. [83860]

Gillian Merron: We are committed to seeing an increase in bus patronage and improving bus services for passengers across the country. Over the coming months we will be looking at what works and what does not work, and will make decisions in the autumn.

Traffic Accidents

16. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on trends in the number of serious traffic accidents in England. [83862]

Dr. Ladyman: Our statistics for 2005 indicate that there were 24,379 accidents involving people killed or seriously injured reported to the police in England, 30 per cent. below the 1994-98 baseline average and 6 per cent. below the number in 2004.

Euston (Intercity Services)

17. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to increase intercity services out of Euston as part of the 2009 timetable. [83863]

Derek Twigg: The upgrade of West Coast Mainline will be largely completed by end of 2008. As a result the timetable starting in December 2008 is planned to include a substantial increase in long distance services to and from Euston. This is set out in the progress report on the West Coast upgrade project that was published in May 2006.

Road Congestion

18. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in improving traffic management to ease road congestion. [83864]

Dr. Ladyman: Under the Traffic Management Act 2004 local authorities in England have a duty to manage traffic on their road network, co-ordinate street works and manage parking enforcement. We are consulting on proposals regarding network management duties that will ensure authorities do all they can to tackle congestion and keep traffic moving on their roads.

Traffic officers are helping to keep traffic moving, ease congestion and ensure safety, primarily on English motorways.

Airport Expansion

19. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the Government's plans for airport expansion in Southern England. [83865]

Gillian Merron: The Government's "Future of Air Transport" White Paper, published in December 2003, sets out a strategic framework for the development of airport capacity in the UK, including at airports in Southern England, over the next 30 years. We intend to publish a progress report on the policies and proposals set out in the Air Transport White Paper (ATWP), by the end of 2006.

Parking Fines

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to ensure fairer administration of parking fines by local authorities. [83856]

Gillian Merron: The Traffic Management Act 2004 gives the Government power to make regulations and issue statutory guidance on the civil enforcement of parking contraventions including the administration of parking penalty charges. The Secretary of State will tomorrow—12 July—launch our three month consultation "Better Parking—Keeping Traffic Moving" on this.

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advertising campaigns his Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81912]

Gillian Merron: The Department and its executive agencies monitor expenditure on a fiscal year basis. Campaign expenditure on media advertising for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are set out in the following table. The major areas of expenditure are designed to support our THINK! road safety and car tax offenders campaigns.

Department	*Campaign*	*2004-05*	*£ 2005-06*
DfT	THINK! Road safety	9.2 million	11,567,000
	Transport Direct	320,000	743,000
DVLA	Sale of personalised car registrations	1.9 million	2 million
	Continuous registration	2.3 million	2.3 million
	Harmonised registration certificate	—	1.5 million
Highways Agency	Introduction of traffic officers	—	153,000
	Active traffic management on the M42	—	100,000
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Safe fishing	16,000	16,000
Vehicle Certification Agency	Information for the automotive and related industries	18,000	21,500

Aircraft Emissions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of how much carbon dioxide is produced on average by an individual aircraft per mile travelled, broken down by aircraft type; and if he will make a statement. [82851]

Gillian Merron: The amount of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions produced will vary by model of plane, aircraft types and according to factors such as journey lengths, passenger loadings and weather conditions. The information is therefore not collected in the form requested.

However, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs publishes estimates of CO_2 emissions

from aircraft, as set out in its Company Reporting Manual. The manual is available on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/envrp/gas/envrpgas-annexes.pdf

Arriva Trains Wales

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Arriva Trains Wales services were cancelled from Llansamlet railway station in 2005. [80621]

Derek Twigg: Responsibility of the management of the Arriva Trains Wales ('ATW') Franchise Agreement has transferred to the National Assembly for Wales from the Department for Transport. The Department for Transport does not hold this information.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 21W, on railways, what issues were discussed at the meeting with Arriva Trains Wales; and what the outcome was. [80726]

Derek Twigg: The Department for Transport is still in discussion with interested parties on the implications of the planned First Great Western timetable changes for services between Cardiff and Swansea.

Birmingham New Street Station (Medical Assistance)

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what emergency medical assistance is available at Birmingham New Street train station. [83368]

Derek Twigg: This is an operational matter for Network Rail, the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his question.

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton street
London NW1 2EE.

Departmental Documents

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much it cost to research, write and publish *(a)* "A New Deal for Transport" (July 1998), *(b)* "Transport 2010—the 10 Year Plan", *(c)* "Delivering Better Transport: Progress Report" (December 2002) and *(d)* "The Future of Transport: a Network for 2030" (July 2004). [79919]

Gillian Merron: Research and writing of the latter three documents were carried out as part of civil servants' normal duties. Design and printing costs were:

	£
"Transport 2010—The Ten-Year Plan"	46,659
"Delivering Better Transport—Progress Report"	43,999
"The Future of Transport"	52,377

Information on the costs of "A New Deal for Transport" cannot be traced without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departmental Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of his Department; what commitment he has made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81053]

Gillian Merron: On 12 June Government launched new targets for sustainable operations on the Government estate, including ones to reduce carbon emissions. The Department for Transport is currently assessing its position against these targets and will publish performance data in due course.

Our performance in respect of the 2004-05 financial year can be found in the Sustainable Development Commission's report "Leading by example?".

Departmental Consultations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his practice is regarding meeting, discussions with and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81641]

Gillian Merron: The Department always seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy-making process; both informal and formal. The Department holds regular meetings with representatives of the principal stakeholder groups for our policy areas and with relevant experts.

Organisations and individuals can also contribute to the Department's formal consultations which abide by the code of conduct on consultation. Known stakeholders are alerted to the fact that a formal consultation is taking place. As required by the code, the Department then gives feedback on the responses received and on how the consultation process influenced the policy decision.

Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value of the grant paid to Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive was in each of the last five years. [82440]

Derek Twigg: The total funds allocated by the Department for Transport to the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive are set out in the following table. These totals include funding for rail, bus services and local transport. In the case of rail and bus service funding, these allocations are entirely in the form of grant. Local Transport Plan funding covers integrated transport block (for small schemes), maintenance and major projects, and are allocated as a combination of

capital grant and supported borrowing. 2005-06 figures are provisional and subject to audit.

	£ million
2001-02	133.1
2002-03	193.8
2003-04	172.5
2004-05	176.0
2005-06	92.0

Hang-gliding

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what safety regulations govern hang-gliding; what guidance he has issued on the subject; and if he will make a statement. [83772]

Gillian Merron: All aircraft in the United Kingdom, including hang-gliders, must be flown in accordance with the Rules of the Air Regulations 1996. There are no registration, design certification or pilot licensing requirements for hang-gliders. The Civil Aviation Authority has not issued any guidance on hang-gliding.

London-Swansea Rail Line

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of linking the main London-Swansea rail line to a rail link to Ebbw Vale. [83669]

Derek Twigg: This is a matter for the Welsh Assembly Government.

Low-emission Vehicles

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial incentives the Government provide for the purchase of low emission vehicles; and which vehicles on sale in the UK are eligible for those incentives. [82321]

Dr. Ladyman: The single biggest financial incentive for most drivers is provided by fuel duty. Motorists can make substantial fuel duty savings by choosing more efficient, less polluting vehicles.

In 2001 vehicle excise duty for cars was reformed and is now graduated by carbon dioxide emissions. This gives a clear signal to motorists to choose less polluting vehicles. In Budget 2006 this framework was further reformed to strengthen environmental signals. Private and light goods vehicles first registered before March 2001 are taxed according to their engine size, in one of two bands.

Company car tax is also graduated according to CO_2 emissions, having been reformed in 2002.

The CO_2 ratings for new cars are published on the website of the Vehicle Certification Agency and in its publication "New Car Fuel Consumption and Emission Figures" (latest edition May 2006) and VED rates are published on the DVLA website.

Concerning grants, I refer the hon. Member to the written statement "Transport grant and advice programmes" which I made on 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 30-32WS.

Media Analysis Reports

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department produces a monthly media analysis report. [82205]

Gillian Merron: The Department's use of the services provided by its media analysis contractor ended in February 2006. We are currently reviewing how we measure the effectiveness of our communications.

All the media analysis reports can be found on the DfT website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_about/documents/divisionhomepage/610943.hcsp

and at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_foi/documents/divisionhomepage/041073.hcsp

Motorway Surface Noise

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what criteria an area is assessed for its eligibility for motorway surface noise alleviation. [84162]

Dr. Ladyman: Resurfacing of strategic roads, including motorways, is carried out when maintenance of the existing surface is required on safety grounds or as a result of general wear and tear caused by traffic. When resurfacing is required, quieter surfacing materials are used as a matter of course.

Noise barriers have been installed on existing strategic roads where serious and pressing cases of high levels of traffic noise experienced by nearby residents have been identified and where there has been no early prospect of quieter surfacing materials being laid. These cases, which were listed on 11 November 1999, *Official Report*, columns 681-83W, were identified using criteria announced by the Minister on 22 March 1999, based on calculated noise levels and road opening dates.

Multi-Modal Studies

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on *(a)* progress with and *(b)* plans for multi-modal studies. [83015]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that was provided on 10 October 2005, *Official Report*, columns 96-98W.

Rail Fares

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passenger train operating companies permit the use of a cheap day return ticket all day. [82503]

Derek Twigg: Most train companies have a few cheap day return fares that are valid all day, usually well away from urban areas or for travel in the opposite direction to the peak passenger flow. Most cheap day return tickets carry a morning peak restriction, and cheap day

returns set by at least five train operating companies also have an evening peak restriction. Cheap day return tickets are not regulated, so the Department does not collate information on these restrictions.

Rail Timetables

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will seek a review of the time of early morning trains on the Gloucester to Bristol line. [83266]

Derek Twigg: The Department of Transport has no current plans to seek a review of the times of trains on the Gloucester to Bristol line.

Railways (Crime)

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many crimes have been reported at each train station in each of the last five years. [82600]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held by the Department for Transport. Information relating to crimes at railway stations is held by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN.

Reading-Taunton Freight Line

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will take steps to ensure that freight traffic from the Mendip quarries is re-routed via Bristol to enable essential repair work by high-output machinery on the Reading to Taunton line; and if he will make a statement; [83528]

(2) what discussions he has had with the owners of *(a)* Whatley and *(b)* Merehead Quarry on their use of freight trains at times when repairs could be effectively carried out to the Reading to Taunton line by high-output machinery; [83529]

(3) if he will ensure that the high-output machinery for repairing and improving rail track is used on the West country route between Reading and Exeter and not transported to other parts of the rail network until the work is completed. [83532]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* These are operational matters for Network Rail, the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions.

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton street
London NW1 2EE

Rural Bus Services

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many rural bus services have been lost in Suffolk in each of the past five years. [82727]

Gillian Merron: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) do not keep the statistics requested by county. They do, however, compile this information according to traffic area. The number of new and cancelled bus services by traffic area from 1998-2005 were provided in an answer give by my predecessor on 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2505-6W.

The following table shows the figures for 2005-06 which are now available.

Traffic area	*New*	*Cancelled*
North Eastern	578	554
North Western	652	546
Eastern (incorporating Suffolk)	579	454
West Midlands	488	407
Welsh	268	213
Western	559	468
South Eastern plus Metropolitan	210	157
Scotland	385	511

Traffic Commissioners

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to include the monitoring of the operation of bus services in the remit of the Traffic Commissioners. [82822]

Gillian Merron: The Traffic Commissioners do already have powers to monitor local bus services. They can and do take action against operators who fail to run a bus service in accordance with the registered details of the service.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Alcoholism

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support his Department provides for children and families affected by alcoholism in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-east, *(c)* the Tees Valley and *(d)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency. [79325]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are taking robust action to reduce significantly the numbers of young people affected by substance misuse, (including alcohol). The Department for Education and Skills, the Home Office and Department of Health agreed a joint approach to the development of universal, targeted and specialist services to prevent drug harm and to ensure that all children and young people are able to reach their potential. This will often cover a wide range of substances, including alcohol and volatile substances and is supported by a ring fenced budget—The Young People's Substance Misuse Partnership Grant.

In addition, the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, led by the Home Office, aims to minimise harm caused by alcohol and tackle adult problem drinking. The strategy includes a work theme on young people and parents.

Arrangements for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare have been strengthened through the Every Child Matters reform. The Children Act 2004 places a duty on local authority children's services departments to protect children from significant harm, including from alcohol misusing parents.

Over the past two years the Government Office for the North East's Drugs and Crime team has led a major regional initiative aimed at developing effective multi-agency responses for children and families affected by parental substance misuse. All 12 local authorities are participating in this and many have developed local networks to plan and implement effective support services.

Specifically within Tees Valley, five authorities have developed a range of services for children and families affected by parental substance misuse.

Middlesbrough have just established a project—Families First—dedicated to supporting families where parental alcohol or misuse threatens the safety and well-being of the children in the family. The Government are funding an evaluation of the project in order to develop the evidence base on interventions with these young people.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much the Department has spent in providing support for children and families affected by alcoholism in each of the last five years. [79326]

Beverley Hughes: DfES do not provide specific funding for this area of work. However, local partnerships have used a range of funding streams to develop and support children and families affected by alcoholism, including the Adult Pooled Treatment Budget, Young People's Substance Misuse Partnership Grant, High Focus Area capacity building fund, Neighbourhood Renewal Funding and mainstream funding for children's services.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* the Cabinet Office regarding the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if he will make a statement. [82838]

Alan Johnson: I have had and will continue to have wide-ranging and regular discussions with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury about preparations for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, as a matter of key importance to my Department's medium and long-term planning.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 666W, on the Comprehensive Spending Review, what the key challenges and issues for his Department are for the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. [84108]

Alan Johnson *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* As my Department prepares for the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007, I will be seeking to continue our drive to improve outcomes for all children, and in particular the most disadvantaged; enhance the protection of vulnerable children (including those with special educational needs); improve school standards; and to improve the quality and choice of courses available to young people between the ages of 14 and 19. It will also be crucial that our Further and Higher Education systems are able to deliver the world class skills and culture of learning that will increase the nation's international competitiveness.

Dyslexia

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to allow children with dyslexia to be given extra time in public examinations; and if he will make a statement. [83919]

Jim Knight: The regulation of public examinations in England is the responsibility of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). The QCA requires awarding bodies to have arrangements in place for candidates with special requirements, including dyslexia. It is the responsibility of the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) on behalf of the awarding bodies to co-ordinate a common set of access arrangements. Candidates with dyslexia are able to benefit from extra time when taking public examinations if they fulfil the criteria set out in "Regulations and Guidance relating to Candidates who are Eligible for Adjustments in Examinations", which is produced by the JCQ.

Examination Standards

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what representations he has received on standards in grading of *(a)* GCSEs and *(b)* A levels; and if he will make a statement. [84254]

Jim Knight: The Department, working closely with the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, has been in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders to take forward our proposals to look at ways of increasing stretch and challenge to test the abilities of the brightest students, as set out in our 14-19 White Paper on Education and Skills.

Further Education Courses

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students did not complete further education courses they had started in each year since 1997. [84255]

Bill Rammell: Figures on students failing to complete courses are best expressed as percentages. Some poorer quality data are excluded, so although rates are accurate, numbers are less so.

Retention rates in Further Education (FE) institutions and completion rates in Work Based Learning (WBL) are published annually in a Learning and Skills Council Statistical First Release:

(http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000649/index.shtml)

FE figures for 1999/00 (the earliest year for which comparable data are available) to 2004/05 (the latest year for which data is published) are shown in the following table:

	Proportion of courses not completed in FE institutions Percentage
1999/2000	22
2000/01	20
2001/02	17
2002/03	17
2003/04	15
2004/05	14

WBL figures for 2000/01 to 2004/05 are shown in the following table:

	Proportion of full frameworks not completed in WBL Percentage
2001/02	76
2002/03	73
2003/04	69
2004/05	60

Gap Years

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the university non-completion rate is of students having taken *(a)* a deferred entry gap year, *(b)* a non-deferred entry gap year and *(c)* no gap year. [84646]

Bill Rammell: Since 1996/97, information on projected non-completion rates for higher education students has been published annually, initially by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and latterly by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), in "Performance Indicators in Higher Education". The latest available figures giving overall non-completion rates for students starting full-time first degree courses in England are shown in the table. Figures that separately identify students who have taken gap years are not available. Figures published in 2005 by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) showed that in 2003 the UK had one of the lowest higher education non-completion rates among OECD countries.

Percentage of UK domiciled full-time first degree students expected neither to obtain an award nor transfer English higher education institutions

Students starting courses in:	*Non-completion rate (%)*
1996/97	15.7
1997/98	16.1
1998/99	15.8
1999/2000	15.9
2000/01	15.0
2001/02	13.8
2002/03	13.9

Source:
"Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA.
For 2002/03, the projected outcomes summarise the pattern of movements of students at institutions between 2002/03 and 2003/04 and give the outcomes that would have been expected from starters in 2002/03 if progression patterns were to remain unchanged over the next few years. The HESA data show the proportion of entrants who are projected to: obtain a qualification (either a first degree or another undergraduate award); transfer to another HEI; neither obtain a qualification nor transfer (i.e. fail to complete the course).

Higher Education (Staff Pay)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether his Department has estimated the likely cost to public funds of the proposed pay offer to higher education staff in each of the next three years; how much of the additional funding of this sector over the next three years the pay award will account for; and if he will make a statement. [81758]

Bill Rammell: Pay and conditions of service are subject to negotiations between the HE employers, their staff and their representative trade union bodies. The Government play no part in this. As such, determining the cost of the pay offer is a matter for individual institutions. Higher education receives funding from a variety of public and private sources. It is a matter for institutions, as autonomous bodies, to determine how they use the resources available to them. Public funding for 2008-09 and beyond will be determined through the comprehensive spending review.

The Universities and Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) has included estimates of the pay offer on its website (http://www.ucea.ac.uk/). UCEA's calculations estimate that the current pay offer will exceed the total additional income from variable fees, in steady state which we estimate will be £1.35 billion by 2010.

Language Colleges

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many registered language colleges were in operation in England in *(a)* June 2004, *(b)* June 2005 and *(c)* June 2006. [83086]

Bill Rammell: The Department does not keep separate records on the number of registered language colleges in operation in England and Wales, and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

National Learning Grid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the decision to discontinue the national learning grid. [84161]

Jim Knight: The National Grid for Learning (NGfL) was always a time limited strategy which was developed to deliver 1. a structure/architecture of educationally valuable content on the internet and 2. ICT infrastructure, services, support and training. The NGfL strategy evolved into the ICT in Schools strategy and now the e-Strategy: Harnessing Technology—Transforming Learning and

Children's Services, published in 2005 and lodged in the House of Commons Library. The e-Strategy takes the NGfL vision a step further looking at a much bigger picture for improving the entire education system and children's services capacity to make best use of technology to achieve better outcomes for children and learners.

The British Educational and Communications Technology managed the NGfL portal as part of the overall NGfL strategy. A combination of overlaps with other online services—e.g. Teachernet and Curriculum Online, and the need to simplify brands and service, resulted in BECTA integrating the NGfL portal into its own online service. Visitors can search for specific educational content both through the BECTA online service and Curriculum Online.

School Playing Fields

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many school playing fields there were in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006; and how many square feet this represented in each year; [84247]

(2) how many square feet of property belonging to educational establishments has been sold since 1997. [84244]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally. Data on school playing fields were requested from local authorities in 2001 and 2003 but the data were incomplete and of variable quality, and it was not possible to accurately assess the number and area of school playing fields.

Since 1998, there have been 228 applications that involve the sale of an area of grassed land that could comprise a school sports pitch. Of these, 43 have been rejected or the application withdrawn. 175 applications have been approved and the other 10 are still under consideration. Of the 175 approved applications, 73 related to playing fields at closed or closing schools. Prior to 1998 there was no regulation of the sale of school playing fields at local authority controlled schools.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the name and address is of each special needs school in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* each London borough; who the head teacher of each is; how many pupils are attending each; when each opened; and when each was last inspected by Ofsted. [83201]

Jim Knight: A table detailing the name and address of each special needs school in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* each London borough; together with the name of the head teacher; the number of pupils; the opening date; and when each was last inspected by Ofsted has been placed in the Commons Library.

The figures given in the table include special schools maintained by local authorities together with non-maintained special schools and independent special schools. Ofsted have included the inspection type for the hon. Member's information. It is regretted that data on school opening dates are not available to the Department prior to 1997.

University Lecturers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the percentage change in the number of university lecturers was in each year since 1997. [84291]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the following table:

Academic staff[1] employed in English Higher Education Institutions

Academic year	*Number of academic staff*	*% change*
1997/98	104,470	—
1998/99	106,210	1.7
1999/2000	110,615	4.1
2000/01	114,060	3.1
2001/02	116,785	2.4
2002/03	119,495	2.3
2003/04 [2]	124,140	—
2004/05	134,130	8.0

[1] Staff figures are on the basis of staff with active contracts in the reporting period.
[2] Up until 2002/03 the staff record only included academic staff with a full-time equivalent greater than 25 per cent; as from 2003/04, all academic staff were included. Therefore, the numbers for 2003/04 and 2004/05 are not directly comparable with those for earlier years. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) staff record data.

Vocational Education and Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which Vocational Education and Training projects in the UK are funded by the EU. [84252]

Phil Hope: The European Commission provided funding between 2000-05 to UK organisations for 840 work placement and 129 development projects under the EU's vocational training programme, Leonardo da Vinci.

The European Social Fund supports a range of labour market activities including vocational education and training. In 2000-06 it contributed to the funding of 20 Structural Fund programmes in the UK.

Women Engineers

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of women studying engineering at university level in each of the last 10 years; what employment opportunities in engineering were available on completion of their course; and if he will make a statement. [82351]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) report the number of women studying engineering at university level over the past 10 years in England as follows:

	Number of women
1994/05	8,265
1995/06	8,385
1996/07	7,586
1997/08	7,435
1998/99	7,500

	Number of women
1999/2000	7,530
2000/01	7,895
2001/02	7,810
2002/03	7,352
2003/04	7,910
2004/05	7,325

This represents a small increase, from 10.6 per cent. in 1994/95 to 11.8 per cent. in 2004/05, in the proportion of women studying engineering subjects.

With respect to employment opportunities in engineering the Destinations of Leavers data collected by HESA over the period 1994/95—2003/04, show that:

12.1 per cent. of female graduates in engineering entered "work only";

15.8 per cent. went into a "combination of work and further study"; and

14.5 per cent. went into "further study only".

The key initiative of the Government's strategy on women in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) is the UK Resource Centre for Women in SET (UKRC), funded through the Office of Science and Innovation (OSI) with £6.7 million from the science budget plus £325,000 for a dedicated undergraduate package from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

The Centre carries out a co-ordinated strategy, including:

championing best practice;

a recognition scheme for good SET employers;

raising the profile of women in SET;

support for women undergraduates (DfES have committed £315,000 to this project);

supporting SET returners;

setting up the GetSET database (this holds contact details for women who have agreed to promote SET topics and the role of women in SET);

co-ordinating the work of the women in SET organisations;

and pump-priming for innovative initiatives e.g. mentoring and networking.

There are also examples of positive action by employers. Where Women Want to Work.com website scrutinises the gender policies of companies against a set of attributes one of which is innovative recruitment. Some examples are:

Accenture ensures women are represented at all the graduate recruitment events and at interviews and they try and allocate female buddies at those reaching second round interviews for guidance to ensure the process is as supportive as possible;

BP run gender and diversity workshops for interviewers and assessors involved in university and other recruitment;

Shell advertise in Cosmopolitan magazine to broaden their market reach and invited university careers advisers and female students to a women's network conference and in 2005 held Working Women's Roadshows at four UK universities.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps the Government are taking to encourage women to enrol on national engineering programmes at university. [84170]

Bill Rammell: The Government are committed to increasing the number of young people taking science and maths at advanced level and progressing to study science and engineering at university and beyond. 'The Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014: Next Steps' published in March 2006, sets out a range of measures to support this. We have invested just over £7 million in the UK resource centre for women in science, engineering and technology (SET) which aims to increase the participation of women in SET subjects and funds a number of initiatives to increase the participation of women on undergraduate engineering programmes.

Written Questions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of written questions from hon. Members to his Department in the last 12 months were answered within *(a)* one week, *(b)* two weeks and *(c)* one month of tabling. [84395]

Bill Rammell: The Department's parliamentary question tracking system is unable to break the data down as requested. The answer could be supplied only at a disproportionate cost.

Departments aim to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day, and endeavour to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled.

PRIME MINISTER

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister what advertising campaigns his office has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81922]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. McFadden) today.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Fraud Trials

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Solicitor-General what the Government's plans are for the use of juries in fraud trials. [83876]

The Solicitor-General: We intend to press ahead with our proposals to change the system for serious and complex fraud trials so that they can be heard without a jury to ensure justice is done.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Correspondence

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to be able to respond to the letter to his predecessor of 7 November 2005 from the hon. Member for Esher and Walton on the campaign by the RSPCA to reduce the noise levels of fireworks. [82676]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Due to an error the hon. Member's letter has been mislaid. A copy of the letter has been requested and we will respond shortly, with an apology for the delay.

Nuclear Power Stations

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the implications for energy policy of the cracks in the reactor core at *(a)* Hinkley Point and *(b)* other advanced gas-cooled reactor power stations. [84118]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* None. Decisions about the continued operation of each of the UK's AGRs are a matter for the operator, British Energy, subject to rigorous regulatory oversight by the independent safety regulator, HSE's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

Post Office Charging

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans the Post Office has to change the basis of their charging for letter delivery to take account of letter size rather than weight; and if he will make a statement. [84051]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Postcomm, the independent regulator for postal services has agreed that Royal Mail's new Pricing in Proportion (PiP) will be introduced from August 2006.

Royal Mail is mounting a substantial publicity campaign to explain the changes. Postwatch, the consumer body and Postcomm will be monitoring the implementation closely to safeguard the interest of customers.

Post Office Services

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry why small post offices are no longer able to provide television licences; and if he will make a statement. [84052]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The BBC awarded "Paypoint" the contract for over-the-counter sales of television licences. The decision was a commercial one made by the BBC as the television licensing authority looking to the interests of licence fee payers and seeking to ensure the best deal for the public in this capacity.

TREASURY

Advance Market Commitment

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which G8 countries support the Advance Market Commitment concept; [83988]

(2) which organisations have made representations to his Department *(a)* in support of and *(b)* against the Advance Market Commitment concept; [83993]

(3) what representations he has *(a)* made to and *(b)* received from his G8 counterparts on implementing the pilot Advance Market Commitment confirmed by the Italian Finance Minister at the G8 Finance Ministers' meeting in June; [83994]

(4) what progress has been made towards the launch of an Advance Market Commitment pilot project by the end of 2006; [83995]

(5) what funds the UK has allocated for the G8 commitment for the launch of an Advance Market Commitment pilot project by the end of 2006; and if he will make a statement. [83996]

Ed Balls: The UK has been working with other G8 countries on Advance Market Commitments (AMCs), which are feasible, innovative, and cost-effective market-based tools in the fight against global disease and poverty. Working with the World Bank and GAVI, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the G8 have conducted extensive outreach and consultation with stakeholders and experts in the global health community. At their June Meeting in St. Petersburg, G8 Finance Ministers stated that they look forward to a successful launch of the AMC pilot project by the end of this year. The cost of a pilot AMC will be determined following the choice of disease and further technical discussions with partner countries.

Arms Imports

Nick Harvey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 5767W, on AK-47s, what UK custom entry clearance has been issued to Procurement Management Services Ltd. for the import into the UK from Bosnia of assault rifles and other types of small arms since June 2003. [83922]

Dawn Primarolo: Due to taxpayer confidentiality HMRC cannot provide the information requested.

Bank Accounts

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of adults in *(a)* Beverley and Holderness and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire currently have a bank account; and if he will make a statement. [84649]

Ed Balls: The most recent data available that allow assessment to be made of the number of households with no access to a bank account are the Family Resources Survey from 2002-03. This indicates that 8 per cent. of households in the United Kingdom had no bank account

of any kind. This equated to 1.9 million households containing around 2.8 million adults. These data are broken down to Government Office regional level. This shows 9 per cent. of households in Yorkshire and the Humber were unbanked.

In December 2004, the Government and the banks agreed to work together towards the goal of halving the number of adults in households with no access to a bank account of any kind and of making significant progress within two years. The Financial Inclusion Taskforce has been asked to monitor progress. The Taskforce recently made its first annual report, which concluded that steady progress has been made towards the goal but also encouraged banks to continue to address the difficulties faced in opening a bank account.

Child Trust Fund

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total amount spent on advertising Child Funds was in each financial year since their introduction. [83501]

Ed Balls: Advertising for the Child Trust Fund began in January 2005.

The total media spend on advertising the Child Trust Fund (including media buying fees and excluding VAT) was as follows:

Financial Year	*Spend (£ million)*
2004-05	3.2
2005-06	5.9

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many children were eligible to receive a voucher for a child trust fund in each financial year since their introduction. [83572]

Ed Balls: The Child Trust Fund became operational from the start of 2005-06 and all children born on or after 1 September 2002 with a child benefit award are eligible. The number of children eligible, by complete financial year, to receive a Child Trust Fund voucher is in the table.

Financial year	*Eligible children (Thousand)*
2002-03	395
2003-04	687
2004-05	680
2005-06	[1]644

[1] Provisional.

Civil Service

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil service posts have been reduced in each UK civil service Department in Wales under the terms of the efficiency programme announced in the July 2004 spending review. [83721]

Mr. Timms: HM Treasury does not centrally hold data showing which Departments have made work force reductions in Wales as part of the SR04 efficiency programme. Departments are responsible for managing their work force strategies and for implementing their SR04 work force reduction targets.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the UK civil service post reductions announced in the July 2004 spending review will be made in Wales by 2008. [83732]

Mr. Timms: HM Treasury does not centrally hold data showing which Departments intend to make work force reductions in Wales as part of the SR04 efficiency programme. Departments are responsible for managing their work force strategies and for implementing their SR04 work force reduction targets.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the net change will be in the number of civil service posts in Wales in each of the Departments within which posts are being transferred in accordance with the Lyons Review. [83733]

Mr. Timms: HM Treasury does not centrally hold information on the net number of civil servants employed in Wales broken down by Department.

However by April 2006 more than 1,600 posts had been relocated to Wales in accordance with the Lyons Review. This included more than 1,100 DWP posts, 200 Home Office posts, 150 ONS posts and more than 100 HMRC posts. Of the 1,600 relocated posts, 510 have moved to Wrexham.

Customs National Strike Force

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times members of the Customs National Strike Force have visited Wales in each year since 2003. [84594]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of times members of the Customs National Strike Force have visited Wales since 2003 are:

	Visits
2003-04	6
2004-05	4
2005-06	5

Customs Officers (Wales)

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officers *(a)* are based in Wales and *(b)* have responsibility for Wales but are based outside Wales. [84595]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is as follows;

(a) At 1 April 2006 the full time equivalent number of staff based in Wales and on the former HM Customs and Excise payroll was 592.7

(b) This information is not available.

Death Certificates

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 580W, on death certificates, under what circumstances a correction to the death register can legitimately be made *(a)* before a death register has been completed, *(b)* after a death register has been deposited with the Superintendent Registrar for a district and *(c)* at any other point; and who is entitled to authorise such a correction. [83675]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 11 July 2006:

The Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question pursuant to the Answer of 29th June 2006, Official Report, column 580W, on death certificates, under what circumstances a correction to the death register can legitimately be made (a) before a death register has been completed, (b) after a death register has been deposited with the Superintendent Registrar for a district and (c) at any other point; and who is entitled to authorise such a correction. I am replying in her absence. (83675)

The only circumstances in which a correction to the death register can legitimately be made is if it can be shown that it contains incorrect information. This is applicable regardless of whether the registrar of births and deaths or the Superintendent Registrar has custody of the register.

Local registration officers have some powers of correction depending on the nature of the error, e.g. they can correct a simple copying mistake. More serious errors, e.g. a major change that might affect the identity or status of a person or event requires the authority of the Registrar General.

Where an error is found in a death entry compiled from information supplied by a Coroner following an inquest, the registrar or Superintendent Registrar may not correct anything, other than a copying error in the register, without receiving either an amended or fresh certificate from the Coroner. However, where the error relates to the cause of death this can only be corrected if the Coroner's inquest is quashed and a new inquest is held. Only if the death was originally registered on the basis of a coroner's certificate after inquest adjourned, and the Coroner then resumes the inquest, may he or she certify to the registrar or Superintendent Registrar an amendment to the cause of death.

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer under what circumstances a registrar can register the death of an individual whose death is still subject to *(a)* an inquest by a coroner and *(b)* an inquiry that has led to the adjournment of a coroner's inquest under section 17A of the Coroners Act 1988; what legislation determines these circumstances; and whether these circumstances are unchanged from July 2003. [83734]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 11 July 2006:

The Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning under what circumstances a registrar can register a death of an individual whose death is still subject to (a) an inquest by a coroner and (b) an inquiry that has led to the adjournment of a coroner's inquest under section 17A of the Coroners Act 1988; what legislation determines these circumstances; and whether these circumstances are unchanged from July 2003. I am replying in her absence. (83734)

A death which is subject to an inquest by a coroner can only be registered once the inquest has concluded or been adjourned. In either circumstance the coroner is required to send a death certificate to the registrar. Sections 11, 16 and 17 of the Coroners Act 1988 contain the relevant provision. On receipt of the certificate the death can be registered under section 23 of the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953. There have been no changes to the relevant legislation since 2003.

Departmental Artwork

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the 10 most expensive pieces of artwork are which are owned or held by his Department; what the value is of each; and who the owner is of each. [83571]

John Healey: The 10 most valuable pieces of artwork are three antique silver ink stands valued at £200,000 each, and seven antique silver candle holders valued at £60,000 each, all of which are owned by the Treasury.

These pieces of artwork are reported as part of the net book values disclosed in the Departmental Resource accounts for 2005-06.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total amount spent by his Department on *(a)* mobile phones and *(b)* secure mobile phones was in each year since 1997. [83491]

John Healey: I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) on 16 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1157W.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on overseas travel by employees of his Department in the last year for which figures are available. [83503]

John Healey: For the cost of overseas travel for the Treasury in 2005-06, including Ministers' travel, I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 926W.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on refurbishments and building work in his private office in each year since 1997. [83506]

John Healey: All of the space occupied by the Treasury in 1 Horse Guards Road was refurbished in a project that was completed in 2002. The cost of this work is not available by individual offices.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on departmental refurbishments in his Department in each year since 1997. [83513]

John Healey: The costs of the refurbishment of the Treasury building at 1 Horse Guards Road were given in answer to the hon. Member for South Norfolk (Mr. Bacon) on 5 February 2002, *Official Report*, column 841W.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent on cavity wall insulation in his Department in each financial year since 1997-98. [83575]

John Healey: Nothing. The Treasury building at 1 Horse Guards Road has solid walls.

Departmental Wine Cellar

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has its own wine cellar. [83783]

John Healey: The Treasury does not have a wine cellar.

Energy Audit

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the last time was that an energy audit was conducted in his Department; and if he will place a copy of the results of that audit in the Library. [83508]

John Healey: Energy usage in the Treasury building at 1 Horse Guards Road is monitored on a regular basis as part of an environmental management system that is certified to ISO 14001 standards.

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total amount spent on energy efficiency measures in his Department's buildings in London was in each year since 1997. [83502]

John Healey: This information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Export Control

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what budget HM Customs has allocated to policing the Export Control Act 2002 in 2006-07; how many personnel are engaged in policing the Act; and of what type. [84367]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs does not allocate a separate budget to policing the Export Control Act 2002. HMRC personnel are multifunctional and deal with a wide range of different controls under UK and EC Regulations. On 25 May 2006, HMRC advised the Quadripartite Select Committee that in any one year between 60 and 100 staff years were expended on enforcing strategic export controls. This includes personnel involved in criminal investigation, intelligence, detection, policy advice, entry-processing, and local and national compliance.

Financial Literacy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of Citizens Advice on financial exclusion; and what partnerships he is aiming to put in place to improve financial literacy in *(a)* schools and *(b)* wider society. [84498]

Ed Balls: My department has regular contact with Citizens Advice on financial inclusion issues.

Improving financial literacy is being taken forward through the FSA led National Strategy for Financial Capability. The FSA is working in partnership not only with Government, but also with the financial services industry and the voluntary sector, including Citizens Advice, to create a step change in financial capability in schools and wider society.

Gross National Product

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross national product was at *(a)* (i) current and (ii) constant prices, *(b)* factor cost and *(c)* market price in each year since 1976. [83454]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question requesting gross national product (GNP) annual data going back to 1976. I am replying in her absence. (83454)

Under the current system of national accounts introduced in the UK in September 1998 (based on the European System of Accounts 1995), the concept of gross national product was replaced by that of gross national income (GNI). Additionally the concept of "factor cost" is no longer used and GNI figures are only available at market prices.

Table A shows the most recent estimates for GNI in both current prices and volume terms.

Table A

£ million

	GNI at current market prices	*GNI at market price in chained volume terms*
1976	125,872	559,951
1977	144,628	569,060
1978	167,246	596,749
1979	195,845	613,694
1980	227,681	605,507
1981	250,503	598,968
1982	273,739	610,224
1983	301,237	636,678
1984	323,907	653,341
1985	351,782	673,401
1986	380,348	695,940
1987	417,237	726,138
1988	466,638	767,067
1989	509,962	783,001
1990	550,043	786,975
1991	580,261	782,208
1992	607,849	791,794
1993	637,955	808,938
1994	681,263	845,568
1995	716,986	858,983
1996	762,853	884,595
1997	811,797	926,168
1998	869,706	971,737
1999	904,737	990,758
2000	954,004	1,028,387
2001	1,005,313	1,058,873
2002	1,069,839	1,100,663
2003	1,132,938	1,132,938
2004	1,202,075	1,172,617
2005	1,253,561	1,188,711

Note:
These figures are based on data published on 30 June 2006

Health Statistics (Yeovil)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the most recent rate is of *(a)* cancers and *(b)* stroke in (i) Yeovil constituency, (ii) Somerset county and (iii) the South West. [83388]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent rate is of *(a)* cancers and *(b)* stroke in (i) Yeovil constituency, (ii) Somerset county and (iii) the South West. I am replying in her absence. [83388]

A: Cancers—incidence

The latest available rates for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2003. Incidence rates are not available centrally for parliamentary constituencies. Cancer incidence rates for all malignant cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer for 2003 are given in Table 1 for (i) Somerset South local authority, (ii) Somerset county and (iii) the South West government office region.

B: Stroke—incidence

There is no complete register of stroke cases. Information is available centrally on emergency admission to hospital from the NHS Hospital Episode System (HES), and on death registrations.

Figures on emergency admissions to hospital for strokes can be found on the Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base website: http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/. (Table reference numbers: 10C_5281SR7CM_04-V2 (males) 10C_5281SR7CF_04-V2 (females)). Figures are available for England, Government Office Regions, Strategic Health Authorities, Local Authorities and Primary Care Organisations. The latest year for which data are available is for the financial year 2003/04.

C: Cancers and stroke-mortality

Mortality rates for parliamentary constituencies cannot be provided because population estimates are not available for these areas. Figures in Table 2 are provided for the local authorities making up the requested constituency.

The introduction of ICD-10 for coding cause of death in England and Wales in 2001 means that data for cancer are not completely comparable with data for years before this date. The effect of the change in classification in 2001 on deaths from these causes is described in a report published in May 2002: *Office for National Statistics. Results of the ICD-10 bridge coding study, England and Wales, 1999. Health Statistics Quarterly 14 (2002), 75-83.*

Table 1: Incidence rates[1] per million population for all malignant cancers[2] registered in Somerset South local authority, the county of Somerset and South West government office region, 2003

	All cancers excluding nmsc
Somerset South	3,861
Somerset	3,752
South West	3,890

[1] Rates per million population standardised to the European Standard Population.
[2] "All malignant cancers" are defined by codes C00-C97 excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (nmsc) code C44 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10).
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Death rates[1] for cancer and stroke[2] for Somerset South local authority, the county of Somerset and South West government office region[3], 2004[4]

	Death rates	
	Cancer	Stroke
Somerset South	1,583	449
Somerset	1,637	488
South West	1,664	539

[1] Rates per 1,000,000 population standardised to the European Standard Population.
[2] The cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) The codes used are listed:
Cancer (malignant neoplasms)—C00-C97
Stroke(cerebrovascular disease)—160-169
Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause.
[3] Usual residents of this area.
[4] Deaths registered in each calendar year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the most recent death rate from heart disease was in *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset county and *(c)* the South West. [83393]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the most recent death rate from heart disease was in *(a)* Yeovil constituency *(b)* Somerset county and *(c)* the South West. I am replying in her absence. (83393)

Mortality rates for parliamentary constituencies cannot be provided as requested because population estimates are not available for these areas. The latest year for which figures are available is 2004 and these are given in the following table.

Death rates[1] from coronary heart disease[2] for South Somerset local authority, Somerset County and South West Government Office Region[3], 2004[4]

	Coronary heart disease
Somerset South	
Somerset	841
South West	931

[1] Rates per 1,000,000 population standardised to the European Standard Population.
[2] The cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The codes used are listed:
Coronary heart disease—ICD-10 120-125
Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause.
[3] Usual residents of these areas.
The local authority of South Somerset comprises the whole of Yeovil constituency plus part of Somerton and Frome constituency. Data for the county of Somerset excludes figures for the unitary authorities of Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset, created in 1996.
[4] Deaths registered in 2004.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the most recent *(a)* teenage pregnancy rate and *(b)* life expectancy was in (i) Yeovil constituency, (ii) Somerset county and (iii) the South West. [83394]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the most recent (a) teenage pregnancy rate and (b) life expectancy was in (i) Yeovil constituency, (ii) Somerset County and (iii) the South West. (83394)

(a) Information on teenage conceptions is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. Figures cannot be provided by Parliamentary Constituency because of the risk of disclosing individual's information, due to small differences in boundaries between the Parliamentary Constituency and the local authority.

The most recent year for which figures are available is 2004 and these are shown in the table below. Figures for 2004 are provisional.

(b) Figures for life expectancy at birth for English regions and local authorities are published annually by ONS based on three-year rolling averages. The most recent figures, for 2002-2004, are shown in the table below.

(a) Teenage conception rates for South Somerset LA[1], Somerset county and the South West, 2004[2]

Area	Rate
South Somerset LA	32
Somerset county	32
South West	34

(b) Life expectancy at birth (years) by sex, for South Somerset LA[1], Somerset county and the South West, 2002-04[3]

	Males	Females
South Somerset LA	78	82
Somerset county	78	82
South West	78	82

[1] The local authority of South Somerset comprises the whole of Yeovil constituency plus part of Somerton and Frome constituency.
[2] Conceptions for 2004 are provisional.
[3] Results are based on deaths registered in 2002-04 and mid-year population estimates for these years.

HM Revenue and Customs Offices

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made of the effects on compliance of *(a)* closing and *(b)* reducing staff at local HM Revenue and Customs offices; and if he will make a statement. [83446]

Dawn Primarolo: In the 2004 Spending Review, the Government set HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) challenging performance targets for the years 2005 to 2008. They have also been set stretching targets to achieve resource efficiencies following the merger of the two former tax departments in April 2005. HMRC is making good progress against all these objectives, as outlined in their Spring Departmental Report 2006 (Cm 6832).

Master Netting Agreement

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 31 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 403W, on the Master Netting Agreement, whether the European Central Bank Guidelines preclude the Government from changing its own practices as the baseline upon which its own guidelines have been set. [84203]

Ed Balls: No, as ECB guidelines are applicable to members of the Eurosystem and are not binding on the UK while it is not a member of the system.

Ministerial Group on Youth Volunteering

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his announcement in the pre-Budget report on the Ministerial Group on youth volunteering, how many times the group has met; who *(a)* attends and *(b)* chairs this group; and how many meetings have been attended by Rod Aldridge. [83509]

Dawn Primarolo: The ministerial group on youth volunteering has met twice. The Chancellor chairs this group and the Departments represented at these meetings have been the Department for Education and Skills, Home Office, the Cabinet Office, the Department for Work and Pensions, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Rod Aldridge has not attended any of these meetings.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints were received about the National Insurance Contribution system in each of the last nine years. [84345]

Dawn Primarolo: Correspondence about complaints is dealt with across HMRC and the information requested is not available, except at disproportionate cost.

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [83909]

John Healey: The Chancellor has made a number of visits to the regions and nations of the United Kingdom and will be continuing to do so over the coming months.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many written answers to parliamentary questions to the Department have taken longer than 10 days to answer in each year since 1997. [83395]

John Healey: 10 days has no particular significance in relation to the answering of parliamentary questions. Indeed, as any period of 10 days will include at least one weekend and may also include other days on which the House of Commons is not sitting and questions cannot be answered, it is a meaningless yardstick against which to measure performance in answering questions. With that important caveat, the information sought by the hon. Member for each session since 1997-98 is given as follows:

Session	Answers given after more than 10 days	Percentage of all answers
1997-98	1,110	28.0
1998-99	653	30.8
1999-2000	584	22.1
2000-01	389	32.2
2001-02	1,237	22.5
2002-03	940	25.7
2003-04	701	22.1
2004-05	279	20.1
2005-06[1]	1,164	23.6

The proportion of written answers given by the Treasury within the timescales set by the House (that is to say, on the nominated day in the case of named day questions and within a working week of tabling for ordinary questions) in each of the last three sessions is as follows:

Session	Percentage Named day questions	Ordinary questions
2003-04	74.7	79.6
2004-05	79.4	84.3
2005-06[1]	72.6	79.0

[1] Up to 30 June 2006

People Trafficking (Wales)

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many suspected cases of illegal people trafficking in Wales were reported to HM Customs and Revenue in each year since 2003. [84592]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC do not keep records of such cases in searchable form; but the Department pass all relevant reports to the UK Immigration Service or the Serious Organised Crime Agency who have responsibility for countering people trafficking, for follow-up action.

Pound Sterling (Purchasing Power)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the purchasing power is of the pound sterling compared with *(a)* 1976, *(b)* 1986 and *(c)* 1996. [83802]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning what the purchasing power is of the pound sterling compared with *(a)* 1976, *(b)* 1986 and *(c)* 1996.1 am replying in her absence. (83802)

A pound in May 2006 is worth:

(a) 20p compared with its 1976 purchasing value;

(b) 49p compared with its 1986 purchasing value; and

(c) 77p compared with its 1996 purchasing value.

Recycling

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recycling facilities are available in his Department; and how many categories of waste are recycled by his Department. [83580]

John Healey: Recycling facilities for nine categories of waste are available at various locations within the Treasury building at 1 Horse Guards Road.

Tax Avoidance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce tax avoidance opportunities for company directors drawing salary in dividend form; and if he will make a statement. [83422]

Dawn Primarolo: As stated at Budget 2006, the Government believe that all individuals and businesses must pay their fair share of NICs and tax, irrespective of legal form. The Government will continue to review the tax and NICs systems to ensure that this is the case and will bring forward proposals for discussion that are consistent with simplicity for compliant businesses, support for businesses in their aspirations to grow and maintaining the attractiveness of the UK as a business location.

Taxation Revenue

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was raised in taxation in each year since 1976; and what the budget surplus or deficit was in each year. [83455]

Mr. Timms: Data on tax revenues and Government borrowing from 1976 onwards are available in the "Key Fiscal Aggregates" table and Table C1 in the Public Finances Databank. This is available on the Her Majesty's Treasury website at:

http://www.hm_treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/finance_spending_statistics/pubsec_finance/psf_statistics.cfm

Unemployment

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* total and *(b)* percentage rate of (i) unemployment, (ii) long-term unemployment and (iii) youth unemployment was in each constituency in each of the last 10 years, grouped by region. [79828]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 11 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about unemployment. (79828)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Tables 1 to 5, attached, show estimates for each parliamentary constituency in great Britain, for the 12 month periods ending in February from 1997 to 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the 12 months ending December 2004 from the APS. Table 1 shows the number of unemployed aged 16 and over resident in each constituency; Table 2 shows unemployment rates; Table 3 shows the number of long-term (more than 12 months) unemployed; Table 4 shows the number of unemployed aged 16 to 24 and Table 5 shows the unemployment rate for those aged 16 to 24.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Changes in the estimates from year-to-year should be treated with particular caution.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Tables 6 to 10, attached, show annual averages for claimants of JSA resident in each constituency in the United Kingdom for 1996 to 2005. Table 6 shows the total number of claimants; Table 7 shows the number of claimants as a proportion of the resident population of working age; Table 8 shows the number of claimants claiming JSA for over 12 months; Table 9 shows the number claiming over 12 months as a proportion of the working-age population and Table 10 shows the number of people aged 18 to 24 claiming JSA. Proportions for the 18 to 24 age group are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

Since the information is so extensive, copies of these tables have been placed in the House of Commons Library.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Correspondence

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to reply to the letter from Mrs. Pauline Penton, a constituent of the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, sent on 19 January. [82128]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* I apologise for the delay in replying to my hon. Friend's letter. I will ensure a reply is sent as a matter of urgency.

Illegal Waste

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of waste he estimates was illegally fly-tipped in each year since 1992, broken down by the nature of the waste. [84067]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA has worked with the Environment Agency to establish Flycapture, the national database on fly-tipping, which has been operational since April 2004. Before this database was established, no national data were available on illegal waste disposal or fly-tipping.

Flycapture collects summary data by waste-type, land-type and size of incident at local authority level only. Data on the volume of waste fly-tipped are not available, however English waste collection authorities reported a total of 891,170 incidents between April 2004 and March 2005. It is also important to note that the data are probably an underestimate and will increase as authorities get better at collecting and reporting fly-tipping incidents.

The number of incidents of fly-tipping by waste-type, reported to Flycapture by English local authorities between April 2004 and March 2005, are set out in the following table:

Waste Type	*Number of incidents*
Animal Carcass	7,481
Green	38,700
Vehicle Parts	14,651
White Goods	52,933
Other Electrical	17,664
Tyres	22,028
Asbestos	2,627
Clinical	2,0.53
Construction/Demolition/ Excavation	46,483
Black Bags Commercial	36,265
Black Bags Household	234,144
Chemical Drums Oil Fuel	3,734
Other Household	256,923
Other Commercial	24,529
Other	130,445

The number of incidents of fly-tipping by size, reported to Flycapture by English local authorities between April 2004 and March 2005, are set out in the following table:

Size of Fly-tip	*Number of incidents*
Single Item	315,818
Car Boot or Less	242,335
Small Van Load	189,793
Transit Van Load	94,132
Tipper Lorry Load	19,441
Significant Multi Loads	5,699

Pet Fairs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what action he proposes to take in respect of pet fairs following the case of R (Haynes) *v* Stafford borough council. [84041]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department is considering any implications the recent judgment may have on our proposals to regulate pet fairs.

Recycling

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to take steps to bring forward penalties for those who fail to recycle their household waste. [82793]

Mr. Bradshaw: Local authorities have existing powers, under section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, to require householders to put waste for collection, including recyclables, in specified receptacles. Where householders fail, without reasonable excuse, to follow the authority's instructions on these matters, they can be issued with a fixed penalty notice under section 47ZA or be liable to prosecution and a summary fine upon conviction under section 46 of the Act.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice he offers to local authorities in dispute with households over misuse of new waste and recycling collection schemes. [83260]

Mr. Bradshaw: Getting people to change their behaviour is a challenge, and recycling is no exception. While there are millions of dedicated recyclers, there are still too many families and people who are not engaging with local waste reduction, recycling and composting schemes.

The Government are continuing to investigate options for influencing householder behaviour, and we have recently supported a series of local authority pilots to encourage householders to reduce, re-use and recycle their waste through positive incentives.

Ultimately, if mediation doesn't work and a householder either fails to put the correct material into the appropriate receptacle for collection, or fails to comply with other instructions with regard to putting the receptacle out for collection or bringing it back onto their property after it has been emptied, the local authority can prosecute them for breaches of section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. These offences carry a maximum fine of £1,000. In addition,

the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill contains proposals for the issuing of fixed penalty notices to those breaching sections 46 and 47 of the 1990 Act.

Water Companies

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what allowance Ofwat made for each water company for capital works in each of the last five years for which figures were available; and what the value was of the capital works completed by each water company in each year. [83535]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat makes assumptions on the capital investment required by companies at each price review for the ensuing five-year period.

Ofwat has only published annual expenditure against its assumptions for 2004-05. The following table gives information for the five-year period 2000-05. Ofwat will publish data for 2005-06 later this year, following analysis of the June return submission from companies.

The regulatory regime provides incentives for companies to out-perform Ofwat's assumptions. Companies retain the benefit from these savings until the next price review when price limits are reset and Ofwat takes the savings into account.

2004-05 prices (£ million)
Total volume of investment activity 2000-01 to 2004-05

	Assumed	*Actual*
Water and sewerage service		
Anglian	1,511	1,334
Dwr Cymru	1,332	1,194
Northumbrian	1,059	1,003
Severn Trent	2,268	1,914
South West	902	801
Southern	1,133	1,145
Thames	2,417	2,484
United Utilities	3,308	3,000
Wessex	936	794
Yorkshire	1,789	1,553
Total	16,655	15,223
Water service		
Bournemouth and West Hampshire	60	49
Bristol	117	107
Cambridge	16	18
Dee Valley	31	30
Folkestone	31	29
Mid Kent	111	106
Portsmouth	55	41
South East	211	180
South Staffordshire	104	103
Sutton and East Surrey	97	90
Tendring Hundred	15	15
Three Valleys	281	275
Total	1,129	1,042
Industry total	17,784	16,265

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Breastfeeding Facilities

Mr. Hancock: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if he will make a statement on the availability of breastfeeding facilities for *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public in the House. [83762]

Nick Harvey: Breastfeeding facilities are available for hon. Members in the Family Room off the Lower Waiting Hall and, if greater privacy is needed, in first aid rooms in various parts of the Estate. For members of the public there is a baby care room just off the Upper Committee Corridor, and there are baby changing facilities off the Lower Waiting Hall and off the Upper Committee Corridor. Details of these facilities for visitors are set out in a leaflet issued by the Serjeant at Arms. These facilities are also open to hon. Members and staff.

Child Care Vouchers

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the Commission plans to reconsider the decision not to offer child care vouchers to hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [83663]

Nick Harvey: The issue of provision of child care vouchers for hon. Members was considered in passing by the domestic committees and by the Commission in 2003 in the context of the Childcare Feasibility study, which was principally concerned with staff and Members' staff. I understand that an informal view was taken that hon. Members were sufficiently well remunerated to meet their own child care costs. The Commission has no plans to consider this issue, as any such provision would fall on the House of Commons: Members Estimate which is not the Commission's responsibility. It would be for the House to decide on any such service, on the basis of proposals from the Leader of the House.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Debt Cancellation

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of alleviation of debt in Africa on health and education provision in Africa; and if he will make a statement. [83121]

Hilary Benn: Debt relief provides long-term, predictable resources for countries to spend on improving health and education. Recipients of debt relief under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) initiative report their expenditure on reducing poverty (health, education, and rural and agriculture investments for example) and these expenditures increased from an average of 6 per cent. of GDP in 1999 to 9 per cent. of GDP in 2005 in the 29 countries receiving HIPC debt relief.

There is good evidence that debt relief benefits health and education provision. For example, after receiving debt relief in 2000, Ghana increased its expenditure on education, increasing the net enrolment ratio of seven to 13-year-olds by 8 per cent. and the number of secondary schools from 937 to 1,024 by 2004. In Tanzania, debt relief received in 2001, helped to increase the number of children in primary schools by over 50 per cent., build almost 2,500 new primary schools and recruit 28,000 extra teachers. If this rate of progress continues, Tanzania will meet the goal for universal primary education in the next couple of years—significantly ahead of the target date of 2015. In Uganda, debt relief has helped make possible the removal of user fees for healthcare. As a result, the number of new out-patient consultations has increased from 9.3 million in 1999-2000 to 24.5 million, indicating a doubling in the use of health services over five years. Immunisation coverage has increased from 41 per cent. in 1999-2000 to 89 per cent. in 2004-05.

When fully implemented, the new multilateral debt relief initiative (MDRI) will provide over US$50 billion of debt cancellation to up to 43 countries. Zambia has used some of its savings under MDRI to abolish health user fees in rural areas, allowing thousands of poor people to access free health care. Ghana also intends to use some of its MDRI savings for health and education, and we expect other countries to make similar commitments when their new budgets are agreed.

Health and education in Nigeria will also benefit as a result of its recent debt deal at the Paris Club. Approximately $1 billion a year that would have been spent by Nigeria on debt service will now be channelled through a poverty reduction fund with a focus on the millennium development goals. As a result, the federal health and education budgets have received an additional $167 million and $143 million respectively in 2006. The Nigerian Government have agreed that this will help to employ an additional 120,000 teachers and put 3.5 million more children into school.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Queen's Counsel

21. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many solicitors have applied for appointment as Queen's Counsel under the new selection system. [83867]

Vera Baird: 12 solicitors applied for Silk in the current round.

Members of Parliament (Scottish Constituencies)

29. **Mr. Khabra:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the right of hon. Members representing constituencies in Scotland to speak and vote in this House on issues related to England. [83875]

32. **Mr. Cox:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the right of hon. Members representing constituencies in Scotland to speak and vote on issues related to England. [83879]

Bridget Prentice: All hon. Members who have taken the oath are entitled to speak and vote on any issue before the House.

Electoral Administration Bill

30. **Mr. Betts:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what options for data sharing are available to electoral registration officers; and whether this will change under the provisions in the Electoral Administration Bill. [83877]

Bridget Prentice: Electoral registration officers are currently able to:

inspect and take copies of any records kept by their own council, and

to inspect and take copies of records kept by any registrar of births and deaths.

The Electoral Administration Bill does not change this. However, what it does do is require electoral registration officers when compiling the electoral register to make full use of their powers to inspect those records which they are permitted to inspect.

33. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what measures she will put in place to monitor the effect of the proposed changes to Services voting in the Electoral Administration Bill. [83880]

Bridget Prentice: In the Electoral Administration Bill the Government inserted a requirement that the MOD would keep a record of the electoral registration information of service personnel. This record will provide statistical information that will be used to provide monitoring on a continuous basis.

Postal Voting

31. **Kitty Ussher:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she will make it an offence to make a false application for a postal vote. [83878]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Bill creates a new electoral offence of falsely applying for a postal vote. We are currently considering implementation of the provisions in the Bill with a view to having them in force in time for the May 2007 local elections.

Freedom of Information

34. **Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many Freedom of Information complaints have been referred to the Information Commissioner. [83881]

Vera Baird: The Information Commissioner is an independent body created by statute. On 1 June 2006, the Information Commissioner had received 3,521 complaints since the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act. This includes complaints made under the Environment Information Regulations.

Office for Legal Complaints

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the proposed Office for Legal Complaints. [83874]

Bridget Prentice: One of the main proposals in the draft Legal Services Bill which was published by the Government on 24 May is to set up an independent Office for Legal Complaints (OLC). The OLC, which will replace the various complaints services run by the different legal professional bodies, will deal with consumer complaints about legal service providers who are regulated by bodies or organisations that are authorised by the proposed new oversight regulator, the Legal Services Board (LSB). Where things go wrong, the OLC will be empowered to order appropriate redress to consumers.

Action against Medical Accidents

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what fees were paid in the last year to Action against Medical Accidents (AvMA); what services were provided by AvMA in respect of such fees; and whether the engagement of AvMA to provide services was the subject of a tendering process. [84586]

Vera Baird: During 2005-06, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) paid £529 to AvMA as part of a three year contract with Community Legal Service Direct to review the content of the advice leaflet, 'Medical Accidents'. The value of the contract fell below the threshold necessary for tendering.

Court Service

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will make a statement on the recent performance of the Court Service in *(a)* Southend-on-Sea and *(b)* Essex. [83771]

Ms Harman: The information is as follows:

Area of performance	*Southend*[1]	*Essex*
Ineffective trials (PSA 1)		
2005-06 Crown target—17 per cent.	11.8 per cent.	12.7 per cent.
2005-06 Mags target— 22.5 per cent.	23 per cent.	22 per cent.
Timeliness (PSA 1)		
2005-06 Crown target—78 per cent.	73 per cent.	75.3 per cent.
Persistent Young Offenders (PSA 1)		
Jan-Dec 2005 Crown and Mags target—71 days	n/a	56 days
Confiscation Orders(PSA 2)		
2005-06 Mags Outstanding Balance rate target—less than 50 per cent.	n/a	1 per cent.
2005-06 Orders closed target—greater than 25 per cent.	n/a	15 per cent.
Payment rate (PSA 2)		
2005-06 Mags target—89 per cent.	n/a	88.2 per cent.
Family Public Law (PSA 4)		
Care Centre 2005-06 target—70 per cent.	n/a	47.1 per cent.
FPC 2005-06—no target	n/a	56.7 per cent.
Family Private Law		
2005-06 County target—70 per cent.	70.1 per cent.	74.1 per cent.
Adoptions		
Target—70 per cent.	n/a	64.1 per cent.
County Court Small Claims		
2005-06 target—78 per cent.	83.8 per cent.	86.9 per cent.
County Court Fast Track		
2005-06 target—78 per cent.	78.5 per cent.	76.3 per cent.
County Court Multi Track		
2005-06 target—78 per cent.	76.2 per cent.	62.5 per cent.

[1] Southend Crown Court is administered by Basildon Combined Court—There are no separate Crown Court figures for Southend alone but, where stated will be the combined performance figures of Basildon and Southend

Departmental Staff

Roger Berry: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many disabled staff in her Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82222]

Vera Baird: The DCA has recently appointed a team of dedicated local disability advisers based in the regions who assist in ensuring that the required reasonable adjustments, including specialist equipment and support, for people with disabilities are provided. Those advisers provide support and advice to individuals in making applications to Access to Work.

It is not possible to confirm the precise number of individuals assisted under the Access To Work scheme over the last five years without incurring disproportionate costs, as there is no central record held within DCA.

With effect from 1 October 2006, Access to Work funding will no longer be available to employees of Central Government Departments, and DCA will be responsible for financing any required reasonable adjustments for its own employees.

The Office of Disability Issues (ODI) will be monitoring the situation to ensure that there is no detriment to current and future employees who are disabled.

Elections

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many complaints she has received from residents of West Lancashire in relation to being unable to vote in *(a)* local, *(b)* general and *(c)* European elections in each year since 1997. [83645]

Bridget Prentice: As far as DCA records show, we have received one item of correspondence complaining that postal ballot papers did not arrive for the 2004 elections in Lancashire. No other correspondence from West Lancashire relating to being unable to vote has been received, and my Department does not hold any information on this subject prior to 2001.

Judiciary

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she is taking to increase diversity in the judiciary. [84582]

Ms Harman: The Judicial Diversity Strategy was announced to Parliament on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 57WS and sets out how the Department for Constitutional Affairs, the Judicial Appointments Commission and the judiciary will work together to increase the diversity of the judiciary.

The strategy will: promote judicial service and widen the range of people eligible to apply for judicial office; encourage a wider range of applicants, to ensure the widest possible choice of candidates for selection; promote diversity through fair and open processes for selection to judicial office solely on merit; and, will ensure that the culture and working environment for judicial office holders encourages and supports a diverse judiciary and increases understanding of the communities served.

Legal Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what representations she has received about eligibility for legal aid in criminal cases. [84563]

Vera Baird: I have regular and constructive dialogue with stakeholders, including members of the legal professions, MPs and members of the public, about eligibility for criminal legal aid. For example, I received a number of representations on this point in response to the recent consultation exercise on the draft regulations under the Criminal Defence Service Act.

Legal Profession (Complaints)

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what performance standards she has set for the length of time a consumer complaint to the Law Society takes to be resolved, including where the solicitors refuses to accept decisions of the Law Society Adjudication Panel and the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal. [83899]

Bridget Prentice: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Bridget Prentice to John Mann:

None. The legal profession is independent and self-regulating, and as such I have no powers to set targets for the Law Society. However, the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State appointed Ms Zahida Manzoor, as the Legal Services Complaints Commissioner (LSCC) in February 2004. The LSCC has powers to set targets for the handling of complaints, make recommendations about the complaints systems, require the Law Society to submit a plan for complaints handling; and impose a fine if the Law Society fails to meet the agreed plan for improvements in complaints handling.

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) how many solicitors have refused to accept decisions of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal in each of the last 10 years; [83900]

(2) what rights of redress are available to those who have won decisions at both the Law Society Adjudication Panel and the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal; [83901]

(3) what sanctions are available against solicitors who refuse to accept decisions of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal; [83902]

Bridget Prentice: I will reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Bridget Prentice to John Mann:

Depending on the matter in question, respondents before the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal have an automatic right, under the Solicitors Act 1974, of appeal to the Master of the Rolls or the High Court. The information on the number of appeals

against decisions by the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal for the last 10 years is unavailable, however, the figures for the last five years are as follows:

	Number of appeals
2001	9
2002	8
2003	10
2004	12
2005	9

In the absence of an appeal, an order of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal is immediately enforceable as a High Court order. If the solicitor is fined by the Tribunal, the fine is enforced by the Treasury Solicitor—through the courts if necessary. If the solicitor is struck off or suspended from practice, that decision would be immediately recorded with the Law Society and the solicitor would be unable to practise. In the event that he continued to practise as a solicitor following an order suspending him or striking him off the Roll of Solicitors, he would be committing a criminal offence under the Solicitors Act and may be prosecuted in the criminal courts.

The Law Society's Adjudication Panel deals with redress issues and is able to award complainants up to £15,000 in compensation. If a solicitor refuses to accept a decision of the Adjudication Panel, including a decision that he pay compensation, it is open to the Society to prosecute him/her before the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal. The Tribunal cannot award compensation, but if the Law Society has previously awarded compensation, the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal can make that award enforceable as a High Court order.

Magistrates Courts

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the facilities available for victims and witnesses in magistrates courts. [84525]

Ms Harman: In 2005 "Priority Minimum Standards" (e.g. availability of reading materials, witness room routinely cleaned) and "Desirable Minimum Standards" (e.g. en-suite toilet facilities in witness waiting rooms, video/DVD equipment provided) for witness accommodation were developed and defined in consultation with key stakeholders. To establish how existing waiting facilities met up to these standards, an audit was undertaken in all Crown and magistrates courts in July 2005. Subsequent to that audit, additional funding totalling over £3 million was allocated between the regions to improve facilities where the standards were not being met. A further audit will be undertaken during the summer to ascertain how witness waiting rooms measure up against the standards now that this funding has been spent.

Online Census Project

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which contractors tendered by 30 June 2006 for work on the English and Welsh 1911 Online Census Project; and what her timetable is for appointment of a contractor. [83694]

Vera Baird: The National Archives sought expressions of interest from suppliers through a notice published in the Official Journal of the European Union, the closing date for which was 4 July 2006.

Conduct of this procurement process will follow normal practice on commercial confidentiality.

All expressions of interest received by the closing date will be evaluated on 10 July 2006.

On 11 July 2006 potential suppliers who are shortlisted will be invited to participate in the Competitive Dialogue process to be used for the contract.

It is anticipated that a contract will be awarded in January 2007.

Notification will be made in accordance with the Public Services Regulations.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Business Statement

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* hon. Members, *(c)* staff of hon. Members, *(d)* Members of the House of Lords, *(e)* officials in Government Departments and *(f)* members of the public receive his office's weekly business statement by e-mail; how much it costs per week to (i) prepare and (ii) distribute, broken down into (A) officials' time and (B) other costs; if he will place a copy of each edition from this Session in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [82467]

Mr. Straw: This information is not held in the format requested.

To date, a total of 813 people have subscribed to the business statement newsletter. Much of the work in issuing the newsletter is largely automated.

The average cost of officials' time to upload the business statement each week is £3.99, with a further 67p being incurred in distributing it, ie £4.66 in all. This task forms part of the core duties of the private office staff who maintain the website.

All previous business statements are freely available on the Office of the Leader of the House website at www.commonsleader.co.uk.

I note that the hon. Member has so far not subscribed to the newsletter. If he wishes to do so, he can register at: www.commonsleader.co.uk/output/Page637.asp.

Late Sittings

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House on what dates the House sat later than 1.30 am since February 1986; and at what time the House subsequently adjourned on each date. [82324]

Mr. Straw: The information is as follows:

Session/date	Time adjourned
Session 1985-86 (from February)	
11 February 1985	2.21 am
17 February	2.04 am
19 February	1.56 am
13 March	8.30 am
25 March	1.34 am
9 April	2.52 am
20 May	1.43 am
21 May	2.12 am
3 June	1.32 am

Session/date	Time adjourned
9 June	2.51 am
1 July	2.12 am
14 July	2.48 am
16 July	1.50 am
23 July	5.24 am
24 July	8.25 am
21 October	4.29 am
Session 1986-87	
10 December 1986	[1]6.38 pm
15 December	9.30 am
3 February	2.52 am
11 March	2.07 am
24 March	9.29 am
31 March	3.17 am
Session 1987-88	
6 July 1987	1.53 am
7 July	1.53 am
13 July	9.27 am
14 July	1.34 am
20 July	3.27 am
21 October	4.01 am
10 November	[1]8.55 pm
2 December	2.31 am
8 December	9.24 am
15 December	1.53 am
3 February	2.56 am
8 February	2.20 am
9 February	1.50 am
17 February	1.40 am
2 March	2.47 am
9 March	4.07 am
10 March	8.30 am
29 March	2.55 am
30 March	2.23 am
13 April	1.57 am
27 April	1.45 am
10 May	2.11 am
23 May	2.29 am
25 May	5.58 am
14 Jul	[1]20.01 pm
16 June	4.12 am
29 June	1.40 am
4 July	2.29 am
5 July	1.34 am
11 July	1.30 am
12 July	1.49 am
13 July	3.28 am
20 July	2.36 am
25 July	3.44 am
28 July	8.29 am
29 July	2.47 am
1 November	4.02 am
9 November	3.15 am
Session 1988-89	
30 November 1988	1.34 am
14 December	2.20 am
19 December	9.30 am
17 January	2.45 am
23 January	2.18 am
7 February	2.26 am
15 February	2.06 am
13 March	9.23 am
21 March	2.28 am
22 March	2.20 am
11 April	1.50 am
17 April	1.48 am
3 May	2.34 am
8 May	1.31 am
24 May	1.57 am
6 June	5.55 am
13 June	3.28 am
14 June	4.01 am
20 June	2.22 am
5 July	1.15 am
11 July	2.04 am
17 July	4.18 am
19 July	1.46 am
25 July	1.35 am
27 July	8.28 am
24 October	2.35 am
25 October	4.30 am
26 October	1.39 am
8 November	2.26 am
9 November	2.21 am
14 November	1.44 am
Session 1989-90	
11 December 1989	2.17 am
13 December	1.55 am
18 December	2.06 am
20 December	8.27 am
15 February	3.05 am
27 March	9.22 am
28 March	1.47 am
24 April	1.56 am
9 May	1.42 am
13 June	2.49 am
20 June	3.45 am
25 June	1.41 am
27 June	1.36 am
2 July	2.55 am
16 July	2.57 am
18 July	1.51 am
23 July	9.30 am
22 October	3.07 am
24 October	2.04 am
Session 1990-91	
19 December 1990	8.30 am
30 January	1.50 am
26 February	2.00 am
6 March	1.51 am
14 March	8.30 am
26 March	2.59 am
27 March	1.37 am
16 April	9.39 am
23 April	2.18 am
10 June	3.02 am
24 June	3.08 am

Session/date	Time adjourned
9 July	3.14 am
15 July	4.01 am
22 July	9.25 am
Session 1991-92	
12 November 1991	2.23 am
12 December	8.23 am
18 December	2.28 am
20 January	1.33 am
22 January	2.15 am
11 February	1.56 am
Session 1992-93	
20 May 1992	8.09 am
9 July	8.28 am
14 December	9.31 am
18 January	7.31 am
2 February	1.34 am
16 February	2.08 am
10 March	2.28 am
30 March	4.29 am
1 April	8.30 am
19 April	1.43 am
21 April	2.45 am
28 April	2.48 am
4 May	1.51 am
26 July	8.24 am
2 November	2.13 am
3 November	2.04 am
Session 1993-94	
8 December 1993	1.53 am
14 December	6.19 am
15 December	3.37 am
17 January	2.26 am
18 January	3.22 am
17 March	6.27 am
12 April	1.45 am
13 April	3.03 am
13 July	2.02 am
20 July	8.27 am
1 November	4.45 am
Session 1994-95	
15 December 1994	7.23 am
30 January	1.37 am
Session 1995-96	
19 February 1996	1.30 am
2 April	2.20 am
22 April	1.45 am
23 April	2.03 am
Session 1996-97	
19 March 1997	2.38 am
Session 1997-98	
5 June 1997	1.45 am
4 February	2.39 am
11 February	1.54 am
9 March	9.53 am
11 March	3.19 am
24 March	6.44 am
2 September	6.50 am
3 September	1.35 am
Session 1998-99	
17 May 1999	5.27 am
5 July	1.54 am
13 July	1.55 am
19 July	2.33 am
3 November	1.49 am
8 November	2.00 am
Session 1999-2000	
25 January 2000	[1]9.51 pm
15 February	1.40 am
29 February	8.14 am
8 March	1.41 am
15 March	2.50 am
10 April	1.30 am
11 April	1.55 am
16 May	1.59 am
22 May	2.24 am
20 June	1.54 am
27 June	1.54 a.n
12 July	3.04 am
13 July	1.44 am
17 July	3.26 am
25 July	3.50 am
Session 2000-01	
18 December 2000	2.15 am
8 January	1.37 am
9 January	4.09 am
15 January	1.59 am
27 February	2.33 am
12 March	2.32 am
13 March	2.34 am
Session 2001-02	
4 December 2001	1.41 am
22 July	2.00 am
Session 2002-03	
16 June 2003	1.52 am
19 November	2.48 am
Session 2003-04	
None	—
Session 2004-05	
10 March 2005	[1]7.52 pm
Session 2005-06 (to date)	
None	—

[1] Over 24 hour sitting

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefit Fraud

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many suspected cases of benefit fraud were *(a)* referred to and *(b)* investigated by his Department in each year since 1997. [73444]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following table:

Benefit fraud referrals and investigations by DWP

	Referrals received	*Referrals accepted for investigation*
1997-98	1,363,608	925,501
1998-99	1,332,367	923,853
1999-2000	887,788	564,543
2000-01	748,486	441,368
2001-02	667,449	389,633
2002-03	571,561	334,974
2003-04	533,062	325,706
2004-05	488,835	309,343
2005-06	458,012	311,161

Notes.
1. Referrals accepted for investigations exclude General Matching Service cases.
2. Figures are a total of benefit fraud and instrument of payment fraud.

Source:
Fraud Information by Sector system and data from the Fraud Investigation Service, Organised.

Benefit Payments

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to ensure that employers are willing to recruit people who have been claiming incapacity benefit or employment and support allowance. [78364]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government are determined to ensure that people on incapacity benefits and, when it is introduced, those on the new employment and support allowance, should not be written off as incapable of work and consigned to a life on benefit.

Since 1997, we have set about implementing the most profound extension of disability rights this country has ever seen. In October 2004, we extended the employment provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995 to provide protection against discrimination for an additional 600,000 disabled workers. A further seven million jobs and one million employers were brought within the scope of the employment provisions of the Act. We conduct regular media campaigns aimed at helping employers and service providers to recognise their obligations under the DDA, as well as the commercial benefits of providing accessible services.

Our Pathways to Work pilots work with employers to help people on incapacity benefits gain and retain employment. They have already shown significant success in getting people off benefit and into employment. Over the next two years we will be extending Pathways to Work to every part of Britain. As a result of this investment, we will be bringing new hope and opportunity to some of the most disadvantaged members of our community.

We are currently putting together a cohesive and wide-ranging strategic action plan, developed in consultation with employers and employer organisations that are committed to increasing job opportunities for disabled people. We will work closely with them and other key stakeholders to build and deliver the action plan. Proposals include: an employer-led campaign to better engage employers to recruit and retain disabled people at both corporate and local levels; continued work to increase awareness of the Disability Discrimination Act; addressing and challenging negative employer attitudes; and building employer support for the Government's Welfare Reform agenda. Our aim is not just to challenge and change attitudes, but also to make a real difference to the recruitment of disabled people as well as their retention and progression within organisations.

On 4 July 2006 we launched our Welfare Reform Bill which set out our plans for welfare reform.

Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of his Department; what commitment he has made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81049]

Mr. Plaskitt: In the last Sustainable Development in Government Report, published in December 2005, DWP was reported as having produced 62.1 thousand tonnes of carbon for the year 2004-05.

The Department is committed to meeting the new Sustainable Operations targets announced by the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 12 June. We continue to work closely with our Estates Partners, Land Securities Trillium, to identify and introduce more energy saving measures across the estate, and to maintain, and where possible increase, our use of renewable energy. Currently 60 per cent. of our electricity is sourced from renewable sources, although this is not factored into the figures reported above. We have also begun work with the Carbon Trust to increase awareness among staff, encouraging them to make best use of energy saving devices and features where they are available, and to adopt improved housekeeping practises.

Child Support

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Child Support Agency will reclaim from the Treasury monies wrongly deducted for maintenance payments from a constituent of the hon. Member for Birkenhead (reference PCU/156249/RVI/LCP, case number, 321030812331). [83038]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to my right hon. Friend.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds, dated 11 July 2006:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently unavailable, I am responding on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Child Support Agency will reclaim from the Treasury monies wrongly deducted for maintenance payments from a constituent of the hon. Member for Birkenhead (reference PCU/156249/RVI/ LCP case number 321030812331.

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what earnings from the Territorial Army are exempt from child support calculations; and if he will make a statement; [83236]

(2) in what circumstances a father is exempt from paying child maintenance as a result of receiving payments from the Territorial Army. [83238]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* Members of the Territorial Army are not automatically exempt from paying child support maintenance. Child support calculations do not take account of any payment made in respect of the performance of duties as a member of the Territorial Army. Such members, in common with those who serve communities in similar occupations such as lifeboat crew or part-time firefighters, tend to undertake these activities in addition to their main occupation. Child support will take account of earnings from that main job and any other net weekly income.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the total backlog was of all Child Support Agency cases relating to West Lancashire residents operating under the old scheme of calculation which are due to transfer to the new scheme but where the transfer has not yet taken place in each month since March 2003; [83661]

(2) what the total backlog of cases is relating to West Lancashire residents awaiting processing under the new Child Support Agency scheme calculation for each month since June 2003. [83662]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not currently available at the geographical levels requested.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what dates members of the child support redesign team in his Department have had meetings with individuals and organisations from outside his Department in the last 12 months. [83160]

Mr. Plaskitt: Sir David Henshaw began his redesign work in February 2006 and is due to report back to the Secretary of State before the summer recess. During this time Sir David and his team are meeting with a variety of individuals and organisations from outside the Department. Representations made to Sir David will be detailed in his report.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will instruct the Child Support Agency to reconsider its decision not to provide child maintenance for Mrs. Lynda Gould of Buckfast on the basis that her son's father is in the Territorial Army; and if he will make a statement. [82614]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The Secretary of State cannot get involved in individual cases and therefore is unable to instruct the Child Support Agency to reconsider its decision.

Members of the Territorial Army are not automatically exempt from paying child support maintenance. Child support calculations do not take account of any payment made in respect of the performance of duties as a member of the Territorial Army. Such members, in common with those who serve communities in similar occupations such as lifeboat crew or part-time firefighters, tend to undertake these activities in addition to their main occupation. Child support will take account of earnings from that main job and any other net weekly income.

We are making further investigations into how the relevant legislation should be applied in this case. The chief executive of the Child Support Agency will write to the hon. Member and his constituent once we have completed that investigation.

Disability Living Allowance

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis qualified for disability living allowance in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005. [81967]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* For the year ending 30 November 2004, there were about 2,400 new awards for customers whose primary disabling condition is recorded as myalgic encephalomyelitis, chronic fatigue syndrome or other post viral conditions. For the year ending 30 November 2005, there were about 2,800 new awards.

Source:

DWP information Directorate: 5 per cent. sample data. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.

Gateway

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to roll out the new Gateway to help parents resolve child support cases. [77979]

Mr. Plaskitt: This is an area to be considered by Sir David Henshaw in his redesign.

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what factors were taken into account when deciding that industrial injuries disablement benefit should be treated as income for means-tested benefits. [81751]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Industrial injuries disablement benefit is compensation paid for the degree of disablement suffered as a result of an industrial accident. In all the income-related benefits, income from all sources is normally taken into account, with disregards only where special considerations apply. Consequently, this benefit is taken fully into account when determining entitlement to an income related benefit.

Other benefits such as attendance allowance and disability living allowance are available to customers if as a result of their injuries they require personal care. As such these benefits are disregarded when entitlement to means-tested benefits is assessed.

Mesothelioma

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidelines have been issued on awarding compensation to mesothelioma sufferers who have been exposed to asbestos in the workplace; and if he will make a statement. [78572]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 19 June 2006]:* The Department introduced regulations and procedures on 29 July 2002 that deem people suffering from mesothelioma to be 100 per cent. disabled from the outset. The change ensures that customers receive the maximum amount of IIDB from the earliest possible date. Procedures were also changed to remove the need for a separate examination on behalf of the Department where the disease has already been diagnosed.

These changes are in addition to the existing fast track arrangements for dealing with claims from customers suffering from other asbestos related diseases and ensure that they are dealt with maximum speed and minimum intervention from the Department.

They can also make a compensation claim under the Pneumoconiosis (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979 where there is no relevant employer to pursue.

In relation to civil claims for damages, the Judicial Studies Board publishes guidelines for the judiciary on the assessment of damages for pain and suffering in personal injury cases. These are based on decided cases and do not cover any damages that may be awarded for other elements of the claim, such as loss of earnings. The latest edition of the guidelines indicates that an award of between £45,000 and £70,000 is appropriate in mesothelioma cases.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the numbers of *(a)* women and *(b)* men who suffer from mesothelioma due to exposure to fibres brought home on the clothes of spouses, or other family members, exposed to asbestos at their workplace. [83751]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The information on which to base such an estimate is not available.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether those who suffer from mesothelioma due to exposure to fibres brought home on the clothes of spouses, or other family members, exposed to asbestos at their workplace are eligible to make claims under the Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) 1979 Act scheme; and if he will make a statement. [83756]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* People who have contracted mesothelioma as a result of fibres brought home by others exposed at the workplace are not eligible for a payment under the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979.

New Deal

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the uptake of the New Deal in rural communities; and if he will make a statement. [82033]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Although no formal research has been undertaken to assess the uptake of new deal in rural areas, we estimate that more than 273,000 people in rural areas[1] have started new deal for young people, new deal 25 plus and new deal for lone parents and over 172,000 have gone into work through these programmes. This ratio of programme starts to people into jobs through new deal compares favourably with the national average.

New deal for young people and new deal 25 plus are mandatory programmes and people who are required to attend these programmes will be expected to do so, regardless of the area in which they live. However, new deal advisers are required to identify any barriers or issues participants in new deal may have in getting back to work, and this can include, where appropriate, addressing barriers that may be inherent in living in rural areas.

Jobcentre Plus providers must deliver provision in locations that are easily accessible to participants, and where particular difficulties exist, for example in more rural areas, they must address these. Participants also receive help with their travel expenses for attending the Jobcentre Plus office on days when they would not normally be required to, or when attending new deal provision.

Information is not available on the take up of new deal in rural areas for new deal 50 plus, new deal for disabled people and new deal for partners.

We produce an internal annual Rural Proofing Report for the Countryside Agency; this includes examples of how the Department has addressed service delivery issues in rural areas. A copy of the Countryside Agency's Rural Proofing Report for 2004-05 is available in the Library.

[1] Information from the new deal database has been calculated using data on postcodes from the National Statistics Rural and Urban Classification of Output Areas.

Occupational Pensions

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department sought the support of the Irish Government with respect to an application for a temporal limitation procedure in relation to the Amicus-Community trade union occupational pensions case. [78020]

James Purnell *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* No. But my officials have had discussions about the case with their counterparts in Ireland and exchanged copies of their written observations on the case, as the outcome of the case is as important in Ireland as it is in the UK.

Pension Credit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of *(a)* pensioner households and *(b)* female pensioners in (i) Wales, (ii) Scotland and (iii) England he estimates will be eligible to claim pension credit in (A) 2010, (B) 2015, (C) 2020 and (D) 2025; and if he will make a statement. [69546]

James Purnell: The information is not available in the format requested. The information available is shown in the following table.

The numbers eligible for pension credit in the future are subject to a range of uncertainties and a number of factors including policies on uprating different benefits. Table 1 shows the projected proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit under the proposals contained in the White Paper "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system." This information is not available below Great Britain level.

Table 1: Projected proportion of pensioner households who may be eligible for pension credit for selected years under the White Paper proposals

	All pensioner households (percentage)
2010	44
2015	44
2020	41
2025	36

Notes:

1. Projections of the proportion of pensioner households eligible for pension credit are sensitive to modelling assumptions and to projected changes in the distribution of pensioner incomes.
2. The estimates shown here are the mid-points of projections taken from two separate micro-simulation models. Modelling of the reform proposals does not include any increase in private saving from the introduction of personal accounts, which would reduce the numbers eligible for pension credit.
3. These projections assume: continued earnings uprating of the standard guarantee credit; earnings uprating of the savings credit threshold from 2008 to 2014; earnings uprating of the basic state pension from 2012; price uprating of the maximum savings credit from 2015; measures to improve coverage of the basic state pension described in the White Paper.
4. Estimates account for equalisation of state pension age between 2010 and 2020. Estimates assume that the minimum age at which people can claim pension credit rises in line with women's state pension age.
5. Estimates are calibrated to the mid-points of the 2004-05 National Statistics range estimates of non-eligibility to pension credit, which adjust 2004-05 Family Resources Survey data to take account of possible biases in reporting. Although the estimates here are not presented as ranges, they are subject to a margin of uncertainty.
6. Estimates of the number of pensioners eligible under the proposed reforms are not available for each country. As explained above, the estimates are based on taking the average of results from two separate models, a process which would render the breakdown of estimates at sub-Great Britain level unreliable.

Christine Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in each electoral ward in Chester City were receiving pension credit in the last period for which figures are available. [82671]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Pension credit individual beneficiaries for wards in City of Chester parliamentary constituency, November 2005

Ward name[1]	*Individual beneficiaries*[2]
Blacon Hall	520
Blacon Lodge	490
Boughton	335
Boughton Heath	120
Christleton	160
City and St. Anne's	320
College	175
Curzon and Westminster	95
Dodleston	70
Handbridge and St. Mary's	195
Hoole All Saints	200
Hoole Groves	235
Huntington	55
Lache Park	355
Mollington	50
Newton Brook	125
Newton St. Michaels	240
Saughall	185
Upton Grange	185
Upton Westlea	200
Vicars Cross	230
Elton[3]	205
Waverton[3]	60
Tattenhall[3]	180
City of Chester constituency total	4,570

[1] Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries.
[2] The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.
[3] Only part of Elton, Waverton and Tattenhall wards fall within City of Chester parliamentary constituency.

Note:
Number of individual beneficiaries are rounded to a multiple of five, therefore ward totals do not always sum to area totals.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in each electoral ward in Edinburgh West constituency receive pension credit; and if he will make a statement. [82703]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Pension credit individual beneficiaries for wards in Edinburgh West parliamentary constituency, November 2005

Ward name[1]	*Individual beneficiaries*[2]
Dalmeny/Kirkliston	315
Queensferry	250
Cramond	220
Davidson's Mains	160
Muirhouse/Drylaw	865
East Craigs	505
N.E. Corstorphine	210
Murrayfield	180
Gyle[3]	295
S.E. Corstorphine	255
Stenhouse[3]	725

Pension credit individual beneficiaries for wards in Edinburgh West parliamentary constituency, November 2005

Ward name[1]	*Individual beneficiaries*[2]
Murray Burn[4]	435
Edinburgh West constituency total	3,960

[1] Wards are based on 2003 ward boundaries and Westminster parliamentary constituencies boundaries (2005 onwards).
[2] The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.
[3] The majority of Gyle and Stenhouse wards fall within Edinburgh West parliamentary constituency.
[4] Only a small part of Murray Burn ward falls within Edinburgh West parliamentary constituency.

Note:
Number of individual beneficiaries are rounded to a multiple of five, therefore ward totals do not always sum to area totals.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100 per cent. data.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in *(a)* Edinburgh West constituency and *(b)* other Edinburgh parliamentary constituencies receive pension credit. [82704]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Pension credit individual beneficiaries in Edinburgh parliamentary constituencies, February 2606

Parliamentary constituency[1]	*Individual beneficiaries*[2]
Edinburgh East	5,200
Edinburgh North and Leith	4,110
Edinburgh South	3,180
Edinburgh South West	3,830
Edinburgh West	3,940

[1] Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
[2] The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Notes:
1. These figures are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figures provided are the latest available figures which are taken from the GMS scan at 17 February 2006. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure. Average amounts are displayed as at the scan reference data of 17 February 2006.
2. The number of individual beneficiaries are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
DWP: 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS). Pension Credit scan taken as at 17 February 2006.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of pensioners in West Lancashire *(a)* entitled to and *(b)* receiving pension credit. [83660]

James Purnell: Estimates of eligibility are not available below the level of Great Britain. As at February 2006, there were 6,030 pension credit individual beneficiaries in West Lancashire parliamentary constituency.

Notes:
1. These figures are early estimates. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figures provided are the latest available figures which are taken from the GMS scan at 17 February 2006. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.
2. The number of individual beneficiaries is rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Parliamentary constituency is assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
4. The number of individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Source:
DWP: 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS). Pension credit scan taken as at 17 February 2006.

Pension Rights (Bankruptcy)

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 865W, on pension rights (bankruptcy), what the difference is between recent unpaid contributions to occupational pension schemes or state scheme premiums which are preferential and amounts due to pension schemes that is not preferential which is unsecured; and if he will make a statement. [81949]

James Purnell: The unpaid contributions that are preferential debts are employee contributions to an occupational pension scheme that have been deducted from the employee's pay during the last four months preceding the relevant insolvency date but that have not yet been paid over by the employer to the scheme, and unpaid employer contributions in respect of the 12-month period preceding the relevant insolvency date.

Under the Pension Schemes Act 1993 the trustees of a scheme can claim a payment in lieu of certain unpaid employee and employer contributions from the redundancy payments directorate of The Insolvency Service, which is an executive agency of the Department of Trade and Industry. Payments are made from the National Insurance Fund and if such a payment is made, the right to recover the relevant contributions from the insolvent employer's estate transfers from the pension scheme to the Secretary of State. Any sum owed on account of a state scheme premium is also a preferential debt.

All other amounts due from an insolvent employer to a pension scheme are unsecured. This includes debts due under section 75 of the Pensions Act 1995,which provides a mechanism for the trustees to be able to take action to pursue a statutory debt due from employers to defined-benefit schemes in certain circumstances including the insolvency of the employer.

Pensions

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the net present cost is of reinstating the pensions of those pension scheme members covered by the recommendations of the parliamentary ombudsman. [68591]

James Purnell: We estimate that the net present value of the cost of implementing the ombudsman's proposals is between around £2.9 billion and £3.7 billion.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the total change in revenue to the Treasury resulting from the cancellation of contracted-out rebates to defined contribution schemes in each year from 2012. [78001]

James Purnell: The estimated total change in public finances resulting from the abolition of contracting out for defined contribution schemes is shown in the following table.

Over time, the costs to S2P and the reductions on the rebate are expected to be broadly equivalent. The abolition of contracting out leads to a cash-flow effect from the rebate, balanced by a longer term increase in state second pension liabilities. The increase in the cost of the state second pension will arise as people retire, many of them after 2050. Therefore, some of the increase in cost is not captured in this table.

State second pension and rebate costs due to the abolition of contracting out for defined contribution schemes

		£ billion
	State second pension	*Rebates*
2012	0	-4.0
2013	0	-4.1
2014	0	-4.1
2015	0	-4.2
2016	0	-4.2
2017	0	-4.2
2018	0.1	-4.2
2019	0.1	-4.3
2020	0.1	-4.3
2021	0.2	-4.3
2022	0.2	-4.3
2023	0.3	-4.3
2024	0.4	-4.2
2025	0.5	-4.2
2026	0.6	-4.2
2027	0.7	-4.2
2028	0.9	-4.1
2029	1.1	-4.1
2030	1.3	-4.1
2031	1.5	-4.0
2032	1.8	-4.0
2033	2.1	-4.0
2034	2.4	-3.9
2035	2.7	-4.0
2036	3.0	-4.0
2037	3.2	-4.0
2038	3.4	-4.1
2039	3.6	-4.2
2040	3.8	-4.3
2041	3.9	-4.4
2042	4.1	-4.5
2043	4.2	-4.6
2044	4.4	-4.7
2045	4.6	-4.7
2046	4.7	-4.8
2047	4.9	-4.9
2048	5.1	-5.0
2049	5.3	-5.1
2050	5.4	-5.1

Note:
Data in 2006-07 prices, coverage is GB.
Source:
DWP estimates.

Pensions Reform

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his oral statement on pensions reform of 25 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1648-51, what estimate he has made of the difference in the number of people who would have gained a full basic state pension under the Turner proposals based on residency and the number based on his proposed reform of the contributory principle. [75157]

James Purnell *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The Government's White Paper on pension reform, "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system", published on 25 May, includes estimates of those achieving a full basic state pension under the Pensions Commission's residence accruals approach compared to our proposed reform of the contributory principle.

Estimates of the proportion of people reaching state pension age with full basic state pension under the current system, the Pension Commission's residence accruals approach, and our proposed reform are shown in Figure 3.vi of "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system", and in the following table.

Table 1: Proportion of people reaching state pension age with full basic state pension under different schemes

			Percentage
	Current system without reform	*Residence accruals from 2010*	*30 qualifying years for new retirees from 2010*
Men			
2010	90	90	95
2015	85	85	95
2025	75	85	95
2050	75	95	95
Women			
2010	55	55	70
2015	70	75	85
2025	80	85	95
2050	80	95	95

Notes:
1. Based on projections from the Government Actuary's Department's Retirement Model, GB.
2. Estimates are approximate and reflect the inevitable uncertainty associated with any future projection. Figures shown have therefore been rounded to the nearest 5 percentage points.
3. Under residence accruals, 44 years are required for a full basic state pension.
4. Women's entitlement is based on their own and their husband's contributions, i.e. includes entitlement using the inheritance and substitution rules for widows and divorced women.

Statistical Returns

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what statistical returns and reports were rendered by local employment offices during the period January to June 2006; how many civil servants were involved in *(a)* collating, *(b)* processing and *(c)* publishing the statistics; and what the estimated total cost was. [83805]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Winter Fuel Payment

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost would be of extending eligibility for the £200 winter fuel payment to those non-pensioner households who qualify for cold weather payments. [82910]

James Purnell: We estimate the cost of extending winter fuel payments to non-pensioner households that are eligible for a cold weather payment would be £300 million in 2005-06.

Notes:

1. Estimates based on DWP benefit data and rounded to the nearest £50 million.

2. Actual receipt of a cold weather payment depends on local temperatures as well as meeting qualification conditions. Here it is assumed that all eligible cases would receive a payment of £200.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 11 July 2006

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of the carbon emissions of her Department; what commitment she has made to reducing such emissions; and if she will make a statement. [81335]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006 and no assessment of its carbon emissions has yet been undertaken. In 2005 the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister produced approximately 5,000 tonnes of absolute carbon emissions, as reported in the 2005 Sustainable Development in Government report. These emissions were calculated through the energy consumed across the estate; this included ODPM properties and Executive Agencies but excluded the Government Office Network.

In addition to the carbon emissions produced through energy consumption, ODPM produced an estimated further 360 tonnes of absolute carbon emissions through business road travel in 2005.

The Department of Communities and Local Government has commenced a carbon management programme with the Carbon Trust. The aim of the programme is to mobilise the Department and its agencies in working towards reducing carbon emissions across the estate. This will involve identifying energy efficiency quick wins, as well as devising long-term strategies and business opportunities to ensure increased sustainability across all areas of business.

Design for Manufacture

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated minimum life span is of the properties constructed for the Design for Manufacture competition. [83078]

Angela E. Smith: All bidders were required, as a minimum, to comply with all current building regulations and demonstrate that all of the homes they were proposing to build through the competition would be able to obtain relevant third-party approvals, such as from the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), the Association of British Insurers (ABI) and building warranty agreements. This is normal industry practice, and assessments for mortgageability are commonly based on a 60-year minimum measure for life span. However, in addition, to ensure that we could explore the whole-life quality of the proposed dwellings the bidders were also required to prepare a table setting out maintenance and replacement costs in use for all homes built under the Design for Manufacture competition based on a period of 60 years.

Greater Manchester (Local Government)

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to introduce *(a)* an elected mayor, *(b)* an elected assembly and *(c)* other statutory forms of governance for the Greater Manchester City Region. [84081]

Mr. Woolas: Discussions are ongoing with Manchester and the other core cities regarding their business case proposals, following the summits that were held during 2005. Those business cases include options for devolving decision-making to the cities or city regions. We will further develop these ideas and associated thinking, including on individual local authority leadership, in the forthcoming Local Government White Paper.

Home Information Packs

Michael Gove: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what benchmarks have been established to measure the effectiveness of the pilots for home information packs. [65073]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

We are currently developing proposals for the dry run and will make an announcement before the parliamentary recess.

Planning Applications

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* parish and *(b)* town councils have the power to delegate decisions on planning applications to a responsible councillor or officer. [84147]

Mr. Woolas: Parish and town councils have no powers to determine planning applications and are not therefore in a position to delegate decisions on applications to councillors or officers. Parish and town councils are entitled to be notified in writing of planning applications in their areas and make representations on them, following a written request to the local planning authority.

Second Homes

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to introduce a second homes tax, as recommended by the Affordable Rural Housing Commission. [83409]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government has no plans to introduce a second homes tax. From April 2004, we have given councils the freedom to reduce the council tax discount on second homes from 50 per cent. to 10 per cent. In 2005-06 councils raised an additional £92 million to spend on local priorities by reducing the discount.

Sheree Dodd

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments her Department has made to Sheree Dodd out of public funds; and for what purposes. [83022]

Angela E. Smith: The terms of contracts between the Department and individuals are private matters. Sheree Dodd has been working as an interim head of news for the Department for Communities and Local Government while a full civil service recruitment process is completed. This is a short-term role and requires a person with expertise and recent knowledge of Whitehall.

Single Status Agreement

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will ensure that there is no aggregate national cash limit to the capitalisation of back payments due to local authority staff arising from the single status agreement. [83337]

Mr. Woolas: Revised guidance on the policy and procedures for capitalisation directions was issued on 26 June. This is available from the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/cappolpro.pdf

Sovereign Strategy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates over the last 12 months *(a)* she and *(b)* (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in her Department met a representative of Sovereign Strategy. [72342]

Angela E. Smith: On 18 November 2005 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, then serving as Minister of Communities and Local Government, spoke on raising aspirations for young people in the North East at the Annual North East Economic Forum, organised by the University of Northumbria and Sovereign Strategy. I am not aware of Ministers holding other meetings with representatives of Sovereign Strategy during this period. Records are not held centrally of such contacts at official level. Any such contacts are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Ministerial Code, Civil Service Code, Code of Conduct for Special Advisers and Guidance for civil servants on contacts with lobbyists and people outside Government.

Sustainable Communities Summit

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason her Department is cancelling the Sustainable Communities Summit in Manchester due to be held in February 2007; how much the event has cost, including cancellation fees. [83021]

Angela E. Smith: The Sustainable Communities summit that was to be held in Manchester in February 2007 has been cancelled for the following reasons:

1. DCLG is taking a new approach to stakeholder engagement. The DCLG is a new Department with a new remit and will be communicating its agenda in new ways.

1.1 The Department is of the view that the commercial sector is better placed to deliver large-scale events such as the summit. Previous summits in 2002 and 2005 were successful in raising awareness of the Sustainable Communities agenda with key stakeholders. The success of these summits and other similar events such as the Thames Gateway Forum means that it is the right time to seek private sector interest in running the summit.

1.2 As well as looking at how best to communicate through large events, the Department is planning a series of regional events to discuss how we can best work with the public, private and voluntary and community sectors to deliver sustainable communities.

The summit project has in total cost £291,000.

The cancellation element of the total cost will be in the region of £60,000 (the Department has yet to agree final costs with our contractors).

Third Sector

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the projected budget is for the Central-Local Government-Third Sector Engagement Board. [83095]

Mr. Woolas: There is no specific budget allocated to the Central-Local Government-Third Sector Engagement Board. Its secretariat and related policy work will be resourced within current departmental staffing.

Unitary Authorities

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* groups of authorities have applied to be pilots for new unitary status; and if she will make a statement. [83935]

Mr. Woolas: Our approach to restructuring will be set out in the forthcoming White Paper which will be published shortly after the summer recess.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the BBC about the desirability of bringing BBC regions in line with Government regions; and if she will make a statement. [83987]

Mr. Woodward: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions with the BBC about the desirability of bringing BBC regions in line with Government regions.

Departmental Staff

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many disabled staff in her Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82223]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport received support through the Access to Work scheme for the following numbers of people:

		Number
(a)	2001-02	0
	2002-03	0
	2003-04	2
	2004-05	3
	2005-06	2
(b)	2006-07	2

Engagements

Mr. Geoffrey Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she next plans to visit Coventry Cathedral. [83334]

Tessa Jowell: I have no specific plans to visit Coventry Cathedral. However when I am next in the West Midlands I would be pleased to do so.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the official engagements of the hon. Member for St. Helens South from the date of appointment as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Media and Tourism) to 14 July. [83484]

Mr. Woodward: The information is as follows:

I have undertaken the following public engagements:

25 May—Speech at Digital Switchover Conference in Cumbria

6 June—Speech at UK Inbound Parliamentary Reception

8 June—Arena: Men of the Year Awards

13 June—Speeches at Film Birmingham debate and reception

19 June—Speech at Clore Conference on Culture and Creative Enterprise

21 June—Introductory Speech at Annual Media Lecture

29 June—Speech at the Westminster Media Forum

30 June—Presented an Award at the Commercial Radio Awards

4 July—Speech at the Skillset TV Skills Launch

4 July—Speech at the IPPR event: The Long Tail—Opportunities in a new marketplace

5 July—Speech at Tourism Alliance AGM

6 July—Speech to Royal Television Society

I have undertaken the following parliamentary commitments:

5 June—DCMS questions

14 June—Westminster Hall debate on digital switchover

21 June—Opposition day debate on the future of the BBC

3 July—DCMS questions

6 July—Westminster Hall debate on digital switchover

10 July—Government debate on the BBC

The following are scheduled:

11 July—Westminster Hall debate on TV licensing

13 July—SI debate on TV licensable content services order and the radio multiplex order

I have undertaken the following meetings with the following external parties:

24 May—Competition and IP Breakfast—Many Industry representatives

5 June—ITV

5 June—Motion Picture Association

6 June—Microsoft

12 June—Technology Breakfast—Many Industry representatives

12 June—London Development Agency

12 June—Music Business Forum

22 June—Chinese Minister for Radio, Film and Television

22 June—Intellect

27 June—NBC

27 June—Apple

30 June—Minister President of Baden-Wuerttenberg

5 July—Digital TV group

The following meetings with external parties are scheduled and subject to parliamentary business:

11 July—Brooks Lapping productions

12 July—BskyB

12 July—O2

12 July—Historic Houses Association

I have also carried out a full schedule of engagements with internal stakeholders, other Ministers, MPs, DCMS sponsored bodies, cabinet committees and business with the EU commission.

Hyde Park Events

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the events held in Hyde park during the last 12 months for which an attendance fee was payable and for which an area of the park was enclosed; how much *(a)* income was generated and *(b)* expenditure was spent by the Royal Parks Agency relating to each such event; what arrangements are in place between the Royal Parks Agency and relevant local authorities to reduce the impact of these events on local residents; and whether payments were made to any local authority in relation to these events. [81328]

Mr. Lammy: The following table show the number of events that were held in Hyde park, the income derived from them and the cost to The Royal Parks (TRP).

Under the 2003 Licensing Act The Royal Parks are, from 24 November 2005, required to obtain a licence for events from the local authority. In the case of Hyde park, that is Westminster city council. It is for the local authority to set the limit on the number and size of events and any other conditions it feels relevant. In addition, TRP holds meetings with the local authority, police, transport and other emergency services to agree the arrangements for each event. Details like noise levels are subject to existing guidance and are monitored by the council and the promoter at each event.

In addition to day-to-day liaison with Westminster city council, TRP officials attend many meetings of residents and amenity societies, and write to local residents and neighbours advising them of the dates, times and other arrangements relating to events.

The only payment made to any local authority in relation to these events was the fee for the licence, which amounted to £48,100.

Events for which an attendance fee was payable by the public and an area of the park was enclosed, 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006

Event 2005	*Description*	*Income (fee) (£)*	*Expenditure (£)*
Moonwalk—17 June	Charity sponsored walk around London streets, starting and ending in a large marquee in Hyde park	152,500	17,008
02 Wireless Festival—24 to 25 June and 29 to 30 June	Ticketed sponsored music festival over four nights. On the Parade Ground. Mix of outdoor stages and dance tents.	283,000	[1]65,890
Queen and Paul Rogers—15 July	Ticketed commercial music concert on Parade Ground.	280,000	[1]—
R.E.M.—16 July	Ticketed music concert on the Parade Ground	280,000	[1]—
BBC Proms in the Park—10 to 11 September	Ticketed music concert on the Parade Ground	132,043	7,374

[1] Total

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions she has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [83910]

Tessa Jowell: I have made 34 regional visits in the last 12 months. Details are given in the following table.

Regions	*Times visited*
London	12
Wales	1
Scotland	2
North West	4
South East	5
East	2
Yorks and Humber	1
West Midlands	3
North East	1
South West	3

Post Office

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with *(a)* other Government departments, *(b)* the BBC and *(c)* Post Office Limited on the effect on the sub-post office network of the loss of television licence renewal income. [82865]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no such discussions. The award of the contract for over the counter sales of television licences is a commercial decision for the BBC (as television licensing authority). Prior to the announcement of the corporation's decision, DCMS officials had been briefed by the BBC, and liaised with officials at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Television Licences

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations she has received regarding the withdrawal of television licence savings stamps. [81927]

Mr. Woodward: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport had received 13 representations primarily about the withdrawal of TV licence savings stamps at the end of June 2006. A small number of representations about other aspects of the licensing system also referred to savings stamps but are not recorded separately. The Department has also answered two other recent parliamentary questions about the withdrawal of savings stamps.

Televisions, Leicester

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households in Leicester have television receiving equipment; and what proportion receive a signal from *(a)* Waltham television transmitter (BBC), *(b)* Sutton Coldfield television transmitter (BBC) and *(c)* other BBC transmitters. [83986]

Mr. Woodward: Nationally, an estimated 97.6 per cent. of households have television reception equipment. We do not have local figures for Leicester.

Most viewers in Leicester can get signals either from the Waltham transmitter or from a small transmitter in the city which relays Waltham's signals. The Sutton Coldfield transmitter does overlap Waltham across most of the city and there are a few parts (notably the Wigston area of the city and a section to the south-west of the city centre) where only Sutton Coldfield provides adequate signals.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Allegations against Teachers

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidences there have been of pupils making serious allegations against teachers in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years; and in how many of these cases the allegations were proved to be false or unfounded. [82701]

Maria Eagle: The Department does not collect the information on the basis requested.

The Department has undertaken an audit recently with all employing authorities to collect information about staff, both teaching and non-teaching, who have been suspended from duty following allegations of child abuse. This information has been collected to inform the work of a review group established to look at the use of precautionary suspension when allegations of child abuse are made against members of staff. I expect to receive a report of the findings, including an analysis of this data, and proposals for new guidance from the review group in the autumn and I intend to publish both the report and the proposals later this year.

Census 2011

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when preparatory work began in Northern Ireland for the 2011 Census; and what it will involve. [81859]

Mr. Hanson: Preparatory work for the 2011 Census began in Northern Ireland during 2003, in line with developments across the rest of the UK. The work involved includes (i) reviewing and evaluating key aspects of the 2001 Census operation, (ii) developing, testing and evaluating new topics/questions, enumeration procedures and statistical methodologies, (iii) procuring systems and services to assist with the data collection, processing and output phases of the Census and (iv) consultation with users. Proposals for the 2011 Census will be brought forward in a White Paper in 2008.

Child Services

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the action plan for implementation of the Children's and Young People's Strategy will be subject to consultation. [83685]

Maria Eagle: I do not intend to consult publicly on the action plan for implementation of the 10-year Strategy for Children and Young People. My priority, as I indicated at the launch, is to publish the action plan as quickly as possible and then get on with the actions to achieve the six outcomes set out in the strategy. A draft action plan will be considered by the Strategy Planning and Review Group, established to oversee implementation. I will chair the group and membership will include key children's stakeholders. I will also seek the views of members of the All-Party Group, whom I meet with on a regular basis, prior to publication.

Departmental Staff

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many disabled staff Northern Ireland Government Departments have employed in each of the last 10 years. [80941]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as shown in the following table:

Staff employed by Northern Ireland Government Departments who have declared a disability at 1 January each year

	NICS staff	*NIO HCS staff*	*Total*
1997	435	n/a	435
1998	414	n/a	414
1999	911	n/a	911
2000	856	n/a	856
2001	1,245	n/a	1,246
2002	1,249	5	1,254
2003	1,247	6	1,253
2004	1,295	10	1,305
2005	1,363	9	1,372
2006	1,409	10	1,419

n/a = Not applicable

Notes:

1. Table shows staff employed by NI Government Departments and departmental agencies and includes industrial staff, casual staff and Home Civil Service (HCS) staff employed in NIO. (Figures for NIO HCS staff prior to 2001 could not be made available within the timescale for this question.
2. Figures for 1997 and 1998 show those staff who were registered as disabled. Figures for 1999 to 2006 show those staff who declared a disability as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. It is impossible to say with authority whether all staff with disabilities have declared it; anecdotal evidence is that an unknown number has not.
3. In August 2000, the Northern Ireland civil service conducted a survey of staff and encouraged those staff who had a disability to declare it at that time. Since then all new staff have been required to declare whether or not they have a disability.

Derry Airport

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people from *(a)* Strabane district council area and *(b)* Limavady district council area have applied for jobs as (i) airport hands and (ii) fire fighters at city of Derry airport in the last six years; and how many from each council area were successful. [83028]

David Cairns: Employment policies and practices in relation to the airport are a matter for its owner, Derry city council.

I have asked the chief executive of Derry city council to write to the hon. Member with the information.

Domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the average effective tax rate that will be levied from April 2007 under the new system of domestic rates; and if he will make a statement. [83011]

Mr. Hanson: It is estimated that the effective tax rate to be levied on households in Northern Ireland under the new discrete capital values system in April 2007 will be £6.33 for every £1,000 of capital value. This estimate is based on a 6 per cent. increase for the regional rate, which has already been announced in the draft Priorities and Budget 2006-08 and an assumption of a 6 per cent. increase in the average district council rate. District councils are wholly responsible for setting the district rate in each of the 26 council areas and this broad assumption is made against a background of a 5.8 per cent. average increase in district rates over the last three years.

In order to smooth the transition to the new system assistance will be provided through relief schemes, firstly for those facing significant increases and secondly for those on low incomes beyond the 20 per cent. of households that are already entitled to a full rebate under housing benefit.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83628]

Mr. Hain: Neither I nor any member of my ministerial team attended any matches at the recent FIFA World Cup in Germany.

Financial Assistance (Political Parties)

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been paid per year to each political party in Northern Ireland under the financial assistance to political parties scheme; and whether this funding will end if there is no agreement for a power-sharing Executive by 24 November. [81486]

Mr. Hanson: The amount paid per year to each political party under the Financial Assistance to Political Parties Scheme as operated by the Northern Ireland Assembly is set out as follows.

In terms of future funding, I would refer my hon. Friend to the work plan published with the joint statement made by the Prime Minster and the Taoiseach on 29 June 2006, which stated that salaries and allowances for MLAs and financial assistance to parties would stop from 24 November if restoration does not occur by that date.

£

	1998-99	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*
Alliance	22,500	35,000	32,000	32,000	66,000	59,372	66,000
Democratic Unionist Party	45,000	60,200	60,090	60,000	123,877	154,230	187,264
Northern Ireland Unionist Party	3,833	29,500	27,400	26,000	27,000	20,192	[1]n/a
Progressive Unionist Party	16,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	54,000	43,000	2,077
Social Democratic and Labour Party	51,000	69,500	68,100	68,000	102,000	84,000	102,000
Sinn Fein	42,000	57,490	56,076	56,000	105,540	126,322	51,403
United Kingdom Unionist Party	22,500	31,500	22,000	22,000	27,000	24,900	27,000
Ulster Unionist Party	57,000	77,100	73,110	72,000	121,269	127,222	168,385
United Unionist Assembly Party	11,333	27,500	26,016	26,000	52,500	35,000	[1]n/a
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition	18,000	25,500	24,000	24,000	54,000	34,000	[1]n/a

[1] These parties did not continue operating following the 2003 NI Assembly election.

Further Education

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding has been allocated for further education colleges in the Province to provide tuition to those with *(a)* mental health difficulties and *(b)* learning disabilities in 2006-07. [83653]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Employment and Learning is unable to provide financial information in the format requested but would confirm that it has allocated total funding of £6,866,092 for the academic year 2006-07 to the FE sector in Northern Ireland towards provision for those students with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what criteria are used to categorise further education college courses as recreational rather than vocational. [83654]

Maria Eagle: When the course of study is identified by the further education colleges as not examined, or not leading to a qualification, it is categorised by the Department as "non-specified, non-examinable" and generally viewed as a hobby and leisure/recreational course.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans there are to withdraw funding to further education colleges in the Province for tuition of those with *(a)* mental health difficulties and *(b)* learning difficulties. [83729]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Employment and Learning has no plans to withdraw funding to further education colleges in Northern Ireland for tuition for those students with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what funding has been allocated to further education colleges in the Province for tuition of

those with *(a)* mental health difficulties and *(b)* learning disability in each of the last five years. [83730]

Maria Eagle: The Department for Employment and Learning is unable to provide financial information in the format requested but would confirm that the total funding provided to the FE sector in Northern Ireland towards provision for those students with learning difficulties and disabilities in the last five years was as follows:

	Funding (£)
2006-07	6,866,092
2005-06	5,793,553
2004-05	6,318,568
2003-04	6,256,633
2002-03	7,628,772

Knives

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many knives were recovered in each district council area in the Province during the recent knife amnesty. [83726]

Mr. Hanson: A total of 886 items were handed in during the recent knife amnesty in Northern Ireland. The numbers deposited in bins in each district council area were as follows.

	Number
Antrim	26
Ards	26
Armagh	22
Ballymena	29
Ballymoney	23
Banbridge	63
Belfast	102
Carrickfergus	31
Castlereagh	35
Coleraine	42
Cookstown	17
Craigavon	40
Derry City	33
Down	4
Dungannon/South Tyrone	38
Fermanagh	28
Larne	26
Limavady	22
Lisburn	62
Magherafelt	11
Moyle	8
Newry and Mourne	8
Newtownabbey	46
North Down	48
Omagh	33
Strabane	7

The other 56 items were surrendered to bins managed by the harbour police and Ministry of Defence.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of knives that are carried in Northern Ireland. [83727]

Mr. Hanson: It would be impossible to make an estimate of the number of knives carried in Northern Ireland. Knives are used in a variety of professions and for hobbies and pastimes such as camping and diving in a way that does not break the existing laws.

The Government are however determined to tackle the culture of carrying knives for illegal purposes. One way that we can judge the success of policies, campaigns and initiatives is to note their impact on the recorded crime figures where the use of a knife is involved.

Current initiatives that seek to address the culture of knife carrying among young people include the year-long public information campaign and the education package that will be delivered in post-primary schools from September.

Media Monitoring

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on media monitoring in each of the last five financial years. [77223]

Mr. Hain: Media monitoring expenditure in each of the last five years is detailed as follows and comprises both equipment and staff costs.

Equipment costs

	£
2001-02	3,096.13
2002-03	20,982.08
2003-04	25,975.36
2004-05	13,543.24
2005-06	2,513.02

The rise in expenditure in 2002-03 and 2003-04 was due to the NIIS media monitoring facility transferring to a digital service from video to DVD.

Staff costs

There are four staff employed in the Media Monitoring Unit and their combined average salaries for the last five years are as follows:

	£
2001-02	61,868
2002-03	64,544
2003-04	67,220
2004-05	69,896
2005-06	72,568

Migrant Workers

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps his Department is taking to ensure that migrant workers to Northern Ireland have access to information on *(a)* health, *(b)* social services, *(c)* housing and *(d)* other public services. [80961]

Maria Eagle: Northern Ireland Departments provide a wide range of information and services to migrant workers. Key areas are:

Migrant worker access to information on health

The Department for Health and Social Services and Public Safety is currently developing a booklet for those new to Northern Ireland which provides key information about health and social services and how to access them. This will be made available in a range of languages.

The Department is currently in discussions regarding the future provision of interpreting, with the aim of meeting the needs of the changing migrant worker communities.

The Department in collaboration with the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland will produce a second edition of the 2003 good practice guide "Racial Equality in Health and Social Care" by March 2007.

Migrant worker access to information on social services

The Social Security Agency has a statutory obligation to ensure that migrant workers have access to social security benefits where they satisfy the necessary conditions. The Agency ensures that migrant workers are, on request, allocated a national insurance number to enable them to pursue legitimate employment or obtain access to social security benefits.

The Agency publishes benefit information and fact sheets in a number of languages including Arabic, Chinese, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish and works closely with voluntary sector support groups to ensure that information about the benefits system is as widely available as possible.

Telephone and face-to-face interpreting and translation services are provided by the Agency to those customers who have difficulty communicating in English.

Migrant worker access to information on housing

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive provides or facilitates the following services to ensure that migrant workers in Northern Ireland have access to information about housing services.

An interpreter service (language line) is available to all housing executive district office staff.

The housing executive intranet site includes advice leaflets available in the following languages: French; Lithuanian: Polish; Russian; Mandarin and Cantonese.

The housing executive provides inter-cultural awareness training to equip its front-line staff with the knowledge and skills to deal with culturally sensitive issues. The training also provides information on support services and organisations assisting migrant workers.

Migrant worker access to information on other public services

Government Departments who provide services to migrant workers are taking similar measures as are being taken on health, social services and housing, some examples include:

Driver Vehicle Licensing NI (DVLNI) produces leaflets and posters in a number of languages and on a range of issues including how to buy a car, obtain a drivers licence, insurance and use of seat belts.

Provisions of English for Speakers of other Languages courses are available in Further Education colleges.

"Language line" interpreting services are provided in all jobs and benefits offices and Jobcentres.

The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (H and SENI) operates a telephone interpretation service and translation service for customers whose first language is not English. It has also produced a picture booklet on safety in the workplace specifically for migrant workers working in high-risk industries.

A key step that the Government are taking is the recent establishment by the Race Forum of a thematic group on migrant workers. This group will examine the work that individual Departments and agencies have been doing to date and identifying those information practices which should be consistent across all Government. It will make recommendations to Ministers in the autumn.

Ministerial Meetings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what dates the Minister for Social Development has met representatives of the *(a)* Democratic Unionist Party, *(b)* Ulster Unionist Party, *(c)* Progressive Unionist Party, *(d)* Ulster Political Research Group and *(e)* Orange Order in the last 12 months. [82991]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested from June 2005-June 2006 is as follows:

Party	*Dates*
DUP	19 July 2005
	18 October 2005
	21 November 2005
	15 March 2005
	30 March 2006
	8 May 2006
	11 May 2006
	26 June 2006
UPRG	9 June 2005
	19 September 2005
	12 December 2005
PUP	21 June 2005
	24 October 2005
	30 March 2006
Orange Order	23 January 2006
	2 February 2006
UUP	30 March2006

As Minister for Social Development I have also met representatives from the parties on other occasions in different ministerial capacities during the 12-month period.

Model United Nations General Assembly

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how much funding the Model United Nations General Assembly has received from his Department in each of the last five years; and how much funding has been allocated for the next three years; [84105]

(2) what his assessment is of the contribution to reconciliation in Northern Ireland made by the Model United Nations General Assembly organised by the Council for Education in World Citizenship Northern Ireland. [84106]

Maria Eagle: The Model United Nations General Assembly is organised by the Council for Education in World Citizenship NI (CEWC NI). The Department of Education funded CEWC (NI) through its Community Relations Core Funding Scheme for the period 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2004, total funding £136,584. A breakdown for each of the last five financial years is displayed in the following table.

	£
2001-02	39,918
2002-03	51,201
2003-04	45,465
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
Total	136,584

The overt objectives of the Model United Nations General Assembly (MUNGA) are not around reconciliation in Northern Ireland. However, it is recognised that any programme that widens the experience of young people in the context of Global Citizenship and their understanding of diversity has merit.

The next round of core funding, 2007-10, was launched on 5 July 2006 and CEWC (NI) are welcome to apply. All applications will be judged on how they meet the scheme's criteria/objectives.

MRSA

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many MRSA-related deaths have there been in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each hospital. [83964]

Mr. Hanson: Causes of death are classified by International Classification of Diseases (ICD), the current version of which does not have a specific code for MRSA. However statistics on deaths where MRSA was a contributing factor can be obtained by identifying deaths registered with specific conditions likely to be linked with MRSA and then checking whether MRSA was recorded on the death certificate.

The following table gives the number of deaths registered in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years, 2001-05, where MRSA was mentioned on the death certificate. The figures relate to all deaths where MRSA was mentioned on the death certificate, regardless of whether it was the primary cause of death or not. Figures are classified by place of death, which need not be the place of infection.

MRSA-related deaths by place of death, 2001-05

Place of death	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*[2]
Altnagelvin Group HSS Trust	1	7	1	4	4
Belfast City Hospital HSS Trust	1	1	4	7	7
Causeway HSS Trust	1	1	1	—	3
Craigavon Area Hospital Group HSS Trust	1	7	2	5	9
Down Lisburn HSS Trust	—	—	2	2	4
Green Park HSS Trust	—	—	—	—	1
Mater Infirmorum Hospital HSS Trust	—	3	3	1	6
Newry and Mourne HSS Trust	2	—	1	—	1
Royal Group of Hospitals HSS Trust	2	1	2	4	6
Sperrin Lakeland HSS Trust	1	—	2	5	3
Ulster Community and Hospitals HSS Trust	6	4	1	2	8
United Hospitals Group HSS Trust	1	1	4	4	5
Other[1]	1	1	7	10	12
Total	17	26	30	44	69

[1] Other place of death includes deaths in Nursing Homes or in the home.
[2] Provisional data.

Pollution

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* private citizens and *(b)* businesses in Northern Ireland have been prosecuted for causing pollution from (i) septic tanks and (ii) heating oil tanks in each of the last three years; and what the total amount paid out in each category was in each year. [83966]

David Cairns: In the last three years, no private citizens have been prosecuted by Environment and Heritage Service for causing pollution from heating oil tanks, as the severity and environmental impact of these incidents have not warranted prosecution.

In the last three years, one private citizen has been prosecuted by Environment and Heritage Service for causing pollution from a septic tank. The incident occurred in 2003, and the owner of the septic tank was fined £2,000 and court costs of £16 were awarded against the offender.

The following figures outline the number of prosecutions taken in respect of oil pollution incidents caused by industry since 2003:

Year in which incident occurred	Number of cases	Costs awarded (£)	Fines imposed (£)	Cases still pending
2003	7	1,337	7,400	—
2004	4	10,645	4,600	—
2005	6	206	300	8
Total	17	12,188	12,300	—

Private Members' Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to his answer of 28 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 657W, on Private Members' Bills, whether the information was collected at any time; and if he will make a statement. [33882]

Mr. Hain: This information has never been collected.

Sinn Fein

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how much has been granted to Sinn Fein from public funds in each of the last 10 years; [11672]

(2) how much Sinn Fein has received in the last year from public funds; [77374]

Mr. Hanson: I am sorry for the lateness of this reply, which was due to an administrative error.

The amount paid in £ to Sinn Fein in respect of members' salaries and allowances, and party allowances, by the Westminster Parliament and NI Assembly is as follows:

	Westminster	NI Assembly
1998-99	[1]—	935,950
1999-00	[1]—	1,341,860
2000-01	[1]—	1,588,184
2001-02	63,370	1,711,507
2002-03	342,455	1,877,511
2003-04	439,452	1,939,690
2004-05	472,482	2,122,968

[1] Westminster Parliament figures are not disaggregated prior to 2001.

Notes:

The information for the last financial year 2005-06 is not yet available.

Substitute Teachers

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what arrangements his Department has in place to undertake background criminal conviction checks on substitute teachers. [83215]

Maria Eagle: It is the responsibility of each employing authority to ensure that criminal record checks are carried out on prospective employees in line with guidance provided by my Department on the recruitment of people to work with children and young people in educational settings.

The Northern Ireland Substitute Teacher Register (NISTR) was made available to all schools from March 2004. All teachers on the register have an initial pre-employment criminal record check carried out and a vetting check carried out every two years thereafter. With effect from 1 September 2006, only substitute teachers who are on the NISTR should be employed to work in schools.

Valuation and Lands Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much the Valuation and Lands Agency has spent on its automated valuation model and associated computer database and training. [82994]

Mr. Hanson: The VLA used CAMA (Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal) techniques and proprietary spatial modelling software to assess capital values of domestic properties in Northern Ireland for rating purposes.

The automated CAMA and modelling software operate on data contained within the Agency's core business database system.

The Valuation and Lands Agency has spent a total of £1.40 million in respect of the automated valuation model and associated computer database and training.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Valuation and Lands Agency use of geocode data in its automated valuation model includes data on proximity to geographic features or facilities. [83010]

Mr. Hanson: Geocode data do not contain data on proximity to geographic features or facilities.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Valuation and Lands Agency *(a)* automated valuation model and *(b)* Spatialest software uses variography techniques. [83013]

Mr. Hanson: Variography techniques were not used by VLA in the construction of valuation models. While the Spatialest software is capable of applying variography techniques the VLA modellers did not use the facility.

Waste Disposal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland have been prosecuted for the illegal *(a)* transport, *(b)* deposit and *(c)* storage of waste in each of the last three years; and what total amount was paid in fines in each year. [83965]

David Cairns: Prosecutions for illegal waste offences are taken under the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997.

It is not possible to provide a breakdown in the format you have requested. Prosecutions for unregistered waste transport are associated with the more serious offences of illegal storage and deposit of waste, for which several offences may apply in each case.

The following overall successful prosecutions for waste offences have been taken by EHS:

2004: 24 prosecutions, generating total fines of £18,800;

2005: 58 cases, generating total fines of £104,050; and

2006 (to end June): 47 cases, generating total fines of £85,050 and a prison sentence of nine months—the first sentence handed down by the courts in Northern Ireland for waste offences.

Water Service

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people are employed by Water Service in *(a)* administrative, *(b)* technical and *(c)* professional grades; and how many people were employed in each category in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 1999-2000. [85648]

David Cairns: The Chief Executive of Water Service (Mrs. Katharine Bryan) has written to the hon. Gentleman in response to this question.

Letter from Mrs. Katharine Bryan, dated 10 July 2006:

You recently asked the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland a Parliamentary Question about how many people are employed by Water Service in (a) administrative, (b) technical and (c) professional grades; and how many people were employed in each category in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 1999-2000 (75587). I have been asked to reply as this issue falls within my responsibility as Chief Executive of Water Service.

The details requested are set out in the table below. Water Service does not differentiate between Professional and Technical grades.

Grade	*1996-97*	*1999-2000*	*1 July 2006*
Administrative	477	467	369
Professional and Technical	683	679	565
Total	1,160	1,146	934

WALES

Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many public appointments are within his patronage; what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other emoluments are attached to each; and what the comparable figures were in (i) 1976, (ii) 1986 and (iii) 1996. [83165]

Mr. Hain: Following the devolution settlement in 1999 responsibility for public appointments that were made by the Secretary of State for Wales was transferred to the National Assembly for Wales.

The detailed financial information requested could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Accession State Workers

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether funding given to Sheffield city council for issues related to accession state citizens may be used for *(a)* advice workers, *(b)* interpreting services and *(c)* repatriation costs. [63576]

Mr. Byrne: The sum in question (£44,250) was made available to Sheffield city council primarily for the purpose of repatriating destitute accession state nationals. It was however specified that any remaining funding could be used for the council to meet associated costs, including the provision of advice workers and interpreters.

Asylum Seekers (Non-compliance with Reporting Requirements)

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he plans to take steps to enable an estimate to be made of the number of asylum seekers who do not comply with reporting requirements to the Immigration and Nationality Directorate. [73525]

Mr. Byrne: The level of compliance with reporting restrictions has been monitored since April 2005.

Crime Statistics (Suffolk)

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 in Suffolk since 1997. [82106]

Mr. Coaker: The available information relates to the number of persons cautioned, dealt with at court and found guilty for principal drug offences, most of which are under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 legislation.

Persons[1] cautioned, dealt with at court and found guilty for principal drug offences, Suffolk, 1997 to 2004

Numbers (rounded)

	Cautioned	*Dealt with at court*	*Found guilty*
1997	630	650	580
1998	750	660	580
1999	600	660	570
2000	480	590	520
2001	400	500	430
2002	550	640	560
2003	590	710	630
2004	400	690	610

[1] Does not include HM Revenue and Customs data or formal warnings for cannabis possession.

Defence Intelligence and Security Centre

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials from his Department were sent on courses run by the Defence Intelligence and Security Centre in each year since 1997; for what purpose; and at what cost. [76689]

Mr. Byrne: The information sought is not held centrally in the Home Office.

Departmental Guidance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance is issued by his Department to officials on ordering refreshments at meetings in which *(a)* officials only and *(b)* non-civil servants will be present; and if he will make a statement. [35977]

Mr. Byrne: Refreshments may be ordered for meetings only when:

(i) a number of those attending will not be Home Office civil servants;

(ii) a number of Home Office civil servants will be attending a meeting in a building other than that which is their regular place of work; and

(iii) if refreshments are requested for meetings where neither (i) nor (ii) apply, then advance written authorisation must be obtained.

Deportation (Appeals)

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the countries in respect of which a person seeking asylum in the UK has a right of appeal against deportation on the grounds of personal safety. [69523]

Mr. Byrne: A deportation decision in respect of a person liable to deportation, including an asylum seeker, currently attracts a right of appeal regardless of the person's country of origin.

Driving Offences

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take steps to make the offence of driving while disqualified a matter for the Crown courts. [60434]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The offence of driving while disqualified is a summary only offence and carries a maximum penalty of six months imprisonment and/or a level five fine (£5,000) and six penalty points. The Government have no plans to increase the maximum penalty or to change the summary trial process to an indictable one for this offence. Most bad driving offences are triable summarily, and it is only the more serious offences, with higher maximum penalties (such as causing death by dangerous driving and causing death when under the influence of drink or drugs) that are triable on indictment.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been convicted of causing death by dangerous driving in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* constituency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82983]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of defendants found guilty at the Crown Court of causing death by dangerous driving in Greater London, broken down by committing court is shown in the table. The courts' data enable boroughs to be separately identified in outer London, but not in inner London. We are unable to provide convictions for each London constituency, as the data are not available at the level of detail required. Figures for 2005 will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of defendants found guilty of causing death by dangerous driving, in Greater London, broken down by committing court, 2000 to 2004[1]

Magistrates court/borough	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
City of London Police					
Guildhall Justice Rooms	1	—	—	—	—
Total City of London Police	1	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan Police					
Inner London magistrates courts					
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	2	3	3	2	3
Greenwich and Woolwich	2	1	2	—	—
Highbury Corner	1	2	—	—	1
Horseferry Road	1	—	1	—	1
South Western	—	1	1	2	—
Thames	1	3	—	2	—
West London	—	—	3	1	—
Outer London boroughs					
Barking and Dagenham	—	1	1	1	1
Barnet	2	—	—	3	2
Bexley	—	—	3	—	—
Brent	—	1	1	1	—
Bromley	—	—	1	1	1
Croydon	—	—	1	—	2
Ealing	3	2	1	1	1
Haringey	—	—	—	1	1
Harrow	—	—	1	1	1
Havering	2	—	1	—	1
Hillingdon	—	2	—	—	—
Hounslow	1	1	1	3	—
Kingston-upon-Thames	—	1	—	1	1
Merton	—	—	1	3	1
Newham	1	—	1	1	—
Redbridge	1	—	1	1	1
Sutton	—	—	1	1	—
Waltham Forest	—	—	—	2	1
Total Metropolitan Police	17	18	25	28	19
Total Greater London	18	18	25	28	19

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

European Union Satellite Centre

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what services available from the European Union Satellite Centre are being used by his Department. [70352]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not use any of the services of the European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC) as the services provided relate to "second pillar" issues. Details of the services which the EUSC provide are obtainable from their website http://www.eusc.org.

Fatmir Kurti

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Fatmir Kurti, the subject of crime reference 435W09297/02, of 17 and 18 September 2002, remains in the UK. [71689]

Mr. Byrne: It is not the policy of the Department to comment on the specific details of individual cases in the public domain.

Foreign Criminals

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact of *(a)* European Council and *(b)* European Court of Justice decisions on the effective deportation of foreign nationals incarcerated in the UK. [68683]

Mr. Byrne: The Secretary of State is satisfied that current procedures with regard to deportation of EEA nationals comply with relevant European Council and European Court of Justice decisions. The European Council directive 2004/38/EC provides for the deportation of EEA nationals on public policy, public security and public health grounds. This directive was transposed into UK law by the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006.

Foreign Prisoner Releases

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) whether *(a)* Fouad Boukadiar, *(b)* Abderrahamane Boulares, *(c)* Faleh Rechachi, *(d)* Alarbi Khelifi and *(e)* Khelid Khelifi, convicted of conspiracy to defraud and sentenced to imprisonment in November 2004, have (i) completed their sentences, (ii) been released and (iii) been deported in accordance with the court's recommendations; [68218]

(2) whether Shamar Evans-Abdulie who was convicted of supplying drugs and sentenced to imprisonment in October 2003, has (a) completed his sentence, (b) been released and (c) been deported in accordance with the court's recommendations; [68529]

(3) whether *(a)* Malik Madani and *(b)* Hamlaoui Selama convicted of conspiracy to defraud and sentenced to imprisonment in November 2004, have (i) completed their sentences, (ii) been released and (iii) been deported in accordance with the court's recommendations; [68530]

(4) whether Bogdan Tanasa, convicted of fraud and sentenced to imprisonment in March 2004, has *(a)* completed his sentence, *(b)* been released and *(c)* been deported in accordance with the court's recommendations; [68531]

(5) what the *(a)* name and *(b)* nationality is of the foreign male prisoner detained by Grampian police on 3 May; what the nature of his conviction was; what the (i) date and (ii) term of sentence was; what the date of release was; and whether he was recommended for deportation on release. [69733]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not comment on individual cases.

Gurkhas

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Gurkha soldiers who have completed their service *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were granted (i) leave to remain and (ii) British citizenship in each year since 1997. [82373]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* Figures for applications from Gurkhas for ILR before October 2004 are not available. Figures for the period October 2004 until June 2006 for indefinite leave to remain (settlement) are in table 1. Figures for applications from Gurkhas for citizenship before October 2001 are not available. Figures for the period October 2001 until June 2006 are in table 2. The figures quoted are from provisional management information and are subject to change.

Table 1: Gurkha applications for indefinite leave to remain (settlement)

	Applied for ILR	*Granted ILR*
October 2004-March 2005	269	227
April 2005-March 2006	1,205	1,212
April 2006-June 2006	565	526
Gurkha total	2,039	1,965

Table 2: Gurkha applications for citizenship

	Applied for citizenship	*Granted citizenship*
October 2001-March 2002	88	41
April 2002-March 2003	538	111
April 2003-March 2004	658	181
April 2004-March 2005	462	388
April 2005-March 2006	952	1,024
April 2006-June 2006	207	223
Gurkha total	2,905	1,968

Human Trafficking

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which countries people convicted of human trafficking came in each of the past five years. [78807]

Mr. Coaker: The nationalities of the people convicted of trafficking offences in the last five years are Albanian, Kosovan, Macedonian, Lithuanian, Turkish, Chinese, Moldovan and Thai.

Illegal Workers

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* asylum seekers and *(b)* illegal immigrants have been caught working illegally in each of the past five years. [79764]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised that IND records show that the number of offenders detected during illegal working operations is as follows:

Number of offenders detected during illegal working operations

Financial year	FAS	Non FAS	Total
2002-03	194	905	1,099
2003-04	456	1,848	2,304
2004-05	1,240	2,614	3,854
2005-06	2,218	7,009	9,227

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* applicant files, *(b)* passports and *(c)* other documents submitted by applicants have been lost in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in each of the last three years. [79172]

Mr. Byrne: Other information is not routinely kept and the cost would be disproportionate to provide the information requested. I am advised that IND records show that the number of passports lost in 2003-04 was 588, in 2004-05 was 452 and in 2005-06 was 288.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are *(a)* in place and *(b)* planned to reduce the number of documents submitted by applicants being lost in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate; and if he will make a statement. [79173]

Mr. Byrne: IND takes seriously its responsibility for ensuring the safe handling and return of important documents submitted by customers. Measures already in place include procedures for early return of passports, secure handling areas to safeguard documents, secure movement in sealed crates or secure wallets, dedicated passport searching and streamlined work processes. These procedures are kept under review with the aim of further reducing the potential for documents to be lost.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Immigration and Nationality Directorate will reply to letters of *(a)* 21 December 2005, *(b)* 3 February 2006 and *(c)* 12 May 2006 from the hon. Member for Richmond Park, regarding the immigration case of her constituent, Mrs. Ifeoma Ngozi Hewlett (née Exebilo), Home Office reference number E114243. [79307]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 June 2006]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 26 June.

IT Projects

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many IT projects which cost over £1 million and were introduced since 1997 are in use in his Department. [26611]

Mr. Byrne: To say how many IT projects which cost over £1 million, were introduced since 1997 and are in use in the Home Department could be given only at disproportionate cost. However as of 8 June 2006, the Home Department had 21 current IT enabled programmes, which either had a full life cost of over £40 million or were mission critical.

John Rose

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if he will investigate why a constituent, Mr. John Rose, has not received his licence or passport following the undertaking by the Minister to raise the case with the Security Industry Authority; [67161]

(2) when he will reply to Question 67161 tabled by the hon. Member for Hereford concerning his constituent, Mr. John Rose. [76247]

Mr. Coaker: I will write to the hon. Member on this matter.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of his Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80482]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Money Laundering

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of suspicious activity reports relating to suspected money laundering were in connection with transactions in basic bank accounts in 2005. [83752]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* A total of 127,918 suspicious activity reports were received by the National Criminal Intelligence Service from the banking sector in 2005, representing just over 65 per cent. of all SARs received in that year. There is no requirement on the banking sector to make reference to, or distinguish between, account types on the report form. It is not possible, therefore, to break SARs down by account type.

Offences Committed on Probation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals have been convicted of *(a)* drug dealing offences, *(b)* rape, *(c)* armed robbery and *(d)* manslaughter while on probation in each year since 1998. [66888]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is not available in the precise form requested.

Number of individuals convicted of rape, armed robbery and manslaughter whilst under probation supervision

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Rape convictions	33	18	24	27	30	37
Armed robbery convictions	4	6	10	5	9	5
Manslaughter convictions	20	12	2	1	4	2

Source:
RDS NOMS Offender Caseload Statistics.

Parole

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1705W, on parole, what measures have been put in place since 2001-02 to reduce the number of parolees breaking the terms of their release. [77433]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Probation National Standards require breach action to be considered after one unacceptable failure to comply with the sentence. Where breach action is not undertaken after one unacceptable failure to comply, a formal written warning of the consequences of further failure may be issued. Ultimately breach or recall action will be taken after the offender's third unacceptable failure to comply. The target for the national probation service to take such enforcement action within 10 working days is met in 90 per cent. of cases. In 2001-02 the enforcement rate for all offenders released on licence was 58 per cent. In 2005-06, this had improved to 93 per cent. The Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements were introduced in the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 and came into effect in April 2001. They were strengthened through the Criminal Justice Act 2003. They provide the framework for the police, prison and probation services to supervise the most serious sexual and violent offenders and to take swift enforcement action where such offenders engage in behaviour which demonstrates a risk of harm to the public.

Personal Documentation (Verification)

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police officers are required to verify when requested the authenticity of personal documentation on occasions when the public are required by financial organisations to send verified copies of the personal documentation by post. [84050]

Ed Balls: I have been asked to reply.

The 2003 Money Laundering Regulations place a responsibility on financial institutions and other firms in the regulated sector to verify the identity of their customers.

Prisons

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women have (i) committed and (ii) attempted self-inflicted death in each prison in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [80836]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no definition of what constitutes an attempt at self-inflicted death, as it is very difficult to measure suicidal intent. For the number of apparent self-inflicted deaths in each prison in England and Wales, 2001-05, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham) on 20 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 122W, where this information was requested for the time period 1996-2005. As that question did not differentiate between men and women, the following table shows the number of apparent self-inflicted deaths involving women in each prison in England and Wales, 2001-05.

Number of apparent self-inflicted deaths involving female prisoners

Establishment	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Brockhill	1	—	1	2	—
Bullwood Hall	1	—	1	—	—
Downview	—	—	1	—	—
Durham	—	2	3	1	1
Eastwood Park	1	1	1	—	1
Edmund Hill (H'point Women)	—	1	—	2	—
Holloway	1	1	—	2	1
Low Newton	—	—	—	1	—
New Hall	—	2	3	3	1
Send	—	—	—	1	—
Styal	1	2	4	—	—
Court Escort Area 3	1	—	—	—	—
Buckley Hall	—	—	—	1	—
Total	6	9	14	13	4

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to provide literacy training in the Welsh language for prisoners from Wales. [84186]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* All education and training delivery in Welsh prisons is available through the medium of the Welsh language, including literacy training. Data on the provision of literacy training in the Welsh language in English prisons are not collected centrally.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to provide for religious needs of prisoners through the medium of Welsh. [84187]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* Chaplaincy teams in prisons in Wales are committed to meeting the religious needs of all prisoners, including through the Welsh language. All teams have access to Christian clergy who are able to conduct worship in Welsh. For other religions, networks exist to enable a relevant minister to be found. Chaplaincy leaflets setting out the programme of activities are being produced in Welsh. Provision for Welsh speaking prisoners held in prisons in England will be made on an as needs basis, as for prisoners who require religious provision in any other language.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to ensure the provision of Welsh medium software in prison IT training centres. [84188]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* Software used in IT training in prisons in Wales is available in the Welsh language. Data on the availability of Welsh medium software in IT training centres in English prisons are not collected centrally.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to ensure that prison libraries have an adequate stock of Welsh and Welsh language *(a)* books, *(b)* periodicals and *(c)* newspapers for the use of prisoners from Wales; and how much was spent on providing them in each of the last three years. [84189]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* Prison Service Order 6710 on prison libraries requires the library to cater for the informational, cultural, occupational and recreational needs of all prisoners. Each prison, in conjunction with the local public library authority who provide library services in prisons, ensures that the individual needs of the establishment are met, and follows quality and performance indicators which require a range of materials, such as books, magazines and newspapers, to be made available in a range of languages. Because of this local approach to meeting the individual needs of offenders the amount spent on providing such material is not collected centrally.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place to ensure that prisoners from Wales are able to access Welsh and Welsh language television and radio programmes whilst being held in prisons outside Wales. [84190]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* Welsh prisoners held in English prisons will have access to Welsh language television and radio programmes through standard terrestrial television and domestic radio. Prisoners will be able to receive Welsh programmes where the signal is strong enough or when programmes are broadcast nationwide.

Psilocin/Psilocybin

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when he last asked the Advisory Committee on the Misuse of Drugs to review the classification of *(a)* psilocin and *(b)* psilocybin; [79000]

(2) what criteria were used for the classification of *(a)* psilocin and *(b)* psilocybin as class A drugs; [78997]

(3) how many deaths have been caused by *(a)* psilocin and *(b)* psilocybin in each of the last 10 years. [78998]

Mr. Coaker: The classification of psilocin and psilocybin has not been reviewed by the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs. The classification of psilocin and psilocybin as Class A drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, since that Act came into force on 1 July 1973, reflects the United Kingdom's implementation of the United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances 1971. Psilocin and psilocybin (and many similar drugs) were included in Schedule one to the 1971 Convention, reflecting international consensus that these substances should be subject to the highest level of control. HM Government placed these substances in Part I of Schedule two to the 1971 Act as Class A drugs. The information on deaths from psilocin and psilocybin is not held.

Racism (Prison Officers)

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prison officers have been *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for racism in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82969]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Central records on disciplinary cases involving public sector prison staff are currently being revalidated by reference to records held in individual prisons. I will write to the hon. Lady with the information requested once this exercise has been completed.

Reoffending

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reoffending rates have been of *(a)* adults, *(b)* young offenders and *(c)* juveniles who have served (i) custodial and (ii) community sentences, in each of the last nine years for which figures are available, broken down by offence. [83340]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The most recent publication for adult reoffending is "Adult Re-offending: Results from the 2002 cohort", Home Office Statistical Bulletin 25/05, available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb2505.pdf

Similarly for juveniles the most recent publication is "Juvenile Re-offending: Results from the 2004 Cohort", Home Office On-Line Report 10/06, available online at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1006.pdf

Both of these publications hold breakdowns by those who served custodial or community sentences, age and offence. The section "Measuring Re-offending", which begins on page one of both reports, explains the difference between reconviction and re-offending measures, as well the changes to the data source used for these computations. Because of the change in methodology, figures for previous years are not comparable.

Sentencing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the variation in severity of sentences for crimes between regions of England and Wales at *(a)* magistrates courts and *(b)* Crown courts in each year since 1997; what plans he has to reduce such variation; and if he will make a statement. [83608]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* Information on sentencing by criminal justice area is contained in chapter five of "Sentencing Statistics 2004" (ISSN 1358-510X). In the Criminal Justice Act 2003, the Government established the Sentencing Guidelines Council to frame sentencing guidelines for the courts. In doing so, it is required among other things to have regard to the need to promote consistency in sentencing. It began work in 2004 and has issued four final guidelines to date.

Speeding Offences

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the trigger levels for prosecution of speeding offences were in each region of England and Wales in each year since 1997; what plans he has to reduce variations in the trigger levels between regions; and if he will make a statement. [83607]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* Decisions on the appropriate action to take when a speeding offence is detected are an operational matter for the police. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has issued speed enforcement guidelines, available on the ACPO website at www.acpo.police.uk/policies.asp It is for individual chief officers of police to decide on the adoption of these guidelines by their forces. They do not override the discretion of individual officers.

Unlawful Sexual Intercourse

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted of unlawful sexual intercourse in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [66907]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data from the Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of males prosecuted and convicted for offences relating to sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of 16, are contained in the following table. There were no prosecutions or convictions of females for these offences. Statistics for 2005 court proceedings will be available in the autumn of 2006.

Number of males, proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty[1] at all courts for offences under the Sexual Offences Act 1956(8.5 and S.6) and Sexual Offences Act 2003 England and Wales, 2000-04[2]

	2000[3]		2001		2002		2003		2004	
	Prosecuted	Found guilty	Prosecuted	Found guilty	Prosecuted	Found guilty	Prosecuted	Found guilty	Prosecuted	Found guilty
Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 13	40	53	53	54	43	47	71	49	144	92
Unlawful sexual intercourse with girl under 16	167	214	178	214	192	228	185	248	376	306

[1] The found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year.
[2] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Victim's Personal Statement

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the introduction of the victim's personal statement. [79830]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Victim Personal Statement (VPS) scheme was introduced in 2001 after pilot projects confirmed the demand for a victim statement scheme. The VPS provides victims with a formal opportunity to tell criminal justice agencies and individuals dealing with their case how the crime has affected them—physically, emotionally, psychologically, financially or in any other way. Victims groups tell us that victims want the opportunity of having a voice in the criminal

justice system. However, we are aware that there are some concerns about the level of take-up and the purpose of the scheme. Throughout the summer we will be consulting in more depth with victims, victims' groups and criminal justice agency staff on how the scheme is working, in order to assess what, if any, improvements could be made to its operation. The Government are also currently piloting Victims' Advocates at five Crown courts. The pilots allow the relatives of murder and manslaughter victims to make a statement to the court about the effect of the crime on them after conviction and before sentence. The statement can be made by the relative orally as if giving evidence, read out by an independent or CPS lawyer, or given in writing.

Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme Scheme

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost has been of the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme scheme since January. [75786]

Mr. Byrne: The funding arrangements for VARRP (Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme) mean that the Home Office will not be invoiced for the fist six months of 2006 until the end of August 2006.

Zylfi Meera

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps he is taking to ensure the work of those agencies for which he has Ministerial responsibility will be efficiently co-ordinated in the case of Zylfi Meera; [73334]

(2) which agencies for which he has Ministerial responsibility have been involved in the case of Zylfi Meera, convicted at Reading Crown court on 4 May 2006; [73335]

(3) whether those agencies for which he has Ministerial responsibility will need to co-operate with other official services and agencies for which he does not have ministerial responsibility in the case of Zylfi Meera. [73353]

Mr. Byrne: It is not the policy of the Department to comment on the specific details of individual cases or the agencies involved in these cases in the public domain. However, if the hon. Member wishes to write to me with detailed representations on this matter and sets out the basis of his interest in this case I will consider these further.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bolivia

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* the decision of Bolivia to rewrite its Constitution and *(b)* the likely impact on (i) human rights, (ii) the growth of democracy and (iii) Bolivia's relations with (A) its South American neighbours, (B) the United Kingdom and (C) the United States. [82987]

Mr. Hoon: The decision to rewrite Bolivia's Constitution is a matter for the Bolivian people and its Government. An EU Electoral Observation Mission monitored elections on 2 July for the Constituent Assembly, the body charged with carrying forward this process, and we are encouraged to hear initial reports that they took place peacefully. We are not in a position to speculate on the impact of any changes to the Constitution that the Bolivian people may eventually choose to introduce.

Burma

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the extent to which the agreements between the regime in Burma and the Governments of *(a)* France, *(b)* Italy and *(c)* Germany relating to timber imports from Burma are consistent with the EU Common Position on Burma. [80388]

Mr. McCartney: No assessment has been made. Timber imports into the EU are not banned under the Common Position on Burma.

China

Rosemary McKenna: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has made to the Chinese government in relation to human rights abuses in Tibet; and if she will make a statement. [83835]

Mr. McCartney: We regularly raise human rights, including Tibet, with the Chinese Government. My hon. Friend the then Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs (Mr. Ian Pearson) raised Tibet with the Chinese Government on 7 April 2006. Human rights in Tibet, and a number of individual cases of concern, were discussed at the latest rounds of the EU-China Human Rights Dialogue in May and the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 3 July. We will continue to raise concerns about human rights abuses in Tibet at every appropriate opportunity, including during my own visit to China this week.

Government Wine Cellar

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many bottles have been transferred from the Government wine cellar to HM Treasury in the last 12 months. [83512]

Mr. Hoon: No bottles have been transferred from the Government hospitality cellar to HM Treasury in the last 12 months.

Indonesia

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if the Government will make representations to the Indonesian government regarding the imprisonment of Dr. Zakaria and her colleagues. [84003]

Mr. McCartney: We do not plan to make representations to the Indonesian government about this case. However, the treatment of religious minorities is an issue we regularly discuss with the Indonesian government. In September 2005, President Yudhoyono stressed that the state guaranteed every citizen religious freedom and called on the police and members of the public to act to prevent violence against any faith. We will continue to work with the Indonesian government on this important objective.

Israel

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she made to the Government of Israel in May and June on the use of UK-supplied military equipment and components in accordance with the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria. [84597]

Dr. Howells: There have been no representations made to the Israeli Government concerning the use of UK-supplied military equipment during this period.

North Korea

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the six-party talks on North Korea are expected to reconvene. [84156]

Mr. McCartney: It is not clear when the talks are likely to reconvene. We are very disappointed that, due to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) reluctance to re-engage, it has not been possible to hold further rounds of the six-party talks since their last session in November 2005. We continue to urge the DPRK to return to the talks and make progress on implementing the commitments made in the 19 September 2005 joint statement. Following the G8 Foreign Ministers meeting in Moscow, the Chair's statement underlined the importance of the DPRK returning to the table.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the recent testing of North Korean inter-continental ballistic missiles. [84233]

Mr. McCartney: Ahead of the launch of the Taepodong-2 missile/Satellite Launch Vehicle, we made clear our view to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), as did the EU, US, Japan and others that this would be seen as a provocative act, which would add considerable tension to an already complex regional situation. We strongly urge the Government of the DPRK to refrain from any further provocation and adhere to its commitments under the 1999 moratorium and the 2002 Pyongyang Declaration. We also call upon the Government of the DPRK to rejoin the six-party talks immediately to demonstrate their commitment to resolve these issues.

Post Office Contracts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for which services *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81543]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its associated public bodies do not hold any contracts with the Post Office.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Casinos

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what meetings he has had with casino developers in each of the last five years; [84601]

(2) what meetings he has had with representatives of Kerzner International in the last five years. [84603]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the response given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) by my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 8 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1243W.

I have had no meetings with Kerzner International. On Wednesday 17 August 2005, while on a well-publicised visit to the Greenwich peninsula, I was one of a number of guests who were updated on progress in the area. I believe one of those present at that time was a representative of Kerzner International, but at no time did I have any conversations about plans for a casino, and I was accompanied by officials at all times.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Warrior infantry fighting vehicles are being deployed to Afghanistan. [82830]

Mr. Ingram: There are currently no Warrior vehicles in Afghanistan. The suitability of the current force package in Afghanistan is kept under regular review and future deployments will be tailored appropriately based on an assessment of the expected operational tempo and conditions.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the effectiveness of the allocations of spares for Apache helicopters in Afghanistan. [82962]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 6 July 2006]:* Our initial assessment is that the level of spares support to Apache attack helicopters in Afghanistan has been effective. The level of spares support is monitored on a continuing basis.

Carbon Credits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of carbon credits for financial years 2006-07 to 2011-12. [83357]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held centrally and it will take a little time to co-ordinate a reply. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as the facts have been assembled and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Defence Bodies (Mergers)

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much the proposed merger of the Defence Procurement Agency and the Defence Logistics Organisation is expected to cost; what the purpose of the merger is; and if he will make a statement. [83412]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The detailed structure of the new organisation, formed by merging the Defence Procurement Agency and Defence Logistics Organisation, will be addressed during implementation. However, it is not expected that the merger itself will involve significant additional costs beyond those arising from the proposal to collocate elements of the two organisations. The purpose of merging the two organisations is to provide a greater unity of purpose in acquisition; to improve support to our armed forces; and to provide best value for them and the taxpayer.

Departmental Estate

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* land and *(b)* property his Department and its predecessors (i) leases and (ii) leased in *(A)* Southend West constituency, *(B)* Essex, *(C)* Hertfordshire and *(D)* the Metropolitan Police area of London in (1) 1979, (2) 1983, (3) 1987, (4) 1992 and (5) 1997. [72479]

Mr. Watson: Full details are not held centrally in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, I am able to provide some information which I have placed in the Library of the House due to its volume.

I should point out that details of service families accommodation leased from Annington Homes Limited in England and Wales, under the 1996 agreement, have not been included.

Future Rapid Effect System

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the timing of the future rapid effect system. [82892]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 164W.

Helicopters

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the armed forces are expected to take delivery of the 70 extra helicopters planned to be procured by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [82696]

Mr. Ingram: We expect to take delivery of the 70 future Lynx helicopters under order from 2012 to 2017.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters he has ordered for delivery between 2006 and 2016, broken down by type. [82893]

Mr. Ingram: A contract for the delivery of 70 future Lynx aircraft was signed in June 2006 between the Ministry of Defence and Westland Helicopters Ltd. A total of 66 aircraft are scheduled to be delivered before the end of 2016.

In addition, a contract with Lockheed Martin for the upgrade of 30 of our current Merlin Mk1 aircraft was announced in January 2006. The first of these upgrades is expected to enter service in 2013, with all being completed before the end of 2016.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many qualified helicopter pilots are serving in *(a)* the Royal Navy, *(b)* the Royal Marines, *(c)* the Army and *(d)* the Royal Air Force. [83640]

Mr. Ingram: The latest available information on the number of qualified helicopter pilots in the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the Army and the Royal Air Force is given in the following table.

Qualified helicopter pilots, 1 April 2006

	Number
Naval Service	390
Royal Navy	380
Royal Marines	10
Army	650
Officers	330
Soldiers[1]	320
Royal Air Force[2]	[3]560

[1] Based on category employment qualification, employed in the Army as helicopter pilots. It is not possible to provide information on soldiers who may be qualified as helicopter pilots, but are employed in other trades as this information is not centrally collected.

[2] Trained rotary wing pilots.

[3] Provisional. Due to the introduction of a new personnel administration system for the RAF, all RAF data for 1 April 2006 are provisional and subject to review.

Note:

All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10. Due to the rounding methods used, figures may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Source:

DASA (Tri-Service).

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many pilots flying civilian helicopters in the UK have reserve status and could be called up for military duties. [83641]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not currently held and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Non-British Commonwealth Armed Forces

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-British Commonwealth citizens are serving in the armed forces, broken down by country of origin. [83425]

Mr. Ingram: The number of non-British Commonwealth citizens serving in the UK Regular Armed Forces at 1 April 2006, broken down by country of origin, are shown in the following table:

UK Regular Forces[1] with Commonwealth nationality other than British at 1 April 2006

Country	Naval Service	Army	Royal Air Force[2]
Total non-British Commonwealth Service personnel	395	6,410	125
Antigua and Barbuda	[3]	[4]	[3]
Australia	10	75	10
Bangladesh	[4]	5	[3]
Barbados	[4]	10	[4]
Belize	[3]	[4]	[3]
Botswana	[3]	5	[3]
Cameroon	[3]	20	[3]
Canada	15	60	20
Cyprus	[4]	[4]	[3]
Dominica	[4]	10	[3]
Fiji Islands	75	1,995	5
The Gambia	[4]	80	[4]
Ghana	[4]	660	[4]
Grenada	[4]	50	[3]
Guyana	[3]	15	[3]
India	5	45	[4]
Jamaica	25	975	25
Kenya	5	105	5
Malawi	[4]	95	[4]
Malaysia	[4]	5	[4]
Malta	[4]	5	[4]
Mauritius	[4]	25	[4]
Namibia	[3]	[4]	[3]
New Zealand	5	65	5
Nigeria	[4]	65	[3]
Pakistan	[4]	10	[4]
Papua New Guinea	[3]	[4]	[3]
Seychelles	[3]	10	[3]
Sierra Leone	[3]	45	[3]
Singapore	[3]	[4]	[3]
South Africa	45	720	10
Sri Lanka	[3]	15	[4]
St. Kitts and Nevis	[3]	[4]	[4]
St. Lucia	5	225	[4]
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	130	280	[4]
Swaziland	[3]	10	[3]
Tanzania	[3]	[4]	[3]
Tonga	[3]	5	[3]
Trinidad and Tobago	20	70	10
Uganda	[3]	40	[3]
Zambia	[4]	20	[3]
Zimbabwe[5]	15	565	5
Other West Indies[6]	[4]	[4]	[3]
Other non-British Commonwealth[7]	[3]	15	[3]

[1] Data are for UK Regular Forces (trained and untrained), including Nursing Services and excluding full-time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.
[2] Royal Air Force data are for personnel serving at 6 March 2006. They include personnel who at that date had attested but have not begun basic training.
[3] Denotes zero or rounded to zero.
[4] Denotes fewer than five.
[5] Includes personnel with nationality recorded as Rhodesian.
[6] Includes personnel with nationality recorded as West Indian, but with no country specified.
[7] Includes personnel with nationality recorded as British Commonwealth/Foreign.
Note:
Data are rounded to the nearest five to prevent disclosure of sensitive information.

Nuclear Deterrent

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1107W, on the nuclear deterrent, whether in the course of his regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer he was informed of the proposed content relating to the retention of the nuclear deterrent in the long-term of the Chancellor's Mansion House speech prior to its delivery. [84503]

Des Browne: I have nothing further to add to the reply I gave the hon. Member on 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1107W.

Service Children (Education)

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of children in service children's education schools achieved *(a)* five grades A*-C at GCSE and *(b)* five grades A-G at GCSE in each year since 1997. [83700]

Mr. Watson: The percentage of children in service children's education schools that achieved 5 grades A*-C at GCSE in each year since 1997 is as follows:

Service Children's Education

	5+ A*-C (Percentage)
1997	44
1998	48
1999	47
2000	52
2001	48
2002	57
2003	60
2004	62
2005	60

The percentage of children in service children's education schools that achieved 5 grades A-G at GCSE in each year since 1997 is as follows:

Service Children's Education

	5+ A-G (Percentage)
1997	70
1998	70
1999	79
2000	85
2001	76
2002	98
2003	99
2004	98
2005	97

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of children in service children's education schools achieved level 4+ at key stage 2 in each year since 1997. [83704]

Mr. Watson: The percentage of children in service children's education schools that have achieved level 4+ at key stage 2 in each year since 1997 is as follows:

Service Children's Education

	Percentage		
	English	Mathematics	Science
1997	71	73	78
1998	74	68	79
1999	73	70	81
2000	75	72	88
2001	76	69	91
2002	75	78	91
2003	77	76	91
2004	82	75	91
2005	83	75	89

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake into the psychological effects on women of having early medical abortions at home; and if she will make a statement. [77595]

Caroline Flint: The Department has not undertaken any research into the psychological effects on women having early medical abortions at home and has no plans to do so.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists reviewed the evidence on abortion when updating its evidence-based guideline "The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion" in 2004.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1794W, on abortion, what the evidential basis was for the statement that medical abortion is safe; if she will place in the Library papers that support this; and if she will make a statement. [81162]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the then Minister of State for Health for Delivery and Quality on 20 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 2688W.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department paid out in compensation to women who had an abortion as a result of misdiagnosis by national health service hospitals in each of the last five years for which information is available. [83196]

Caroline Flint: The National Health Service Litigation Authority manages clinical negligence claims on behalf of national health service bodies in England. Its data are not categorised in the format requested.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS abortion rate per 100 live births was in each health authority in England in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [83199]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the table.

The Health Statistics Quarterly 30 shows that the percentage of conceptions ending in abortion has remained stable.

NHS abortion rate per 100 live births[1], by strategic health authority (SHA), England, 2003-05

SHA of residence of women	2003	2004	2005
England	23.4	23.9	24.5
North East	24.0	24.2	23.0
County Durham and Tees Valley	22.7	21.8	22.0
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	25.2	26.2	23.9
North West	21.7	22.3	23.5
Cheshire and Merseyside	21.0	23.5	25.7
Cumbria and Lancashire	20.1	19.6	19.8
Greater Manchester	23.3	23.2	24.3
Yorkshire and The Humber	20.8	20.4	21.3
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	20.8	20.8	21.0
South Yorkshire	24.3	23.8	24.4
West Yorkshire	18.9	18.2	19.9
East Midlands	20.7	21.6	21.8
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	19.9	21.3	21.7
Trent	21.2	21.8	21.8
West Midlands	23.5	24.7	25.1
Birmingham and The Black Country	24.1	25.8	27.6

NHS abortion rate per 100 live births[1], by strategic health authority (SHA), England, 2003-05

SHA of residence of women	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Shropshire and Staffordshire	26.7	20.8	22.5
West Midlands South	19.4	26.4	27.0
East	19.8	19.5	20.1
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	21.2	20.1	20.6
Essex	18.3	19.1	20.7
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	19.8	19.2	19.2
London	32.4	32.2	32.4
North Central London	33.5	32.7	31.7
North East London	30.3	31.5	31.3
North West London	33.1	32.4	32.3
South East London	38.8	38.2	38.8
South West London	25.4	25.3	27.2
South East	21.6	23.1	23.6
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	21.9	23.0	22.8
Kent and Medway	23.7	24.8	25.0
Surrey and Sussex	20.2	22.1	23.5
Thames Valley	21.3	23.2	23.3
South West	19.5	20.5	21.0
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	19.4	19.5	20.7
Dorset and Somerset	16.7	21.0	20.9
South West Peninsula	21.9	21.9	21.5

[1] In 2003 the percentage of conceptions ending in abortion was 22.5 per cent. In 2004 (provisional data), it was 22.4 per cent. Provisional data for January to March 2005 is also 22.4 per cent.

Source:
DH, ONS

Alcohol Misuse

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people, and at what grades, are employed in her Department to work on alcohol misuse strategies. [83924]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the table in whole-time equivalents (WTE) for the senior civil service and the Department's integrated pay scales.

	Total
Senior civil service	0.4
IP4 upper	0.5
IP4 standard	1
IP3	1
IP1/2	0
Total	2.9

Notes:
IP—integrated payband, IP1 being the minimum payband

Alcohol Treatment (Gloucestershire)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to increase access to specialist alcohol treatment services in Gloucestershire; what has been allocated to such services in 2006-07; and how that budget is allocated. [82482]

Caroline Flint: The Department's guidance on local programmes of improvement for alcohol treatment services was launched in November 2005. This is aimed at the local national health service, local authorities, voluntary bodies, and others seeking to work with the NHS to tackle alcohol misuse.

Access to specialist treatment services is a matter for local primary care trusts (PCTs), who are responsible for improving the match of treatment provision they commission to the need of the local population for services. Information is not held centrally on local budgets.

It is estimated that £217 million is currently being spent by PCTs on alcohol treatment. An additional £15 million has been allocated to all PCTs to improve alcohol services from 2007-08 onwards. Around 63,000 people are receiving treatment from specialist services, with additional people receiving treatment and support from their general practitioners.

Blood Donors

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the extent of the risk posed by women who give blood and engage in anal intercourse without then notifying the National Blood Service; and whether heterosexual women who engage in anal intercourse are considered high-risk blood donors. [80807]

Caroline Flint: The United Kingdom blood services together with the Health Protection Agency continually monitor donors who test positive for markers of infection with HIV, Hepatitis B and C, Syphilis and Human T-cell lymphotropic virus. Part of this process involves interviewing donors to determine the risk factors underlying their infection. This process has not suggested that heterosexual anal intercourse is a major risk factor for transmitting the infections tested for by the UK blood services.

Other limited data available in the published literature do not suggest that within the UK, heterosexual anal intercourse, when compared to vaginal intercourse, is a major risk factor for the transmission of HIV or other transfusion transmissible infections.

Carers

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent on short break provision in Wakefield in each of the last three years; and how many hours break this provides in each year; [83475]

(2) how many hours short break service on average were provided on behalf of people with a learning disability in Wakefield who receive the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest, *(b)* middle and *(c)* lowest rate in the last period for which figures are available; [83476]

(3) how many *(a)* carers of people with a learning disability, *(b)* children with a learning disability and *(c)* adults with a learning disability in Wakefield received a short break service in the last period for which figures are available. [83477]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The information requested is not held centrally. It is the responsibility of local commissioners to ensure appropriate provision of services to meet their community's needs.

Climate Change

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of climate change on the demand for health services. [79417]

Caroline Flint: The report[1] on the "Effects of Climate Change on Health in the UK", published in 2001, concluded that though an increase in illness due to hot weather was likely as the climate changed, this would be offset by a decline in the effects of cold weather. If effects on deaths can be taken as a guide to the demands on the health services it is likely that the decrease in cold weather-associated deaths will outweigh the increase in hot weather-associated deaths during the coming 50 or so years.

The Department has produced a plan[2] for dealing with the effects of unusual spells of hot weather titled "Heatwave Plan 2006".

[1] Climate Change report
www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/AirPollution/AirPollutionGeneralInformation/fs/en

[2] Heatwave Plan 2006
www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/LettersAndCirculars/DearColleagueLetters/DearColleagueLettersArticle/fs/en?CONTENT_ID=4135294&chk=pWbz44

Dentistry

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many custom-made dental appliances were prescribed in 2005-06; and how many custom-made dental appliances have been prescribed since April 2006. [82099]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There were 3.7 million payment claims for items of service that involved custom-made dental appliances made to the Dental Practice Board during the 12 months ending 31 March 2006.

The information is not available in this form under the new system of dental remuneration. Providers of general dental service and personal dental services now have an agreed annual contract value, which is paid in 12 monthly payments instalments. In return for this contract value, the provider carries out over the course of the year an agreed number of units of dental activity that corresponds to overall course of treatment. The provider no longer has to submit data on the individual items of service within each course of treatment. Any dental appliances prescribed within a course of treatment are a matter for individual clinical judgment.

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the £400 million per year extra that has been spent on dentistry has been spent on dental technology and dental laboratories. [82100]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not allocate funds directly to dental technology or dental laboratories. The costs involved in having dental appliances manufactured for national health service patients are met by general dental practitioners from within the overall remuneration they receive for providing NHS services.

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has for the future training of dental technicians. [82101]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for higher and further education institutions to determine the provision they make for the training of dental technicians. I understand that a number of dental schools are considering whether provision for the training of dental technicians could be incorporated into the dental education expansion programme, but no specific proposals have yet emerged.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition of a child was used in dental contracts before April 2006; what definition is used in contracts from April 2006; and if she will make a statement. [82330]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The definition of a child in the National Health Service (General Dental Services Contracts) Regulations 2005 and National Health Service (Personal Dental Services Agreements) Regulations 2005 is a person who has not attained the age of 16 years.

This definition applies only for the purposes of determining whether it is a child or his or her parent or guardian who may request treatment, express a preference of practitioner, give consent to treatment, or make a complaint about services. The same definition applied in the 1992 regulations that governed the provision of general dental services up until 31 March 2006.

There has been no change to the groups of patients who are exempt from NHS dental charges. Children aged under 18, and those aged 18 and in full-time education, remain exempt from charges.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the new dental contract on the *(a)* type and *(b)* quality of dental appliances supplied. [82553]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for individual dentists working under general dental services contracts or personal dental services agreements to use their clinical judgement to determine the type and quality of any dental appliance required. The Department does not collect routine information on the quantity or type of dental appliances supplied but will be assessing, in conjunction with the implementation review group, the impact of the new contractual arrangements on this and other aspects of the services provided to national health service patients.

Departmental Expenditure

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual expenditure on training and development by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) non-departmental public body, (ii) executive agency and (iii) other public body for which she is responsible in *(A)* Scotland, *(B)* Wales, *(C)* each of the English regions and *(D)* Northern Ireland was in each of the last three financial years; and what the planned expenditure is for 2005-06. [39974]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Diabetes

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to encourage self-monitoring for diabetes patients. [82337]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Structured education is seen by the diabetes national service framework (NSF) as one of the key interventions needed to help empower people with diabetes. The diabetes NSF is supported by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) health technology appraisal, number 60—"Guidance on the Use of Patient Education Models for Diabetes".

This requires all primary care trusts to implement NICE recommendations by providing all people with diabetes with high quality, structured education, which should include self-monitoring.

Elderly Care (Cumbria)

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources have been allocated by the Commission for Social Care Inspection to the assessment of whether Cumbria county council is complying with national standards in the delivery of services for the care of the elderly. [80688]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I am informed by the chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that it has a local inspection team based at Penrith, which is responsible for assessing residential and domiciliary care services for both adults and children in Cumbria. Inspectors assess services against the same standards, regardless of whether those services are provided by the county council or the private or voluntary sector.

In addition to this, there have been service inspections, which cover assessment and care management delivered by the social services authority—Cumbria county council—as well as direct care provision. Specific inspections of older peoples' services were carried out most recently earlier this year.

Until last year, social services in Cumbria were receiving monthly monitoring visits and additional support because of concerns over their performance. In the performance assessment published in December 2005, the council was awarded one star; up from zero stars the previous year. The 2005 judgments in relation to adults', including older peoples', services were that Cumbria were serving some adults well, with uncertain capacity to improve.

The budget available to CSCI's Penrith office in 2006-07 totals £937,000. Of this, staffing costs are £872,000.

Fluoridation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which areas in England the public water supply is fluoridated; and when fluoridation was introduced in each case. [83197]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information available is in respect of the strategic health authority (SHA) boundaries which obtained prior to 1 July 2007. The table shows the 10 such SHAs in which fluoridation schemes apply and the proportion of their populations estimated to be benefiting from receipt of fluoridated water. Fluoridation was introduced progressively to these areas over the period 1964 to 1988.

SHA area (up to 30 June 2007)	*Percentage of total population fluoridated*
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	12
Birmingham and the Black Country	97
Cheshire and Merseyside	14
County Durham and Tees Valley	20
Cumbria and Lancashire	6
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	8
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	47
Shropshire and Staffordshire	35
Trent	21
West Midlands South	62

Health Care (Shropshire)

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients classified as obese there were in each GP practice area in Shropshire, in each year from 2000 to 2005; [82398]

(2) how many patients suffered a stroke in each GP practice area in Shropshire, in each year from 2000 to 2005; [82399]

(3) how many patients with *(a)* asthma, *(b)* clinical depression, *(c)* diabetes and *(d)* autism were registered with each GP practice area in Shropshire, in each year from 2000 to 2005. [82400]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available in the format requested.

Information at general practitioner (GP) practice level is not collected for clinical depression, autism, and obesity.

Information has been collected at GP practice level for asthma, diabetes and strokes since 2004-05. Figures for 2005-06 are not yet available.

The following tables show the practice list size and the number of patients in each GP practice within Shropshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Telford and Wrekin PCT with: stroke and transient ischaemic attack; diabetes; and asthma.

Quality and outcomes framework (QOF) for April 2004 - March 2005, number on QOF disease registers by practice

Shropshire County PCT	Practice list size	Stroke and transient ischaemic attack register count	Diabetes register count	Asthma register count
	10,202	191	283	646
	15,445	386	556	953
	8,352	186	287	580
	12,421	288	533	957
	7,385	220	260	402
	16,124	279	532	839
	3,281	67	138	247
	3,761	51	143	231
	8,579	184	326	547
	5,272	80	214	266
	9,608	248	287	673
	4,598	103	183	320
	5,242	160	163	467
	8,225	138	257	584
	3,043	40	82	106
	8,639	203	363	657
	11,726	188	461	764
	5,643	91	174	410
	2,777	55	71	143
	7,224	202	315	529
	6,762	113	224	440
	6,148	184	221	498
	3,451	77	163	160
	7,479	130	236	494
	5,217	128	161	281
	7,592	136	289	526
	9,005	238	352	655
	9,743	135	315	628
	4,241	71	130	276
	6,093	121	229	454
	7,183	156	312	473
	4,748	101	196	311
	4,279	98	198	344
	3,366	79	120	340
	6,578	133	210	582
	5,209	116	179	333
	6,849	118	275	527
	4,664	80	122	311
	3,880	74	149	262
	4,284	46	151	198
	7,420	128	204	545
	2,163	57	114	121
	1,934	42	67	104
	3,174	88	108	196

Telford and Wrekin PCT	Practice list size	Stroke and transient ischaemic attack register count	Diabetes register count	Asthma register count
	2,782	32	87	161
	12,889	126	368	1,014
	10,066	151	483	567
	10,667	184	398	568
	11,657	188	412	765
	8,697	73	331	562
	12,807	218	508	809
	16,634	374	818	1,338
	20,341	367	799	1,181
	6,987	105	225	540
	2,732	16	92	203
	3,364	21	125	152
	11,290	128	273	613
	4,132	11	95	121
	9,342	70	192	668
	3,535	36	83	277
	2,817	24	81	108
	2,319	6	43	166
	2,478	13	85	188
	4,376	78	131	302
	1,781	6	54	111
	4,058	28	97	230

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care: QMAS database—2004-05 data as at end of June 2005

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect on Shropshire Primary Care Trust of the level of payments made by Powys Local Health Board for Welsh patients treated at the Royal Shrewsbury hospital. [82404]

Caroline Flint: National health service trusts, as providers of services receive the bulk of their revenue funding from commissioning by primary care trusts (PCTs), and in the case of trusts near the Welsh border, local health boards.

Shropshire County PCT pays Shrewsbury and Telford hospital NHS Trust for the activity it carries out for its patients, as does Powys local health board.

Shrewsbury and Telford hospital NHS Trust is currently in negotiation with Powys local health board over the appropriate levels of activity and payments for the coming year.

Health Trusts (Gloucestershire)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether those primary care trusts and health trusts within Gloucestershire consulting on how to deal with financial deficits will get an early sight of the criteria for community services under moving care closer to home. [79692]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's guidance on community hospitals, "Our health, our care, our community: investing in the future of community hospitals and services", was published on 5 July 2006 and is available in the Library. The guidance has been drawn to the attention of chief executives of primary care trusts, strategic health authorities, national health service trusts and NHS foundation trusts in England.

Hospital Schemes

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list hospital schemes with a capital value over £20 million reaching financial close in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008 and what the (i) capital cost and (ii) completion date is of each scheme. [83044]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the table.

Strategic health authority	*National health service trust*	*Value (£ million)*	*Financial close/tender award date*	*Anticipated operational date*
North East	Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals	299	27 April 2005	1 October2007
East Midlands	Daventry and South Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)	28	3 March 2005	1 January 2008
North East	Northgate and Prudhoe—neuro disability centre	24	21 July 2005	1 February 2007
East Midlands	Sherwood Forest Hospitals	326	29 October 2005	1 April 2009
South Central	Portsmouth Hospitals	236	12 December 2005	1 June 2009
South Central	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals—cancer	129	13 December 2005	1 April2008
Yorkshire and the Humber	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals	67	21 February 2006	1 April 2008
East of England	Ipswich Hospital	32	27 March 2006	20 November 2007
London	Barts and the London	1,000	27 April 2006	Q4 2013
North West	St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals	338	1 June 2006	Q4 2008
West Midlands	University Hospital Birmingham	697	8 June 2006	Q1 2010
South West	Taunton and Somerset—cancer centre	18	10 July 2006	1 April 2008
East of England	Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT	27	10 July 2006	1 June 2008
North East	Langbaurgh PCT	40	1 September 2006	1 October2008
East Midlands	East Lincolnshire PCT	25	1 October 2006	1 October 2008
East Midlands	Northamptonshire Healthcare	31	1 December 2006	1 December 2008
East Midlands	Mid Essex Hospital Services—Chelmsford	186	Q4 2006	Q2 2009
Yorkshire and the Humber	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals—Wakefield	280	Q4 2006	Q1 2010
East of England	South Essex Partnership	25	1 January 2007	1 October 2008
West Midlands	Walsall Hospitals	100	Q1 2007	Q1 2009
North West	Tameside and Glossop Acute Services	91	Q1 2007	Q1 2009
London	North Middlesex University Hospital	108	Q1 2007	Q4 2009
South East Coast	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells	428	Q1 2007	Q4 2010
North West	Salford Royal Hospitals	190	Q1 2007	Q4 2010
West Midlands	University Hospital of North Staffordshire	411	Q1 2007	[1]
East Midlands	Derbyshire Mental Health	29	Q1 2007	Q3 2008
Yorkshire and the Humber	Selby and York PCT	25	Q1 2007	Q2 2009
South West	South Devon Healthcare	341	Q2 2007	[1]
North East	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys	78	Q3 2007	Q3 2009
East of England	Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals	360	Q3 2007	Q1 2012
East Midlands	University Hospitals of Leicester	550	Q4 2007	Q2 2012
North West	Blackpool PCT	42	Q4 2007	[1]
East Midlands	Leicestershire Partnership	50	Q1 2008	Q2 2011
East Midlands	Melton, Rutland, and Harborough PCT	30	Q1 2008	[1]
East Midlands	Hinckley and Bosworth PCT	36	Q1 2008	[1]

Strategic health authority	National health service trust	Value (£ million)	Financial close/tender award date	Anticipated operational date
North East	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys/Derwentside PCT	40	Q1 2008	[1]
Prioritised public capital schemes by tender award and operational (defined as first patient day) date				
London	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children	75	Q1 2007	[1]
London	West London Mental Health—Broadmoor	243	Q1 2008	[1]

[1] Being finalised

National School Fruit Scheme

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many schools are participating in the national school fruit scheme; and how many deliveries are made per week to these schools. [83658]

Caroline Flint: There are now 16,413 schools (98.9 per cent. of eligible schools) participating in the school fruit and vegetable scheme, and nearly 2,000,000 children are receiving a free portion of fruit or vegetable every school day.

The variety of storage facilities available in schools means we have to deliver frequently to ensure the produce supplied does not deteriorate. When the scheme was introduced schools received three deliveries per week. As the scheme has developed we have managed to reduce the frequency of deliveries to five per fortnight for the vast majority of schools.

NHS Work Force

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which jobs have been moved from non-clinical to clinical staff groups in the NHS work force since 1997; [79642]

(2) which job codes have been moved from non-clinical to clinical staff groups in the NHS work force since 1997. [79670]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The annual work force census uses occupation codes to record the number of people in job roles. The census has not recorded any occupational codes which have moved from non-clinical to clinical staff groups in the national health service work force since 1997.

Nurses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate she has made of the number of qualified nurses residing in England who are unemployed; [79635]

(2) how many foreign nationals were employed as nurses within the NHS in 2005-06. [79636]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether nurses trained and qualified within the UK are recruited ahead of foreign nationals. [79640]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Recruitment is a local matter for national health service trusts. Trusts will normally recruit to vacancies from within the local labour market. Where trusts are unable to find appropriately qualified and experienced staff, for example in certain clinical specialisms, they may decide to undertake international recruitment.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses entered full-time employment within the NHS within one year of being qualified in each year since 1997. [79654]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Nurses/Midwives (Redundancies)

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many redundancies of *(a)* nurses and *(b)* midwives there have been in the NHS in each of the last nine years. [79795]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Obesity

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were (i) obese and (ii) overweight when measured by body mass index according to the Government's most recent health surveys in each (A) London borough and (B) constituency; and if she will make a statement. [82971]

Caroline Flint: The main source of data on the prevalence of obesity and overweight among children and adults is the Health Survey for England (HSE). Data are not available in the format requested. Tables one to three show the most recent data on the prevalence of obesity and overweight in children and adults. In all the tables overweight excludes obese and data are only available for males/females. The sample size of the HSE does not allow data to be produced at the level of boroughs or individual constituencies.

Table 1 presents data on overweight and obesity among adults in each of the strategic health authorities (SHA) within the London Government Office Region (GOR) as a three-year average over the period 2000-02.

Table 1: prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults[1] in each London SHA, by gender (three-year average) 2000-02

England

Percentage

	North East London	North West London	North Central London	South East London	South West London
Men					
Overweight	40.9	41.9	39.4	43.3	46.7
Obese	17.4	14.4	18.1	17.9	22.6
Women					
Overweight	34.5	28.9	31.5	33.5	28.3
Obese	23.8	22.1	18.8	20.5	25.9

[1] All aged 16 and over.

Source:
Health and lifestyle indicators for SHAs, 1994 to 2002

Table 2 shows the prevalence of overweight and obese adults in England in 2004.

Table 2: prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults[1] in England, 2004[2]

	Men	England Women
Overweight (percentage)	43.9	33.9
Obese (percentage)	22.7	23.2
Bases (number)	39,244	39,802

[1] All aged 16 and over.
[2] Figures are weighted for non-response.

Source:
Health and lifestyle indicators for SHAs, 1994 to 2002

Table 3 shows the proportion of children aged two to 15 estimated to be overweight and obese in England in 2004.

Table 3: prevalence of overweight and obesity among children[1] in England, 2004[2]

	Boys	England Girls
Overweight (percentage)	13.9	16.6
Obese (percentage)	19.2	18.5
Bases (number)	8,833	8,228

[1] Aged two to 15.
[2] Figures are weighted for non-response.

Source:
Health Survey for England 2004—updating of trend tables to include 2004 data

Papilloma Virus Vaccine

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information she has received on the progress of human papilloma virus vaccines; and if she will make a statement; [81594]

(2) what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her Department's officials have had to plan for the introduction of the human papilloma virus vaccination programme. [81595]

Caroline Flint: Research has suggested that human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines may provide real benefit. The Department is currently seeking expert advice on the efficacy, safety and benefits that these new vaccines may offer.

Officials have met with manufacturers of the HPV vaccines to discuss research results and timescales for the development and likely licensure of the vaccines. A joint committee on vaccination and immunisation subgroup met in May 2006 to review all the available information on HPV vaccines and will hold further meetings during 2006.

Patient Transport

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the *(a)* availability and *(b)* suitability of (i) the Patient Transport Service, (ii) ambulance cars and (iii) public transport for cancer patients attending hospital regularly for chemotherapy and radiotherapy. [80500]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not made a specific assessment of the availability or suitability of the patient transport service, ambulance cars or public transport for cancer patients regularly attending hospital for chemotherapy and radiotherapy.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for ensuring that there is provision of ambulance services, which could include patient transport services, to such extent as they consider necessary to meet all reasonable requirements. It is, therefore, for the local national health service to decide who provides patient transport services for eligible patients in their area, and what transport is provided.

The White Paper "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services" sets out that in future, local authorities and PCTs will need to work together to influence providers of local transport in planning transport networks.

Guidance on commissioning ambulance services, "Driving change: Good practice guidelines for PCTs on commissioning arrangements for emergency ambulance services and non-emergency patient transport services", was issued by the Modernisation Agency in 2004. A copy of this document is available in the Library for reference.

Pensioners Abroad

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with the Czech Republic on the provision of health care for UK pensioners resident in that country; [83141]

(2) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with Denmark on the provision of health care for UK pensioners resident in that country; [83144]

(3) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with Cyprus on the provision of health care for UK pensioners resident in that country; [83145]

(4) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with Belgium on the provision of health care for UK pensioners resident in that country; [83151]

(5) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with Austria on the provision of health care for UK pensioners resident in that country. [83154]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are arrangements co-ordinating the social security and healthcare systems of all the member states of the European Union. This is covered by Regulation (EEC) 1408/71 which is a multilateral instrument.

It provides that pensioners living in another EU member state who are receiving a United Kingdom state retirement, long-term incapacity or bereavement pension, are entitled to healthcare on the same basis as that country's own insured persons.

Post-operative Mortality Rate

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the post-operative mortality rate has been in NHS hospitals in each year since 1997; what assessment she has made of the post-operative mortality rate in other developed countries; what steps she is taking to reduce the post-operative mortality rate; and if she will make a statement. [74049]

Andy Burnham: The specific information as requested in not collected centrally.

The National Centre of Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD) publishes data on post-operative death rates for emergency procedures. This is available for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities for the last six years up to 2003-04. This is shown in the table.

Deaths within 30 days of a hospital procedure: surgery (non-elective admissions)

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Number of Completed in-patient spells—Denominator	337,430	350,864	347,810	348,459	358,147	367,400
Number of deaths—Numerator	18,295	18,258	17,553	17,001	17,272	17,273
Standardised Postoperative death rate[1]	5,363.7	5,223.8	5,002.7	4,878.9	4,917.1	4,850.2

[1] Precisely: the indirectly age, sex and OPCS4 chapter/selected sub-chapter standardised rate per 100,000 people.

Source:

Hospital Episodes Statistics, NCHOD financial year—February 2005 and National Statistics Indirectly age and sex standardised rates per 100,000 people

Standardised to persons 2001-02

Post-operative death rates by trust are also published by the Healthcare Commission as part of trusts' star ratings. The latest information is available for the calendar year 2004 at:

ratings2005.healthcarecommission.org.uk/Trust/Indicator/indicators.asp?trustType=1

There are no comprehensive reviews available on international comparisons of post-operative mortality rates.

The level of risk is dependent upon the type of operation. There are many different operations carried out with different risks. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence through its guidance, National Patient Safety Agency through its national reporting and learning system and patient safety solutions and the national confidential enquiry into patient outcome and death, work to improve standards of healthcare for the benefit of the public.

Rheumatology Consultants

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many rheumatology consultants there are per head of population in England. [79178]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the number of rheumatology consultants there are per head of population in England.

Hospital and community health services (HCHS): medical and dental consultants working in the rheumatology specialty, England as at 30 September 2005

	Number	Number (headcount) Consultants per 100,000 head of population[1]
Consultants	31,993	63.9
Of which:		
Rheumatology	505	1.0

[1] Population figures are taken from the 2001 ONS resident estimates. 2005 population data at SHA level are not yet available, therefore, 2004 population data have been used in 2005 calculations. Due to this, calculations for 2005 are subject to change.

Sources:

The Information Centre for health and social care Medical and Dental Workforce Census 2001 Office of National Statistics Population Census

Road Accidents (Seat Belts)

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost to the national health service during the last 12 months of attending to people not wearing seat belts who were injured in road accidents; and if she will make a statement. [83202]

Caroline Flint: The Government do not have an estimate of the cost to the national health service of attending to people involved in road accidents, who were not wearing seat belts. However, the wearing of seat belts is estimated to prevent over 2,000 road fatalities each year.

Short Break Services

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent on short break provision in

Oxfordshire in the last year for which figures are available; and how many hours break that expenditure provided; [82197]

(2) how many hours short break service, on average, were provided on behalf of people with a learning disability in Oxfordshire who receive the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest rate, *(b)* middle rate and *(c)* lowest rate in the last period for which figures are available; [82198]

(3) how many *(a)* carers of people with a learning disability, *(b)* children with a learning disability and *(c)* adults with a learning disability in Oxfordshire received a short break service in the last period for which figures are available. [82200]

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent on short break provision in Somerset in the last period for which figures are available; and how many hours' break that expenditure provided in total; [82279]

(2) how many hours' short break service, on average were provided on behalf of people with a learning disability in Somerset who received the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest, *(b)* middle and *(c)* lowest rate in the last period for which figures are available; [82280]

(3) how many *(a)* carers of people with a learning disability, *(b)* children with a learning disability and *(c)* adults with a learning disability in Somerset receive a short break service. [82281]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally. It is the responsibility of local commissioners to ensure appropriate provision of services to meet their community's needs.

Smoking

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding the Government plan to provide to local authorities to implement the proposed smoking ban. [83026]

Caroline Flint: Under the regulation-making powers in clause 10 of the Health Bill the Government intend to designate local authorities as the enforcement authorities for smoke-free legislation.

As set out in the "Choosing Health" White Paper, the Government have always committed to provide adequate funding for local authorities to undertake this work, in line with the "New Burdens Doctrine". Discussions are currently taking place with stakeholders, including the Local Government Association, on the detail of arrangements for enforcement.

Suicide Rates

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the recorded suicide rates were in each English constituency in each month since January 2001. [83356]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the recorded suicide rates were in each English constituency in each month since January 2001. I am replying in her absence. (83356)

Mortality rates for parliamentary constituencies cannot be provided for the years requested because population estimates are not available for these areas. The most recent year for which figures are available is 2005. A table which shows the number (rather than the rate) of deaths with an underlying cause of suicide or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent by month for each parliamentary constituency in England for the years 2001 to 2005 has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Terminal Patients

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms exist to prompt healthcare professionals to discuss special rules claims for *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance with (i) patients with a terminal disease and (ii) carers of patients with a terminal diagnosis. [81076]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It would not be appropriate for healthcare professionals to advise people about claiming benefits to which they might be entitled.

The Government recognise that finance is an issue of great importance to people with serious illness. Departmental officials are working with those in the Department for Work and Pensions, which has the expertise and knowledge to inform people about arrangements for claiming benefits and their entitlement to different benefits, to take steps for patients to be signposted to benefits information.

Tetanus

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with tetanus in each month since March 1997. [80301]

Caroline Flint: Data on the notifications of cases of tetanus by age group and sex for England and Wales for the period 1969 to 2005 are shown in the table and are also available on the Health Protection Agency website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/tetanus/data_not_age_sex.htm

	Age group (years)							
	0-4		*5-14*		*15-24*		*25-44*	
	Male	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
1969	0	0	4	0	1	0	3	1
1970	2	0	4	0	2	1	1	1
1971	1	0	2	3	3	0	3	0
1972	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	3

	Age group (years)							
	0-4		5-14		15-24		25-44	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1973	0	1	2	1	1	1	3	0
1974	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	2
1975	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	0
1976	0	1	1	0	2	0	3	1
1977	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	0
1978	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
1979	0	0	0	0	4	1	4	0
1980	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
1981	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
1982	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
1983	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
1984	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
1985	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
1986	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
1987	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1988	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
1989	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	1
1990	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1991	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
1992	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
1993	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
1995	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1997	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
1998	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
1999	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
2000	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
2001	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
2002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2003	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1
2004	0	0	2	0	0	2	4	1
2005[2]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Age group (years)								
	45-64		>65		Not known		All ages		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
1969	2	3	3	0	1	1	14	5	19
1970	1	0	2	8	0	0	12	10	22
1971	1	5	2	4	0	0	12	12	24
1972	1	1	4	5	0	0	11	9	20
1973	1	3	2	7	0	0	9	13	22
1974	2	2	1	1	0	0	8	8	16
1975	3	3	5	7	0	0	12	12	24
1976	1	2	3	1	0	0	10	5	15
1977	3	0	2	6	0	0	9	7	16
1978	2	5	2	3	0	0	6	9	15
1979	2	2	1	6	0	0	11	9	20
1980	4	4	2	2	0	0	10	8	18
1981	4	1	1	2	0	1	10	5	15
1982	0	2	3	5	0	0	4	8	12
1983	2	1	0	1	0	0	4	2	6
1984	1	3	0	1	0	0	2	4	6
1985	1	1	1	6	0	0	3	9	12
1986	2	0	1	4	0	0	5	6	11
1987	2	0	4	1	0	0	6	3	9
1988	3	0	1	2	0	0	6	6	12
1989	2	2	1	5	0	0	7	9	16
1990	1	1	2	4	0	0	3	6	9

	Age group (years)								
	45-64		>65		Not known		All ages		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
1991	0	2	2	2	0	0	3	5	8
1992	0	0	2	0	2	0	5	1	6
1993	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	8	8
1994	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	3
1995	0	2	1	1	0	1	2	4	6
1996	1	0	1	3	1	0	4	3	7
1997	0	1	1	4	0	0	1	6	7
1998	1	2	0	3	0	0	2	5	7
1999	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	3
2000	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
2001	2	0	2	1	0	0	5	1	6
2002	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	4
2003	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	6	8
2004	2	1	0	0	0	0	[1]8	4	[1]12
2005[2]	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	3	3

[1] Includes one duplicate report from 2003
[2] Provisional.
Note:
Last update: 11 April 2006
Sources:
Registrar General's Annual Report
Office for National Statistics Communicable Disease Statistics Series MB2
CDSC, Notifications of Infectious Diseases

University Hospital of North Tees

Ms Dari Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what capital spending has been made on *(a)* the maternity unit, *(b)* the neonatal unit, *(c)* the paediatric unit, *(d)* the breast unit and *(e)* gynaecology services at the University Hospital of North Tees since 1997. [82646]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Violence against Staff

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many physical assaults against staff were carried out by patients being treated in *(a)* mental health services and *(b)* learning disability services in 2004-05; [82326]

(2) how many of the physical assaults against staff in mental health services in 2004-05 were carried out by patients receiving compulsory treatment under the powers of the Mental Health Act 1983; [82327]

(3) how many physical assaults against NHS staff were carried out by *(a)* patients and *(b)* relatives of patients in 2004-05. [82328]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not collected centrally in the format requested, however, the NHS Security Management Service is currently considering further methods of data collection for the number of assaults against national health service staff.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of violence against staff there were *(a)* in total and *(b)* in the accident and emergency department at (i) the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton and (ii) Worthing Hospital in each of the last three years. [83414]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The information requested is not held centrally in the format requested. However, figures recently collected by the NHS Security Management Service showed that there were 125 assaults against staff in Brighton and Sussex university hospitals national health service trust and 51 assaults against staff in Worthing and Southlands NHS trust in 2004-05.

Youth Sports Trust

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what grants her Department has made to the Youth Sports Trust in each of the last five years. [82798]

Caroline Flint: We have worked closely with the Youth Sport Trust to increase participation in physical activity in children and young people through the "Schools on the Move" pedometer pilot. Specifically, the Department, working in partnership with the Department for Education and Skills, has provided £106,000 in funding to the Youth Sport Trust between March 2005 and March 2006 to project manage and deliver the "Schools on the Move" programme, as well as to commission an evaluation of the pilots.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what advertising campaigns her Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81926]

Mr. McFadden: Significant advertising campaigns in support of specific policies are managed centrally through the Cabinet Office Communication Group and placed through the Central Office of Information (COI).

Details of advertising costs are shown in the table.

Campaign	*Period*	*Expenditure (£)*
2004-05		
Preparing for Emergencies	July-August	[1]2,000,000
Direct Gov	September 2004-March 2005	306,471
Fast Stream Recruitment	Throughout year	81,000
Departmental recruitment	Throughout year	236,828
2005-06		
Direct Gov	March 2006	864,732
Do the Honours Campaign	January-March 2006	21,217
Fast Stream recruitment	Throughout year	47,888
Departmental recruitment	Throughout year	201,647
2006-07		
Fast Stream recruitment	Throughout year	15,935
Departmental recruitment	Throughout year	514

[1] This was the Cabinet Office contribution to a cross-government campaign.

Charity Commission

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many officials of the Charity Commission were formerly employed *(a)* in the Civil Service, *(b)* in the Home Office, *(c)* elsewhere in the public sector, *(d)* in the private sector and *(e)* in the voluntary sector; [84599]

(2) how many former Home Office employees work at each grade in the Charity Commission. [84600]

David Miliband: This is a matter for the Charity Commission as the Government Department responsible for the regulation of charities in England and Wales. The Executive Director of Charity Information and Corporate Services at the Charity Commission will write to the hon. Member and a copy of his reply will be placed in the Library for the reference of Members.

Civil Contingencies Secretariat

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent assessment she has made of personnel levels within the Civil Contingencies Secretariat. [81481]

David Miliband *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* As part of the Department's annual planning process, Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) personnel levels were reviewed alongside other Units within the Cabinet Office in June 2006. CCS resources for 2007-08 remain in the range of 85-90 staff (including those at the Emergency Planning College).

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 315W, on correspondence, what estimate she has made of the cost of answering a question; and if she will make a statement. [82637]

Hilary Armstrong: It is not possible to separately identify the average cost of officials' time in replying to letters from hon. Members and members of the public. Such correspondence is often of a varied and complex nature. Therefore any exercise to determine the average cost in officials' time in responding to letters would incur disproportionate cost.

It is not possible to separately identify stationery and postage costs for the Department when replying to correspondence from hon. Members and members of the public.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will list the unnumbered command papers produced by her Department in each session since 1976; by what means *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if she will make a statement. [81257]

David Miliband: Documents which are laid before Parliament as unnumbered command papers are generally restricted to Explanatory Notes to Treaties, Explanatory Memorandums to Statutory Instruments and some Treasury Minutes. All other documents are published in the numbered command papers series.

A complete list of unnumbered command papers is not collected centrally.

Ministers/Civil Servants

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* civil servants work in (i) Admiralty House, (ii) Admiralty Arch, (iii) the Ripley Building, (iv) Old Admiralty Building and (v) Admiralty Citadel. [83002]

Mr. McFadden: The number of Ministers and civil servants working in Admiralty House, Admiralty Arch and the Ripley Building is shown in the table.

Building	*Ministers*	*Civil servants*
Admiralty House	0	1
Admiralty Arch	0	237
Ripley Building	1	69

The Cabinet Office does not occupy Old Admiralty Building and the Admiralty Citadel. These buildings are owned by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Office of Public Services Reform

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the reasons were for the abolition of the Office of Public Services Reform. [83579]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend, the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Murphy) to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 25 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1052W.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance she produces for other Government Departments on answering a similar or identical question tabled to each Government Department; what criteria she uses in selecting the questions to provide guidance on; and if she will make a statement. [83428]

Hilary Armstrong: The Government made clear in their response to the Third Report of Session 2003-04 from the Public Administration Select Committee, that while Government Departments may liaise with each other when they receive the same question, this co-ordination

"does not cut across the line of ministerial accountability which is that it is for individual Ministers to decide on the final content of an answer to a parliamentary question".[1]

[1] Page 3, HC 1262, Ministerial Accountability and Parliamentary Questions: Government Response to the Committee's Third Report—First Special Report of Session 2003-04

Regulatory Impact Assessments

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what written guidance for Departments has been produced regarding the publication of preliminary regulatory impact assessments. [82034]

Mr. McFadden: The Government have provided written guidance for Departments regarding the publication of regulatory impact assessments. This guidance is publicly available on the Cabinet Office website at http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation/ria/ and will be placed in the Library for the reference of Members.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 12 July 2006

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Millennium Development Goals

6. **Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the millennium development goals since the last G8 summit. [84332]

Hilary Benn: It is too early to say what specific impact the commitments agreed to by the G8 at Gleneagles have had on progress towards the millennium development goals. There has, however, been progress in the last 12 months on debt cancellation, increased aid, a new humanitarian fund and action to get AIDS treatment to more people, and all of these will help in the fight to end extreme poverty by 2015.

Sustainable Forestry (Africa)

7. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to promote sustainable forestry in Africa. [84333]

Mr. Thomas: Poor governance and weak law enforcement hinder the achievement of sustainable forestry in Africa. Earlier this year, we committed £11 million over the next four years to the Forest Governance Support Programme in Cameroon. In addition we committed £12 million over the next five years in support of Partnership Agreements with African countries under the European Union's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan.

Kashmir/Pakistan Earthquake

8. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is making available for people affected by the earthquake in Kashmir and Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [84334]

Hilary Benn: Following the Earthquake the UK pledged £129 million for relief and reconstruction in Pakistan, including Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

£54 million has been committed to relief activities, including direct support to the relief effort led by the Government of Pakistan and funds channelled through UN agencies and non-government agencies. We flew out 86 search and rescue experts and funded over 70 relief flights, three Chinook helicopters and a Royal Engineers squadron.

We have already provided £5 million for health, education and infrastructure reconstruction, and a further £65 million is committed.

Gaza

9. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Gaza. [84335]

Hilary Benn: I have been following the humanitarian situation closely and with growing concern. Following damage to Gaza power station, households are receiving only six to 12 hours of electricity per day. Fuel supplies are limited. United Nations agencies report that water supplies, health services and sanitation are all being affected. Some foodstuffs are running low due to difficulty in supplies entering Gaza.

Nigeria

10. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial support his Department is making available to Nigeria in 2006-07 to assist poverty reduction and increase educational opportunities. [84336]

Hilary Benn: The Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £80 million in bilateral expenditure to assist poverty reduction in Nigeria in 2006-07. Of this, £8 million will go to programmes which directly support the education sector, but many other DFID activities in Nigeria, including work at state level to improve the management of public expenditure, have an impact on education outcomes.

Western Balkans

11. **Mr. Marsden:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the Department's programmes in the Western Balkans following the Government's recognition of Montenegro as a sovereign state. [84337]

Mr. Thomas: Our approach to supporting countries in the Balkans places a high priority on enhancing the effectiveness of the international community's assistance to the region. This will continue. The estimated UK share of multilateral assistance to Serbia and Montenegro in 2003 (the most recent official statistics available) was £37 million. Our programme to Montenegro ended in March 2005 and we currently have no plans to reconsider this decision.

2006 G8 Summit

12. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his G8 counterparts on the agenda for the 2006 G8 Summit. [84338]

Hilary Benn: The agenda for the 2006 G8 Summit in St. Petersburg is decided by the Russian Presidency in consultation with other G8 heads. The Russian priorities are energy security, infectious diseases and education. A priority for DFID is to make sure that the G8 leaders continue to focus on delivering the commitments they made at Gleneagles last year on support to Africa and climate change. President Putin has asked the Prime Minister to lead a discussion on progress against the Gleneagles commitments to reduce poverty and support sustainable development in Africa.

Doha Round

13. **Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the implications for the developing world of the Doha Round of trade negotiations. [84339]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is working hard to ensure a successful round that delivers real improvements and opportunities for developing countries. We recognise that reducing trade tariffs alone will tend to favour only the more advanced developing countries in the immediate term. We have therefore been promoting a "development package", containing short-term changes to trade rules, medium-term adjustment measures, and support for longer-term supply side capacity building.

EU Aid Programme

14. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of aid delivered through the EU's aid programme; and if he will make a statement. [84340]

Mr. Thomas: The European Commission has improved the effectiveness of its aid substantially since 2000, when a major reform programme commenced. Today, delivery is faster and is implemented by a dedicated delivery agency (EuropeAid). Field offices are stronger, with better skilled staff. Projects are delivering more effective results, as shown by regular on-site assessments by independent experts. Nevertheless, there is still a case for further reform to improve aid effectiveness.

Vietnam

15. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is giving to Vietnam in 2006-07. [84341]

Mr. Thomas: In 2006-07 DFID will provide £50 million of grant aid to the Government of Vietnam to improve education, tackle HIV and support programmes targeting the poorest regions. DFID also provides support to other Government of Vietnam priorities including:

improving public finance management and anti-corruption, infrastructure and Vietnam's commitments for WTO accession.

Clean Water

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions his Department has had with the World Health Organisation on access to clean water and sanitation in *(a)* Tunisia, *(b)* Cameroon and *(c)* Tanzania. [83970]

Hilary Benn: I have not had recent discussions with WHO on water and sanitation in Tunisia or Cameroon. DFID does not have a bilateral aid programme in Tunisia, though we make a significant contribution to development in Tunisia through the European Commission's programmes. In Cameroon, DFID's focus is on forestry and governance and we do not have a bilateral water and sanitation programme.

In Tanzania, DFID works with the Government and a number of development partners in the water sector, including WHO, to help strengthen policies and review their implementation. DFID has a particular focus on increasing the amount of money reaching local government to fund basic rural water supply and sanitation.

DFID is committed to expanding access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation in poor countries across the world. On World Water Day 2005, I committed to double UK spending on water supply and sanitation in Africa, bringing our spend to £95 million a year by 2008.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Sir Alistair Graham

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to her answer of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1378-9W, on Sir Alistair Graham, how much was claimed by Sir Alistair from each of the bodies for which he was entitled to as *(a)* per diem and *(b)* per appeal remuneration. [80515]

Hilary Armstrong: *[pursuant to the reply, 15 June 2006, Official Report, c. 1379W]:* I regret that the date on which Sir Alistair, as chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, began receiving £380 per day was incorrect. The date given was 26 April 2005.

The correct date is 26 April 2004.

In respect of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, a public body sponsored by the Cabinet Office, Sir Alistair was a member between 1 October 2003 and 25 April 2004, and was appointed chairman with effect from 26 April 2004. As a member, Sir Alistair's time commitment was on average two days per month for which he received £180 per day. As chairman, Sir Alistair's time commitment has on average been two days per week. From 26 April 2004 to 5 May 2005 he received £380 per day and from 6 May 2005 to date he has received £440 per day. The information requested in respect of the other public appointments held by Sir Alistair is not held by my Department.

TRANSPORT

Biometrics

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* planned and *(b)* existing projects in his Department involve the use of biometric technology. [82579]

Gillian Merron: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) is examining the possible use of biometrics to help ensure greater security of the driving licence. This could include whether use can be made of the growing number of photographs held on its database to assist with the 10-yearly renewal cycle commencing in 2008. Investigations are in their early stages. The Agency is also piloting biometrics for security and access control purposes at its base in Swansea using fingerprint readers.

In addition, the Transport Security Directorate is currently working with the aviation industry to develop standards for the use of biometric systems in airport access control.

Cycling

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what support his Department is giving to *(a)* Oxfordshire and *(b)* other local authorities to help encourage children to cycle to school. [82268]

Gillian Merron: The Department has provided £270,000 to date to help fund five cycle routes in Oxfordshire which link six schools to the National Cycle Network. Some £12 million in central Government funds have been invested in this scheme, generating significant match funding from local authorities resulting in overall investment of over £30 million. Over 330 cycle routes to schools have been built or are under construction.

In addition, a joint Department for Transport and Department for Education and Science capital grants scheme has allocated just over £750,000 to 128 schools in Oxfordshire with travel plans, for infrastructure such as secure cycle parking.

Nationally, around £57 million of grant has been awarded to over 10,000 schools in England, through this scheme.

The Secretary of State for Transport announced recently a doubling of Cycling England's annual budget from £5 million to £10 million per annum over the next three years. The extra money will be targeted at providing even more links for schools to the National Cycle Network and to provide more cycle training in schools.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83626]

Gillian Merron: No Ministers in the Department for Transport attended the FIFA World Cup 2006 in their ministerial capacity.

Local Transport Authorities

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce which local transport authorities will become centres of excellence; and how much each will receive as a consequence. [82213]

Gillian Merron: Authorities in 17 local transport plan areas were awarded centres of excellence status for local transport delivery in February 2005. A total of £100,000 per year is available to support them in providing peer-led activities. The distribution of this funding between the authorities is related to exactly what particular authorities do as centres of excellence.

Centres of excellence status will be reviewed in 2007.

There are more details about the centres of excellence, including a list of the designated authorities, in a Department for Transport release dated 25 February 2005, available on the Government News Network website (www.gnn.gov.uk).

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how the success of the local transport authorities centres of excellence programme was measured. [82214]

Gillian Merron: The centres of excellence programme is a part of the Local Transport Plan policy. Work is under way to evaluate the success of the policy as a whole.

An interim report is published on the Department for Transport website (www.dft.gov.uk)—under research, within the local transport plan subsection of the regional and local transport section of the site.

Private Finance Initiative Projects

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by what total amount private finance initiative projects for which his Department is responsible which went over budget did so in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [83650]

Gillian Merron: A key aspect of the private finance initiative (PFI) is risk transfer on projects going over budget. This means overruns on PFI projects that the Department is responsible for will normally be carried by the private sector provider and not the Department for Transport.

Unitary charge payments do not commence until the service is operational. If a private sector budget overrun influences the service standard provided, PFI contract terms include a right for the public sector to make performance deductions from the unitary charge payment made to the private sector provider.

Railways

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes in *(a)* legislation and *(b)* guidance issued by his Department or its agencies there

have been since the publication of the Strategic Rail Authority's review of rail fares policy. [84686]

Derek Twigg: There have been no changes to legislation or guidance. The review considered the fares regulation policy contained in the franchise agreements between the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) and train operators. Franchise agreements were changed with effect from January 2004 to reflect the new fares policy.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what improvements to train services are proposed as part of *(a)* the West Midlands franchise from 2007 and *(b)* the 2008 timetable following increased capacity at Milton Keynes in terms of reinstatement of direct Milton Keynes to Birmingham services in addition to inter-city services. [81950]

Derek Twigg: From November 2007, when the West Midlands franchise commences, there will be no changes to the existing overall pattern of services between Milton Keynes and Birmingham. There will be an hourly direct inter-city service but no regular direct "local" West Midlands franchise service via Northampton.

Network Rail is currently undertaking the detailed development of the December 2008 timetable. From this date, as set out in the West Coast Main Line Strategy, there will continue to be an hourly direct inter-city service between Milton Keynes and Birmingham. It is also possible that certain local London-Northampton and Northampton-Birmingham services to be operated by the West Midlands franchise may be linked at Northampton, thus providing additional direct services between Milton Keynes and Birmingham. However, this cannot be confirmed until Network Rail's timetable development work is completed later in 2006.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on progress towards a new high speed railway link between England and Scotland. [84518]

Derek Twigg: The Government made a manifesto commitment to look at the feasibility and affordability of a new north-south high-speed link. The Government have committed to take this forward in the development of a long term strategy for the railways, drawing on Sir Rod Eddington's advice on the long-term impact of transport decisions on the UK's productivity, stability and growth. This work will report when the rail strategy is published in summer 2007.

Fares Policy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he last discussed fares policy with First Great Western; and if he will intervene to seek a review of this policy. [83265]

Derek Twigg: The Department has regular discussions with First Great Western about a range of issues. First Great Western is subject to the Department for Transport's standard fares policy in respect of regulated fares. Unregulated fares are a matter for First Great Western.

Road Traffic Accidents

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* road traffic accidents, *(b)* road traffic fatalities, *(c)* accidents involving motorcyclists, *(d)* fatalities involving motorcyclists, *(e)* accidents involving bicyclists and *(f)* fatalities involving bicyclists there were in (i) Hampshire, (ii) Southampton, (iii) Portsmouth and (iv) Eastleigh in each year since 1990. [84343]

Dr. Ladyman: The total number of personal injury road accidents, the number of personal injury accidents involving a two wheeled motor vehicle (TWMV), and the number of personal injury accidents involving cyclists reported to the police, as well as the resulting fatalities for (i) county of Hampshire, (ii) Southampton, (iii) Portsmouth and (iv) Eastleigh from 1990 to 2005 are given in the following tables.

Table (i): accidents and fatalities in the county of Hampshire: 1990-2004

			Accidents involving TWMV		Accidents involving pedal cyclists	
	Total number accidents (a)	Fatalities (b)	Total number accidents (c)	Total fatalities[1] (d)	Total number accidents (e)	Total fatalities[2] (f)
1990	7,481	176	1,407	17	1,071	9
1991	6,715	104	1,125	24	1,011	9
1992	6,643	101	994	17	977	10
1993	6,692	109	949	25	997	4
1994	6,761	80	860	17	1,053	10
1995	6,834	77	855	11	1,053	4
1996	7,176	91	857	18	1,046	6
1997	7,104	74	870	15	990	5
1998	6,856	76	856	22	937	8
1999	6,776	95	923	18	972	7
2000	6,850	84	932	21	858	2
2001	6,430	68	948	16	724	3
2002	6,377	91	1,031	21	663	8
2003	6,095	100	1,012	33	721	3
2004	5,624[3]	60	838	10	682	6
2005	5,326	84	811	19	635	7

Table (ii): accidents and fatalities in Southampton unitary authority: 1990-2004

			Accidents Involving TWMV		Accidents involving pedal cyclists	
	Total number accidents (a)	Fatalities (b)	Total number accidents (c)	Total fatalities[1] (d)	Total number accidents (e)	Total fatalities[2] (f)
1990	979	18	172	4	160	0
1991	885	14	155	5	126	3
1992	881	10	143	2	139	2
1993	897	16	141	3	136	2
1994	901	4	113	3	173	1
1995	953	2	116	0	179	0
1996	968	8	137	2	145	0
1997	916	6	113	0	151	2
1998	930	5	104	2	162	1
1999	877	12	115	2	141	2
2000	870	7	117	4	117	1
2001	886	4	145	1	131	1
2002	828	9	150	5	102	0
2003	838	6	133	3	126	1
2004	826	2	166	0	102	0
2005	731	4	131	1	92	0

Table (iii): accidents and fatalities in Portsmouth unitary authority: 1990-2004

			Accidents involving TWMV		Accidents involving pedal cyclists	
	Total number accidents (a)	Fatalities (b)	Total number accidents (c)	Total Fatalities[1] (d)	Total number accidents (e)	Total Fatalities[2] (d)
1990	967	10	214	0	208	1
1991	923	11	167	1	244	0
1992	882	5	128	0	224	2
1993	984	8	140	2	234	1
1994	909	6	124	0	206	2
1995	950	5	114	1	236	0
1996	980	4	95	0	207	2
1997	886	4	103	1	183	1
1998	906	4	102	0	161	0
1999	913	5	113	2	215	1
2000	980	6	125	1	185	1
2001	811	6	101	1	143	0
2002	911	4	125	0	147	1
2003	805	1	117	0	146	0
2004	784	5	106	1	150	1
2005	729	12	100	3	119	2

Table (iv): accidents and fatalities in Eastleigh local authority: 1990-2004

			Accidents involving TWMV		Accidents involving pedal cyclists	
	Total number accidents (a)	Fatalities (b)	Total number accidents (c)	Total fatalities[1] (d)	Total number accidents (e)	Total fatalities[2] (f)
1990	472	6	94	0	56	1
1991	418	6	70	2	47	1
1992	380	0	70	0	42	0
1993	423	4	78	4	46	0
1994	416	9	58	0	66	2
1995	396	5	58	2	44	1
1996	465	3	61	0	61	0
1997	415	3	56	2	41	0
1998	425	5	65	1	60	1
1999	447	6	72	2	54	0
2000	475	4	75	1	55	0
2001	439	4	80	0	47	0
2002	392	3	81	0	44	1
2003	413	3	81	1	44	0
2004	402	0	65	0	32	0
2005	373	2	64	1	41	0

[1] Includes all fatalities resulting from accidents involving a TWMV, which may include non TWMV road user fatalities.
[2] Includes all fatalities resulting from accidents involving a pedal cycle, which may include non-cyclist road user fatalities.

Road Traffic Offences

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what powers are available to order an individual convicted of a road traffic offence to undergo treatment to overcome sleep deprivation symptoms. [84163]

Dr. Ladyman: There are no such specific powers. However, section 94(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988 requires any person diagnosed with any condition that may make them unfit to drive, including sleep-related disorders and irrespective of whether they have been convicted of an offence, to inform the DVLA. Section 22 of The Road Traffic Offenders Act also places an obligation on the court to notify DVLA, if in any proceedings for a motoring offence it appears that the accused may be suffering from a medical condition that affects his ability to drive.

On notification, an assessment will be made of the person's fitness to continue to hold a driving licence. As part of the supporting information needed to retain or reinstate a licence, evidence of symptom improvement (usually as the result of treatment) is required.

Transport Projects (South West)

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much money was made available for transport-related projects in the South West in 2005-06. [82124]

Gillian Merron: Figures for the total identifiable planned public expenditure (current and capital) for the South West region on transport in 2005-06 are contained in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2006, published on the Treasury website (hm-treasury.gov.uk) and available in the House Library.

The document identifies a planned total of £541 million of capital public expenditure on transport for the South West region in 2005-06. It identifies a planned total of £515 million of current public expenditure on transport for the South West region in 2005-06.

TREASURY

Agricultural Support Sector

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of people employed in *(a)* farm machinery and *(b)* agricultural feed businesses; and if he will make a statement. [84614]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl dated 12 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your parliamentary question about employment in farm machinery and agriculture feed business. I am replying in her absence. (84614)

It is estimated from the 2004 annual business inquiry that in Great Britain there were8,000 employee jobs in the manufacture of agricultural machinery and 10,000 in the manufacture of feeds for farm animals.

As with any sample survey these estimates are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Allergies (Deaths)

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died from *(a)* nut allergies and *(b)* other allergies in each of the last five years. [84267]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl dated 12 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people died from (a) nut allergies and (b) other allergies in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (84267)

Figures on deaths from nut allergies in particular are not available as there is no single specific code in the ICD for nut allergies. Figures given in the attached table relate to deaths where one or more of the conditions mentioned on the death certificate was classified as allergic according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD). Conditions classified to ICD codes which cover both allergic and non-allergic conditions were excluded from this analysis. The latest year for which data are available is 2004.

Deaths where the underlying or one of the contributory causes of death was classified as an allergic reaction,[1] England and Wales, 2000 to 2004[2]

Calendar year	*Number of deaths*
2000[3]	50
2001	46
2002	43
2003	52
2004	79

[1] Causes of death were classified as allergic reactions for the year 2000 using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes
477.0—Allergic rhinitis due to pollen
477.8—Allergic rhinitis due to other allergen
477.9—Allergic rhinitis, cause unspecified
493.0—Extrinsic asthma
693—Dermatitis due to substances taken internally
995.0—Anaphylactic shock
995.3—Allergy, unspecified
999.4—Anaphylactic shock due to serum and for the years 2001 to 2004 using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes
J30.1—Allergic rhinitis due to pollen
J30.2—Other seasonal allergic rhinitis
J30.3—Other allergic rhinitis
J30.4—Allergic rhinitis, unspecified
J45.0—Predominately allergic asthma
L27—Dermatitis due to substances taken internally
T78.0—Anaphylactic shock due to adverse food reaction
T78.1—Other adverse food reactions, not elsewhere specified
T78.2—Anaphylactic shock, unspecified
T78.4—Allergy unspecified
T80.5—Anaphylactic shock due to serum
T88.6—Anaphylactic shock due to adverse effect of correct drug or medicament properly administered.
[2] Figures are based on deaths occurring each calendar year.
[3] The introduction of ICD-10 for coding cause of death in 2001 means that data for allergic reactions may not be completely comparable with data for years before this date. The data should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Bacteria-related Deaths

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths were recorded where *(a)* clostridium difficile associated disease, *(b)* MRSA, *(c)* vancomycin resistant enterocci, *(d)* multi-resistant acinetobacter spp and *(e)* penicillin resistant streptococcus pneumoniae was mentioned on the death certificate in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by deaths recorded in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas; and in how many cases it was also the underlying cause of death. [84626]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl dated 12 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths have been recorded where (a) clostridium difficile associated disease, (b) MRSA, (c) vancomycin resistant enterococci, (d) multi-resistant streptococcus pneumoniae was mentioned on the death certificate in the last year for which figures are available; broken down by deaths recorded in (i) rural and (ii) non rural areas; and in how many cases it was also the underlying cause. I am replying in her absence. (84262)

A breakdown of the figures requested by rural and non-rural area is not available. However, an answer to an almost identical question in respect of the whole of England and Wales from Mr. Paul Burstow MP, was published in the Official Report, No. 176, page 828W.

Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of his Department; what commitment he has made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81051]

John Healey: The carbon footprint of the Treasury building at 1 Horse Guards road has been estimated by the Carbon Trust. Subsequent investment has been made in building management systems designed to deliver significant annual savings in carbon dioxide in line with their recommendations.

Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Financial Secretary to provide a substantive response to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay, dated 2 February 2006, regarding his constituent, Mr. Scoot. [84711]

John Healey: I replied to the hon. Member on the 27 February confirming that the issues raised by his constituent were being actively looked at. The rules of taxpayer confidentiality preclude any further comment on the issues raised by the correspondence.

Counterfeit Tobacco

Mr. Breed: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of under-age smokers purchasing smuggled and counterfeit tobacco products. [84087]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs current estimate of the share of illicit tobacco is published in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses" which is available on their website at www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2005/mitl2005.pdf

However HM Revenue and Customs have made no estimate of the number or proportion of smokers who are under age and purchase smuggled and counterfeit tobacco.

Drug and Alcohol-related Deaths

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged 16 to 24 years died as a result of accidental (i) drug and (ii) alcohol misuse, excluding suicide in each year since 1990. [84664]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl dated 12 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) males and (b) females aged 16 to 24 years died as a result of accidental (i) drug and (ii) alcohol misuse, excluding suicide in each year since 1990. I am replying in her absence. (84664).

Available figures relate to the number of deaths from accidental drug-related and alcohol-related poisoning. The most recent year for which figures are available is 2004. The table shows the number of deaths in males and females aged 16-24 years for which the underlying cause was accidental poisoning from drugs or alcohol, for the years 1990 to 2004.

Deaths from accidental poisoning by drugs[1] or alcohol[2] by sex aged 16 to 24, England and Wales, 1990 to 2004[3,4]

	Accidental drug-related poisoning		Accidental poisoning by exposure to alcohol	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1990	45	16	6	1
1991	58	26	3	2
1992	74	18	2	0
1993	107	27	7	3
1994	125	34	1	0
1995	134	32	6	0
1996	130	31	3	1
1997	152	27	8	0
1998	108	38	7	0
1999	95	24	4	0
2000	91	32	7	0
2001	103	27	10	1
2002	80	24	2	1
2003	55	25	7	2
2004	67	26	3	0

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E850-E858 for the years 1990 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X40-X44 from 2001 onwards.

[2] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E860for the years 1990 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X454 from 2001 onwards.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year from 1990 to 1992 and for deaths occurring in each calendar year from 1993 onwards.

[4] Where both drug and alcohol poisoning are mentioned on the death certificate, international coding rules state that the death should be coded to the drug.

Electricity Transmission

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects of the climate change levy on levels of carbon dioxide emissions attributable to electricity transmission and distribution losses; and if he will make a statement. [84530]

John Healey: No direct assessment has been made of the effect of CCL on electricity transmission and distribution losses. However, the review of CCL by Cambridge Econometrics (published at Budget 2005) concluded that the levy is effective and should save over 3.5 million tonnes of carbon per annum by 2010, which includes savings from electricity generation and distribution (although the latter is not identified separately).

Global Economic Growth

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his G8 colleagues on prospects for global economic growth. [83635]

Ed Balls: The Chancellor recently met his G8 colleagues at the pre-G8 Summit Finance Ministers meeting in St. Petersburg 9-10 June 2006. Ministers judged that global growth remains strong, although downside risks from high and volatile energy prices and widening global imbalances remain. They reiterated their commitment to addressing global imbalances and underlined that global economic adjustment is a shared responsibility. They further recognised the importance for global growth of an ambitious outcome from the Doha Development Round and committed to fighting protectionism.

Life Expectancy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average life expectancy is for *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* all people in each primary care trust area. [84021]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 12 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the average life expectancy is for (a) men, (b) women and (c) all people in each primary care trust area. I am replying in her absence. (84021)

The most recently available figures for primary care trusts on life expectancy at birth are for 2001-2003 and are provided in the attached table, copies of which are being placed in the House of Commons Library.

Light Bulbs

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many light bulbs there are in his Department; and how many are energy efficient. [83511]

John Healey: The lighting system in the Treasury building at 1 Horse Guards road uses low energy fluorescent tubes. There are some 200 light bulbs used in the heritage lighting fittings, all of which are energy efficient.

Melanoma

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many patients were diagnosed with melanoma in each of the last 10 years. [84095]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 12 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many patients were diagnosed with melanoma in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. [84095]

The latest available figures for the incidence of melanoma skin cancer are for the year 2003. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of cancer for 1994 for England and Wales, and from 1995 to 2003 for England, are available in Table 1 of the annual reference volumes, Cancer statistics: Registrations, Series MB1. These are available on the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=224

Mesothelioma

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the House of Lords judgment in the case of Barker *v.* Corus UK Ltd. on future plans for public expenditure in respect of compensation payments for those suffering from mesothelioma. [75767]

Mr. Timms: Mesothelioma cancer is a terrible disease that afflicts many families in this country. The disease can manifest many years after exposure, and once diagnosed the individual's condition can rapidly deteriorate. In acknowledging the acute distress that this disease places upon families, the Government recognise the need for compensation to be paid in a timely manner.

In light of this the Government have been examining the implications for all those affected by the recent Law Lords ruling. The Prime Minister announced on 21 June that we have decided to amend the Compensation Bill. Officials in DCA are working at this moment to develop the right clause for the Bill.

National Minimum Wage

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged *(a)* over 22, *(b)* 18 to 21 and *(c)* under 18 years received the national minimum wage in (i) Thameside metropolitan borough, (ii) Stockport metropolitan borough and (iii) Denton and Reddish constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [84082]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 12 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to ask how many people aged (a) 22 years and over, (b) 18 to 21 years and (c) under 18 years are receiving the minimum wage in (i) Tameside metropolitan borough, (ii) Stockport metropolitan borough and (iii) Denton and Reddish constituency in the most recent period available. I am replying in her absence. (84082)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the minimum wage for Parliamentary Constituencies and Local Authorities are not available. However the Office for National Statistics calculates estimates of the number of jobs paid less than national minimum wage rates for the United Kingdom and Government Office Regions. A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles and data can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837&Pos=1&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Nuclear Deterrent

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to allocate funding additional to the current defence budget to meet the cost of a new generation of the nuclear deterrent. [82376]

Mr. Timms: Decisions on departmental funding beyond 2007-08 will be made in the CSR and published in summer 2007.

Official Residences

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the official residences for which his Department is responsible; who occupies each one; what the annual cost is of running each property; what contribution the occupants of each make towards running costs; what the total capital and refurbishment expenditure was on those properties in 2004-05; how much was spent in each property on *(a)* flowers and plants, *(b)* wine and entertaining, *(c)* food, *(d)* telephone bills and *(e)* electricity and gas in 2004-05; how many (i) domestic and (ii) maintenance staff are employed at each property, broken down by post; and what the total cost of staff employment was in 2004-05. [50880]

Ed Balls: The Treasury is responsible for the upkeep of No. 11 Downing street and for the flat at No. 10 Downing street. No notable capital and refurbishment expenses were incurred in 2004-05. Electricity is estimated at £3,153, gas at £532 and water at £410.

The share of overall security costs is £26,204 and of maintenance is £14,773.

Information on the Treasury's expenditure on official entertainment for 2004-05, the year in which Britain held the G8 Presidency, was given to the hon. Member by my colleague, the Under-Secretary of State for Health,
the hon. Member for Bury, South (Mr. Lewis) on 14 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1834. Further analysis in relation to food, alcohol, staff and accommodation could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on official entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles set out in "Government Accounting".

Telephone calls are included as part of the overall Downing street exchange.

Cleaning staff are part of the whole Downing street complex. There is one member of staff allocated to managing No.11 Downing street.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will answer Question 50880 tabled by the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire on 7 February 2006, on official residences. [83032]

Ed Balls: I have done so.

Oil Prices

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what oil price his Department predicts for each of the next 10 years. [84271]

John Healey: The Treasury does not make detailed predictions of future prices. In projecting the public finances, the Treasury adopts an oil price assumption based on the average of independent forecasts, which is set out in PBR and Budget documents. This assumption was audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General in December 2005, when he concluded that:

"There is no clearly better method available for use in the future, though large uncertainties in predicted oil prices remain"

(http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/F5D/46/pbr05_nao_508.pdf).

Personal Debt

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total amount of personal debt was in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Stockport metropolitan borough, *(c)* Tameside metropolitan borough and *(d)* Denton and Reddish constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [84083]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 12 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on what the total amount of personal debt was in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Stockport metropolitan borough, *(c)* Tameside metropolitan borough and *(d)* Denton and Reddish constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (84083)

We are unable to provide levels of personal debt by region.

The total amount of personal debt in the UK in 2005 (end-year) is £1,275,740 million.

The estimate for total personal debt is a national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sectors. Estimates for households alone are not available. NPISHs are legal entities which are principally engaged in the production of non-market services for households and whose main resources are voluntary contributions by households. For example, charities; relief and aid organisations; educational establishments; trade unions, professional associations, political parties and religious organisations, and sports clubs and associations.

Further data are available from table A64 in United Kingdom Economic Accounts which is available at the following address:

Note: When using Table 64 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts (web link given below) the database identifier is NNPP

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

Research and Development Tax Credits

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies have been investigated for fraud in the claiming of *(a)* research and development tax credits and *(b)* vaccines research relief since their inception; how many were found to be claiming fraudulently in each case; and if he will make a statement. [82155]

John Healey: Information regarding the underlying reasons for individual investigations and penalties is held locally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Published in December 2005, "Supporting growth in innovation: next steps for the R and D credit" announced that HMRC will set up specialist R and D units, which will develop expertise to ensure a more consistent handling of claims, together with an effective focus on non-compliance.

Stamp Duty

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were calculated as being liable for payment of stamp duty in 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [83648]

Ed Balls: There were estimated to be 930,000 UK residential transactions in 2005-06 where the price was above the normal stamp duty threshold of £120,000. The number of transactions where stamp duty was payable will be lower due to the use of reliefs, e.g. disadvantaged area relief.

Unemployment

Rosemary McKenna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were unemployed in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East *(a)* in each year since 1997 and *(b)* in the latest period for which figures are available. [83826]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 12 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about unemployment. I am replying in her absence. (83826)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of unemployed persons, aged 16 and over, resident in the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East Parliamentary Constituency for the 12 months ending February 2004, from the annual local area LFS, and for the 12-month periods ending in December from 2004 to 2005, from the APS. Data are not available for earlier years for the Scottish constituencies introduced in May 2005.

These estimates, as with any from sample surveys, are subject to a margin of uncertainty. Changes in the estimates from year to year should be treated with particular caution.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (ISA). The only available figures for the new Scottish constituencies on an annual average basis are for 2005 when there were 1,347 claimants of ISA resident in the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East Parliamentary Constituency. Table 2 shows the figures for this constituency on a single month basis for May 2004 to 2006.

Table 1: Number of unemployed resident in the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East parliamentary constituency.

12 months ending	*Thousands Level*
February 2004	2
December 2004	2
December 2005	3

Notes:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Changes in the estimates from year to year should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey

Table 2: Number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance resident in the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East parliamentary constituency.

May	*Level*
2004	1,471
2005	1,352
2006	1,477

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative system

VAT Exemptions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether special VAT exemptions have been allowed to any non-profit-making organisations not registered as a charity in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [83967]

Dawn Primarolo: The VAT rules contain a range of exemptions and other reliefs for charities and non-profit making organisations, including those bodies not registered with the appropriate charity regulators and registrars.

Wages

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* mean, and *(b)* median wage in (i) rural areas and (ii) non-rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [84617]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 12 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question to ask what the most recent estimate is of the (a) mean and (b) median wage in (i) rural and (ii) non rural areas. I am replying in her absence.

Average earnings by rural and non rural classifications are at present not available. New geographical methodologies mean, however, that following the publication of 2006 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) results in October 2006 such analysis may be possible. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) will be considering this further in the autumn of 2006.

ONS does have analysis by Local Authority and Parliamentary Constituency published on the internet at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=13101

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Care Apprenticeships

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Minister for Animal Welfare will reply to the letters of 12 April 2006 and 1 June 2006 from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on animal care apprenticeships. [83537]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* I apologise for the long delay. A reply was sent on 28 June 2006.

Asda

Mr. Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date meetings have taken place between the Department and representatives of Asda, including Asda's parent company Wal-Mart, in the last 12 months; and if she will list the participants. [59959]

Barry Gardiner: Pursuant to the answer given to the hon. Member on 24 April, *Official Report*, Column 813w, the answer stated that a meeting was held on 11 November 2005. Due to an administrative error this was incorrect. The date should have read 8 November 2005. The rest of the answer remains correct and is detailed in full in the following paragraph.

Because of the very wide range of goods and outlets involved, the retail sector is affected by more regulations than any other sector. Consequently, major retailers will have regular contact with many departments and may also be involved in working and consultative groups. To list every meeting would involve disproportionate cost, so the following information relates to key meetings only. In the last 12 months, meetings between Defra officials and Asda/Wal-Mart took place on: 22 July 2005; 11 November 2005; 11 February 2006; and 3 March 2006. In addition, a meeting with DEFRA Ministers took place on 8 December 2005. Data privacy legislation makes it inappropriate to list participants in those meetings.

Avian Influenza

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the potential threat of H5N1 avian influenza to the British agriculture industry. [84612]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department regularly carries out qualitative risk assessments of the potential threat of H5N1 avian influenza to the UK. These assessments are published on the Defra website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/monitoring/riskassess.htm.

Defra has robust disease control plans and instructions to address an avian influenza epidemic in birds. These are set out in our Exotic Animal Disease Generic Contingency Plan, which is available on the Defra website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/avianinfluenza-contplan.htm

These plans and procedures were tested recently during the national avian influenza exercise, Exercise Hawthorn, and used effectively to deal with the incident of H5N1 in Cellardyke and the outbreak of H7N3 in Norfolk.

Brixham Fish Market

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what decision was taken by his Department within the panel meeting on 25 May 2006 in relation to Torbay council's application for public funds for Brixham Fish Market; and what estimate he has made of the percentage of the total cost of the project the proposed funding from his Department would constitute. [83536]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* Torbay council's application for public funds for Brixham Fish Market was approved in principle, at the panel meeting on the 25 May 2006, and has subsequently been finalised as noted in my answer to the hon. Gentlemen's previous question to me on this matter.

The Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) funding granted for the project constitutes 29 per cent. of the overall cost of the project, based on current estimates from Torbay council.

Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of his Department; what commitment he has made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81060]

Ian Pearson: Government departments submit data on their carbon emissions for annual Sustainable Development in Government Reports. The last report published by the Sustainable Development Commission in December 2005, covering the reporting period April 2004 to March 2005, is available at: http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/watchdog

DEFRA reported a 3 per cent. increase in absolute carbon emissions since 1999-2000, against a target of a 12.5 per cent. reduction by 2010-11 for central Government departments. It should be noted that due to machinery of government changes, the area occupied by the Department and its Executive Agencies increased by almost 9 per cent. during this period.

On 12 June 2006, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced new sustainable operations targets for the Government Estate, replacing those in place since 2004. They focus on key areas such as carbon neutrality and emissions, energy efficiency, waste and water consumption.

They require all central Government departments to: reverse the current upward trend in carbon emissions by April 2007; reduce carbon emissions by 12.5 per cent. by 2010-11, (relative to 1999-2000 levels); reduce carbon emissions by 30 per cent. by 2020; have a carbon neutral office estate by 2012; and reduce carbon emissions from road vehicles used for Government administrative operations by 15 per cent. by 2010-11, (relative to 2005-06 levels).

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 there have been for *(a)* crime and disorder, *(b)* fixed penalty notices, *(c)* nuisance and abandoned vehicles, *(d)* litter, *(e)* graffiti and fly-posting, *(f)* waste, *(g)* dogs and *(h)* noise in (i) each local authority and (ii) each police authority, broken down by basic command unit in each region of England and Wales since the introduction of the powers. [83764]

Mr. Bradshaw: Prosecutions cannot be brought under Part 1 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (CNEA) (Crime and Disorder).

The number of prosecutions for littering offences in relation to antisocial behaviour, and the number of penalty notices for disorder issued for littering offences, are shown in the following tables.

The measures involving prosecutions under the CNEA or the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (EPA) (as amended by the CNEA) on fixed penalty notices, graffiti and fly posting, waste, dogs, and noise were not commenced until 6 April 2006. Therefore, comprehensive figures for prosecutions under these sections will not be available until 2007. Similarly, figures relating to prosecutions pursued for nuisance parking offences under Sections 3 and 4 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act are not available until the autumn.

From 6 June 2005, Section 18 of the CNEA extended the offence of littering under Section 87 of the EPA to all open spaces. However, data on prosecutions under Section 87 will not include the specifics of the offence, for example, if the case was being brought for the offence of littering in a watercourse.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for littering offences related to antisocial behaviour, by police force area, England and Wales, 2003 and 2004[1]

Police force area	Depositing litter[2] 2003	2004
Avon and Somerset	5	4
Bedfordshire	2	4
Cambridgeshire	5	1
Cheshire	2	4
Cleveland	8	4
Cumbria	32	39
Derbyshire	1	5
Devon and Cornwall	9	25
Dorset	2	—
Durham	4	5
Essex	9	28
Gloucestershire	1	3
Greater Manchester	17	129
Hampshire	18	15
Hertfordshire	6	16
Humberside	4	3
Kent	6	12
Lancashire	11	13
Leicestershire	18	20
Lincolnshire	1	2
Merseyside	6	59
Metropolitan police	107	174
Norfolk	5	4
North Yorkshire	5	9
Northamptonshire	2	1
Northumbria	69	90
Nottinghamshire	7	10
South Yorkshire	26	43
Staffordshire	5	10
Suffolk	5	2
Surrey	2	3
Sussex	2	2
Thames Valley	5	1
Warwickshire	2	2
West Mercia	10	14
West Midlands	21	20
West Yorkshire	10	49
Wiltshire	4	1
Dyfed-Powys	5	2
Gwent	26	34
North Wales	3	7
South Wales	63	39
England and Wales	551	908

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Offence under Environmental Protection Act 1990 S.87
Notes:
Offence under Environmental Protection Act 1990 Sec.33(6)
Offence under Noise Act 1996
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued in November-December 2004, and provisional data for 2005 for littering by police force area

Police force area	2004 (November and December)	[1]2005
Avon and Somerset	—	6
Bedfordshire	—	—
Cambridgeshire	2	3
Cheshire	—	8
Cleveland	—	2

Number of Penalty Notices for Disorder issued in November-December 2004, and provisional data for 2005 for littering by police force area

Police force area	2004 (November and December)	[1]2005
Cumbria	—	—
Derbyshire	1	10
Devon and Cornwall	2	24
Dorset	—	7
Durham	—	—
Essex	3	27
Gloucestershire	—	2
Greater Manchester	1	18
Hampshire	7	27
Hertfordshire	—	10
Humberside	2	6
Kent	1	17
Lancashire	5	61
Leicestershire	—	7
Lincolnshire	—	8
London, City of	—	—
Merseyside	3	116
Metropolitan	7	94
Norfolk	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—
Northamptonshire	—	11
Northumbria	2	25
Nottinghamshire	3	22
South Yorkshire	3	35
Staffordshire	1	11
Suffolk	—	2
Surrey	—	—
Sussex	—	4
Thames Valley	1	16
Warwickshire	1	5
West Mercia	—	21
West Midlands	—	12
West Yorkshire	3	24
Wiltshire	—	3
Dyfed Powys	—	3
Gwent	—	4
North Wales	3	8
South Wales	—	8
England and Wales	51	706

[1] Provisional
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Cypermethrin

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of cypermethrin; [83788]

(2) what the reasons are for the delay in banning cypermethrin; [83789]

(3) when he expects all existing on-farm stocks of cypermethrin to be exhausted; [83790]

(4) what assessment he has made of the environmental impact of not implementing an immediate ban on cypermethrin. [83792]

Mr. Bradshaw: The environmental fate and effects of cypermethrin have been known for many years. A

comprehensive monograph on the subject has been published by the World Heath Organisation under the auspices of the International Programme on Chemical Safety: Environmental Heath Criteria 82, Cypermethrin, WHO, Geneva 1989.

The impact assessments for the cypermethrin sheep dip products were performed in accordance with the legislation pertaining at the time of approval of the marketing authorisations. In order to gain approval of the marketing authorisation the applications would have had to meet the required standards of quality, safety and efficacy. Environmental impact is only one part of the overall risk/benefit balance for an individual product.

Cypermethrin-based sheep dip products are important for the control of sheep scab, blow fly strike and a number of other ectoparasites, all of which have serious welfare implications for affected animals. Therefore, the suspension was made on a precautionary basis. Before the future of these products can be considered, the veterinary medicines directorate needs to receive and assess further information on the environmental risks presented by their use and how these can be managed. The Marketing Authorisation Holders have been asked to provide such information.

Additionally, the VMD and the Environment Agency have commissioned an R and D project on environmental exposure to cypermethrin released to the farmyard and the impact of recently dipped sheep crossing watercourses. The results of this project should be available by the end of the summer and will be included in the assessments.

The existing stocks of the cypermethrin sheep dip products would have been the remnant of the products made for the 2005 dipping season. Therefore, the likelihood is that these will be used during the 2006 dipping season.

We have been working with farming groups to produce further information for farmers on the risks of environmental pollution from the use of cypermethrin sheep dips and the need to use the products carefully to avoid any pollution. The VMD, EA and SEPA have produced a public notice that is on their websites and will be made available to farmers through NFUs and agricultural merchants.

The EA continues to monitor for sheep dip pollution using the same approach that has detected and reported previous incidents. In addition, further investigative monitoring for sheep dip pollution will also be undertaken by the Environment Agency during 2006. This will provide a detailed picture of levels of pollution across England and Wales and highlight any misuse of existing stocks of cypermethrin sheep dip products.

Diseases of Fish (Control) Regulations

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department on changes to the Diseases of Fish (Control) Regulations 1994; [83384]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department on *(a)* mitigation measures and *(b)* compensation in relation to aquaculture industries in circumstances where compulsory slaughter is ordered following an outbreak of a List 2 disease. [83385]

Mr. Bradshaw: Following the recent outbreak of viral haemorrhagic septicaemia on a trout farm in the River Ouse catchment area, officials from my Department are holding regular discussions with their counterparts in the Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department on a range of matters relating to the control of the disease, including the application of risk mitigation measures.

The discussions have included consideration of changes that may be necessary to the Diseases of Fish (Control) Regulations 1994 (as amended), in the light of experience gained from dealing with the current outbreak. The discussions have also confirmed the Department's policy of not compensating for the compulsory slaughter of fish due to a serious disease outbreak.

Farmers (Retraining)

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been allocated to Suffolk in each of the past five years for retraining of farmers. [82728]

Barry Gardiner: The principal mechanism for funding the retraining of farmers is the Vocational Training Scheme (VTS), set up as part of the England Rural Development Programme and administered by DEFRA's Rural Development Service. Under this scheme, applications are accepted from either training organisers, or eligible individuals.

VTS funding has been awarded to projects focusing on general transferable business skills, diversification opportunities, or skills development related to specific farming activities, in order to maximise returns. The information given in the following table shows the money awarded by year to VTS projects sited in the county of Suffolk.

	VTS (£)
2001	120,00
2002	0
2003	131,000
2004	19,072
2005	1,013
2006	0

However, a significant amount of VTS funding has been awarded to projects not based in Suffolk, but from which Suffolk's farmers have still benefited. Also, the figures above do not take account of National VTS projects, funded from the National budget, which may have included some Suffolk-based beneficiaries.

Flooding

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received about the membership of the West Midlands Regional Flood Defence Committee; and if he will appoint a member who will represent Shropshire only. [82800]

Ian Pearson: The Severn Trent Regional Flood Defence Committee, which covers the Midlands Region of the Environment Agency, comprises a Chair and seven members appointed by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; two members appointed by the Environment Agency; and 11 members appointed by county and unitary councils in the area of the Committee.

I have received no recent representations about membership of the Committee. In making appointments to the Committee my right hon. Friend has regard more to the experience and skills of prospective members than their geographical location. However, one of the DEFRA appointed members does live in Shropshire. Also, we recently advertised a number of DEFRA member vacancies in the Shropshire Star newspaper.

With regard to council appointees, the Committee's area encompasses 32 local authorities and clearly not all can be represented individually if we are to keep the Committee to a manageable size. We have therefore made provision for membership to be shared between some councils; one seat is shared between Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and Worcestershire.

The arrangement for sharing of seats was based on advice from the Committee themselves on the best strategic alliances and representation based on population and properties at risk from flooding. Within those groupings, councils will agree between themselves who should provide the Committee member at any one time and clearly we would expect that person to ensure that they properly represent issues of concern to the other councils.

Hydro Electricity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which organisation undertook the technical assessment of the hydro-electric potential of the River Cam on the Littlecombe site in Dursley; how the decision that hydro-electric power from this source was not a viable proposition was communicated to the Environment Agency; and what the basis was for this conclusion. [81084]

Ian Pearson: An agent acting on behalf of the owner of the site undertook the technical assessment.

The Environment Agency does not know how the decision was taken. They have not received any technical assessment or report relating to this site. At a meeting to discuss the development proposals, an Environment Agency officer was informed by the agent that the joint planning applicants for this site, St. Modwens Developments Limited and the South West of England Regional Development Agency, will not be proceeding with any hydro-electric power scheme. They did not give a reason for this.

Meat Imports

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much beef was imported into the UK from Brazil in *(a)* May, *(b)* June, *(c)* July and *(d)* August of each year since 2000. [82899]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows imports of beef and beef products into the UK from Brazil for the months May to August for the years 2000 to 2005.

	Beef product		*Beef (frozen)*		*Beef (fresh or chilled)*	
	Tonnes	*£000*	*Tonnes*	*£000*	*Tonnes*	*£000*
2000						
May	4,567	5,433	1,922	2,713	467	1,497
June	4,425	5,839	3,188	4,199	582	1,941
July	4,990	6,517	1,090	1,661	367	1,006
August	4,590	6,521	1,584	2,220	560	1,602
2001						
May	4,554	6,185	1,205	1,534	166	484
June	4,388	6,193	978	1,186	80	206
July	4,139	5,735	1,320	1,813	348	833
August	4,795	6,643	1,646	2,109	927	2,085
2002						
May	4,871	6,260	857	1,096	657	1,586
June	4,434	5,753	1,076	1,366	501	1,108
July	4,147	5,345	730	1,086	634	1,363
August	4,358	5,166	1,039	1,231	540	1,146
2003						
May	5,005	4,993	2,557	2,496	1,191	2,424
June	3,878	4,180	1,592	1,734	1,275	2,429
July	4,965	4,856	802	827	1,196	2,789
August	4,520	5,038	1,549	1,706	956	2,736
2004						
May	4,201	4,987	1,875	2,312	1,202	3,414
June	3,071	3,878	2,434	3,157	1,796	4,894
July	4,615	5,710	1,842	2,310	1,631	4,033
August	5,452	6,702	1,965	2,524	1,879	4,408
2005						
May	3,699	4,580	2,279	2,817	1,625	4,289
June	4,466	5,956	2,424	3,313	1,672	4,618
July	4,177	6,053	988	1,375	1,524	3,643
August	6,306	9,391	832	1,345	1,602	3,571

Source:
H M Revenue and Customs Data prepared by Trade statistics, Agricultural Statistics and Analysis Division, DEFRA 2005 data is subject to amendments

Plastic Bags

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the environmental impact of disposable plastic bags; and what support he is giving to research into bio-degradable alternatives. [81156]

Mr. Bradshaw: Plastic carrier bags make up 0.3 per cent. of the domestic waste stream and between 0.1 per cent. and 1 per cent. of visible litter. These figures are derived from municipal waste statistics and a visible litter survey conducted by INCPEN in 2004.

The Environment Agency is currently carrying out a study to consider the environmental impacts of a range of carrier bags (including disposable plastic carrier bags and bio-degradable alternatives) over their entire life-cycle, from raw material extraction through to product manufacture, use and final disposal. The study is due to report by the end of 2006.

The National Non-Food Crops Centre has also started work on Life Cycle Analysis comparison of plastic, oxodegradable and biodegradable bags, which will be available by March 2007. They have established a Thematic Working Group on Biopolymers which aims to promote and facilitate the expansion of this sector. Biopolymers are derived from renewable sources and can be used in a range of products including bags, which helps to develop a sustainable supply chain.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on the environment of the *(a)* production and *(b)* use of plastic bags; and if he will make a statement. [82363]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* Plastic carrier bags make up 0.3 per cent. of the domestic waste stream and between 0.1 per cent. and 1 per cent. of visible litter. These figures are derived from municipal waste statistics and a visible litter survey conducted by the Industry Council for Packaging and the Environment (INCPEN) in 2004.

DEFRA is working closely with the Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) and the industry to promote re-usable bags and encourage other sustainable schemes that will reduce the number of plastic bags produced and discarded.

The Environment Agency is currently carrying out a study to consider the environmental impacts of a range of carrier bags (including disposable plastic carrier bags and bio-degradable alternatives) over their entire life-cycle, from raw material extraction through to product manufacture, use and final disposal. The study is due to report by the end of 2006.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with supermarkets about the production and use of plastic bags; and if he will make a statement; [82364]

(2) what steps he is taking *(a)* to reduce the production and use of and *(b)* to encourage the recycling of plastic bags; and if he will make a statement; [82365]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Executive have asked the Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) to carry out research on voluntary ways of reducing the number of free carrier bags taken by consumers from shops and supermarkets.

WRAP has recently conducted a pilot "Choose to Reuse" campaign to encourage consumers to reuse bags, whether they choose to purchase a "Bag for Life" made available through retailer schemes, or to bring their own bag with them each time they shop. The campaign was set up with a particular emphasis on supermarket shopping since the vast majority of disposable free carrier bags are dispensed from these stores, and the frequency of visits enabled a more focused campaign with the aim of having the greatest impact on the consumer.

The pilots took place in two areas—Edinburgh and Bristol—running from mid-September until the end of November 2005. Retailers were invited to join in the campaign by WRAP and also encouraged by the British Retail Consortium, Scottish Retail Consortium and the Scottish Executive (in Edinburgh). The supermarket chains that decided to take part included ASDA, Tesco, Somerfield, Co-op, Scotmid and Waitrose.

The results will be published soon, and we will then look at how this work can be developed further.

Research Centre Closures

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to be able to respond to the letter of 30 January 2006 to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office on proposals to close research centres under the Science and Innovation Strategy 2005 to 2008 which was subsequently transferred to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in his Department in April 2006. [82677]

Mr. Bradshaw: I apologise for the delay in replying to the hon. Member's letter. A response will be issued shortly.

Rural Enterprise Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the Rural Enterprise scheme programme was ended; and how many applications were outstanding at that date, including those to which funding had been committed. [79686]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Enterprise scheme (RES) closed to new applications on Friday 30 June 2006.

As of 6 July 2006, and across the whole country, some 641 applications for funding were undergoing validity and eligibility checks and technical assessment, or had completed those stages and were awaiting the next regional appraisal panel for them to be considered for funding.

Not all of these applications will ultimately be eligible for funding, and of those that are, Rural Development Service staff will have to consider which best meet the criteria of the scheme and offer best value for the limited funding that remains, in the context of regional priorities.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why Business Link was advertising the Rural Enterprise scheme after all the relevant funds had been committed. [80020]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Enterprise scheme (RES) closed to new applications on Friday 30 June 2006. All eligible applications received by DEFRA's Rural Development Service up till that date are now being considered for the remaining funding on their merits and in competition with other projects.

DEFRA officials will work with Business Link to ensure that information on the scheme is updated appropriately.

Single Farm Payments

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single farm payments *(a)* are outstanding and *(b)* have been made in each English region by the Rural Payments Agency; and if he will make a statement. [74636]

Barry Gardiner: The total number of Single Payment Scheme customers is approximately 120,000. As at 30 June, an estimated 8,500 claimants have yet to receive a payment. Approximately 460 currently have a claim value of more than €1,000.

Details of payments made in England up to 30 June 2006, including by constituency and county, will be published in due course.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people have yet to be paid any of their single farm payment; why the Rural Payments Agency computer was shut down between 27 May and 5 June; and for what reasons payments have yet to be made to eligible claimants. [77814]

Barry Gardiner: By close of business on 13 June 2006, 107,888 customers had received a full or partial payment. This means approximately 8,500 customers are yet to receive any payment. However, the vast majority of these claims are worth less than €1,000.

The computer system used by the Rural Payments Agency needed to be upgraded. This work was timed over the Bank Holiday weekend to minimise the impact on the business, but work carried on offline to continue processing and validation.

The reasons why customers have not received their payment yet vary widely between individuals but include customer registration issues, outstanding dual claims and Rural Land Register discrepancies.

Mr. Osten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers who have *(a)* valid claims, *(b)* part paid claims and *(c)* queried claims have yet to receive their full single farm payment. [77653]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 15 June 2006]:* The Rural Payments Agency is responsible for the administration of the Single Payment Scheme. As of 4 July 2006, 24,723 of an estimated claim population of 116,474 had not received their 2005 scheme payment in full. Some 16,176 farmers had received a partial payment and are awaiting the balance payment. The vast majority of the remaining 24,723 claims still have queries to resolve.

Veterinary Surgeons

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to encourage recruitment of veterinary surgeons to large animal veterinary practices; and how this is incorporated into the Government's animal health strategy. [83270]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are working in partnership with the veterinary profession to ensure that we have a sustainable large animal veterinary sector, which is able to play a full and effective part in the implementation of the animal health and welfare strategy. There are a range of challenges facing large animal veterinary practice and many of these are principally for the veterinary profession to address. I therefore welcome the recent Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' (RCVS) symposium "Postcards from the Future", as a very helpful contribution to the ongoing dialogue.

We are training more veterinary surgeons than ever before and there is evidence that large animal work is still attractive to students. However, there are issues about the retention of newly qualified vets which were identified by research jointly funded by DEFRA and the RCVS. The RCVS's initiatives on professional development phase and practice standards are examples of steps taken by the profession to help ensure that farm animal veterinary work provides a challenging and rewarding career for new graduates.

We are also working with the profession to better understand the trends within large animal veterinary practice and contributed to the RCVS 2006 Manpower survey. This information will help establish a stronger evidence base which should help keep the profession informed on key issues like recruitment and retention.

Water Companies

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to bring all water companies back into public ownership; and if he will make a statement. [84286]

Ian Pearson: No. Since the English and Welsh water and sewerage companies were privatised in 1989 they have become much more efficient and have greatly improved our drinking water quality and the water environment.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

EU Legislation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Leader of the House what plans he has to improve the scrutiny of EU legislation. [83424]

Mr. Straw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1560W.

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [84006]

Mr. Straw: Since being appointed on 5 May 2006, I have made no official visits to the regions in my capacity as Leader of the House. However, as Chair of the Select Committee on Modernisation, I visited the National Assembly for Wales in Cardiff on 7 June, with other committee members, as part of the Committee's inquiry into the legislative process.

Parliamentary and Health Ombudsman

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Leader of the House if he will allocate a slot during oral question time for an hon. Member appointed to take questions on the work of the parliamentary and health ombudsman. [82978]

Mr. Straw: I have no plans to do so.

Issues relating to the work and the office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration can be raised with relevant departmental Ministers.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Leader of the House what the cost to the Government was of administering written questions to Ministers in 2005-06. [83824]

Mr. Straw: The cost of answering a written question as notified to the House by the former Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Timms) on 22 March 2005, *Official Report*, column 47WS, is £134.00.

The cost to Government of answering the total of 78,152 written questions (ordinary and named day) tabled from the start of the current session until 30 June 2006 is estimated to be £10,472,368. This sum does not include costs of printing and those of the House.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Foreign Language Courses

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research the Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the merits for students studying English language to be able to compare it with foreign languages. [82755]

Jim Knight: The Department is currently in the process of commissioning research which, through case studies, will assess the impact of modern foreign language learning on Key Stage 2 pupils over three years. This will include exploring whether language learning impacts on the attainment levels of other subjects such as English. The research is expected to report in the autumn 2009.

Free School Meals

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many secondary school pupils were eligible for free school meals in each local authority listed in ascending order in *(a)* the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* 1997; and what percentage of secondary school pupils took up free school meals in each year. [82664]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the following tables.

Maintained secondary schools: number and percentage of pupils by school meal arrangements. Position in January each year 1997 and 2006 (provisional). By local authority area. (In ascending order of the percentage of pupils who were known to be eligible for free school meals as at January 2006).

		1997				
		Number of day pupils[1]	*Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day*	*Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day*[2]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*[3]
	England[3]	3,036,990	381,240	12.6	552,900	18.2
420	Isles of Scilly	80	*	*	8	10.0
201	City of London	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
857	Rutland[4]	—	—	—	—	—
872	Wokingham[4]	—	—	—	—	—
868	Windsor and Maidenhead[4]	—	—	—	—	—
867	Bracknell Forest[4]	—	—	—	—	—
865	Wiltshire[4]	—	—	—	—	—
869	West Berkshire[4]	—	—	—	—	—
825	Buckinghamshire[4]	—	—	—	—	—
836	Poole[4]	—	—	—	—	—
855	Leicestershire[4]	—	—	—	—	—
815	North Yorkshire	36,975	2,044	5.5	2,666	7.2
835	Dorset[4]	—	—	—	—	—
938	West Sussex	40,295	2,511	6.2	3,657	9.1
936	Surrey	51,544	2,957	5.7	3,974	7.7
800	Bath and North East Somerset	11,483	896	7.8	1,165	10.1
925	Lincolnshire	39,801	3,080	7.7	4,304	10.8
919	Hertfordshire	70,682	5,072	7.2	6,570	9.3
916	Gloucestershire	34,961	2,781	8.0	3,471	9.9
850	Hampshire[4]	—	—	—	—	—

Maintained secondary schools: number and percentage of pupils by school meal arrangements. Position in January each year 1997 and 2006 (provisional). By local authority area. (In ascending order of the percentage of pupils who were known to be eligible for free school meals as at January 2006).

		1997				
		Number of day pupils[1]	*Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day*	*Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day*[2]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*[3]
937	Warwickshire	30,280	2,036	6.7	2,735	9.0
803	South Gloucestershire	15,216	1,075	7.1	1,628	10.7
928	Northamptonshire	45,934	4,637	10.1	6,294	13.7
893	Shropshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	20,789	1,315	6.3	1,968	9.5
877	Warrington[6]	—	—	—	—	—
319	Sutton	12,416	823	6.6	1,094	8.8
931	Oxfordshire	36,456	2,375	6.5	3,381	9.3
933	Somerset	28,442	2,276	8.0	2,904	10.2
314	Kingston upon Thames	8,184	599	7.3	783	9.6
860	Staffordshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
873	Cambridgeshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
885	Worcestershire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
875	Cheshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
878	Devon[6]	—	—	—	—	—
816	York	9,320	793	8.5	1,058	11.4
887	Medway[6]	—	—	—	—	—
884	Herefordshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
802	North Somerset	11,882	833	7.0	1,208	10.2
303	Bexley	15,317	1,389	9.1	2,164	14.1
886	Kent[6]	—	—	—	—	—
881	Essex[6]	—	—	—	—	—
935	Suffolk	49,607	4,588	9.2	6,668	13.4
866	Swindon[6]	—	—	—	—	—
830	Derbyshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
311	Havering	14,703	1,276	8.7	1,788	12.2
358	Trafford	13,225	1,987	15.0	2,886	21.8
908	Cornwall	29,798	3,663	12.3	4,901	16.4
820	Bedfordshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
305	Bromley	18,648	2,081	11.2	2,730	14.6
826	Milton Keynes[6]	—	—	—	—	—
929	Northumberland	29,988	3,252	10.8	4,163	13.9
926	Norfolk	41,131	3,134	7.6	4,484	10.9
845	East Sussex[6]	—	—	—	—	—
392	North Tyneside	14,369	2,048	14.3	2,850	19.8
909	Cumbria	32,289	3,203	9.9	4,387	13.6
334	Solihull	14,387	1,363	9.5	1,838	12.8
813	North Lincolnshire	10,398	1,183	11.4	1,613	15.5
891	Nottinghamshire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
837	Bournemouth[6]	—	—	—	—	—
879	Plymouth[6]	—	—	—	—	—
356	Stockport	15,677	1,813	11.6	2,618	16.7
882	Southend-on-Sea[6]	—	—	—	—	—
381	Calderdale	14,067	1,567	11.1	2,453	17.4
880	Torbay[6]	—	—	—	—	—
888	Lancashire[6]	—	—	—	—	—
351	Bury	11,100	1,232	11.1	1,700	15.3
870	Reading[6]	—	—	—	—	—
359	Wigan	19,984	2,467	12.3	3,544	17.7
883	Thurrock[6]	—	—	—	—	—
371	Doncaster	20,734	2,790	13.5	4,604	22.2
384	Wakefield	19,756	2,047	10.4	3,610	18.3
841	Darlington[6]	—	—	—	—	—
871	Slough[6]	—	—	—	—	—
394	Sunderland	19,199	2,401	12.5	4,936	25.7

Maintained secondary schools: number and percentage of pupils by school meal arrangements. Position in January each year 1997 and 2006 (provisional). By local authority area. (In ascending order of the percentage of pupils who were known to be eligible for free school meals as at January 2006).

		1997				
		Number of day pupils[1]	*Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day*	*Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day*[2]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*[3]
921	Isle of Wight	10,969	1,508	13.7	2,157	19.7
302	Barnet	19,783	2,568	13.0	3,188	16.1
851	Portsmouth[6]	—	—	—	—	—
332	Dudley	18,559	2,174	11.7	3,178	17.1
350	Bolton	17,798	2,175	12.2	3,393	19.1
846	Brighton and Hove[6]	—	—	—	—	—
343	Sefton	19,630	3,254	16.6	4,576	23.3
317	Redbridge	16,842	2,030	12.1	3,114	18.5
315	Merton	7,619	1,082	14.2	1,487	19.5
372	Rotherham	19,014	1,886	9.9	3,445	18.1
382	Kirklees	25,564	3,532	13.8	4,959	19.4
874	Peterborough[6]	—	—	—	—	—
808	Stockton-on-Tees	12,517	1,652	13.2	2,913	23.3
831	Derby[6]	—	—	—	—	—
373	Sheffield	27,447	3,893	14.2	7,117	25.9
840	Durham[6]	—	—	—	—	—
318	Richmond upon Thames	7,688	979	12.7	1,438	18.7
331	Coventry	19,738	2,533	12.8	4,273	21.6
894	Telford and Wrekin[6]	—	—	—	—	—
335	Walsall	20,078	2,788	13.9	4,543	22.6
342	St. Helens	11,873	1,699	14.3	2,263	19.1
390	Gateshead	11,745	1,651	14.1	2,731	23.3
852	Southampton[6]	—	—	—	—	—
357	Tameside	14,220	2,236	15.7	3,146	22.1
383	Leeds	44,423	5,631	12.7	8,698	19.6
812	North East Lincolnshire	11,185	1,659	14.8	2,346	21.0
312	Hillingdon	15,010	1,774	11.8	2,232	14.9
370	Barnsley	12,932	1,953	15.1	3,153	24.4
801	Bristol, City of	16,518	2,912	17.6	4,070	24.6
306	Croydon	15,481	2,669	17.2	3,522	22.8
876	Halton[6]	—	—	—	—	—
313	Hounslow	15,286	2,655	17.4	3,585	23.5
336	Wolverhampton	15,838	2,388	15.1	3,776	23.8
308	Enfield	18,959	2,532	13.4	4,092	21.6
890	Blackpool[6]	—	—	—	—	—
805	Hartlepool	6,176	1,157	18.7	1,919	31.1
353	Oldham	16,676	2,879	17.3	4,007	24.0
861	Stoke-on-Trent[6]	—	—	—	—	—
310	Harrow	8,304	1,070	12.9	1,464	17.6
807	Redcar and Cleveland	10,161	1,683	16.6	2,711	26.7
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	15,082	2,965	19.7	4,378	29.0
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	17,378	3,120	18.0	4,938	28.4
333	Sandwell	19,087	2,533	13.3	4,776	25.0
355	Salford	12,078	2,539	21.0	3,551	29.4
393	South Tyneside	9,724	1,760	18.1	2,657	27.3
856	Leicester[6]	—	—	—	—	—
304	Brent	13,565	2,845	21.0	3,459	25.5
344	Wirral	23,078	4,425	19.2	5,931	25.7
821	Luton[6]	—	—	—	—	—
889	Blackburn with Darwen[6]	—	—	—	—	—
380	Bradford	46,179	9,760	21.1	14,079	30.5
212	Wandsworth	9,280	2,512	27.1	3,388	36.5
354	Rochdale	13,168	2,677	20.3	3,612	27.4
307	Ealing	14,182	3,334	23.5	4,386	30.9
320	Waltham Forest	11,835	2,988	25.2	4,148	35.0

Maintained secondary schools: number and percentage of pupils by school meal arrangements. Position in January each year 1997 and 2006 (provisional). By local authority area. (In ascending order of the percentage of pupils who were known to be eligible for free school meals as at January 2006).

		1997				
		Number of day pupils[1]	Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day	Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day[2]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]
207	Kensington and Chelsea	3,313	961	29.0	1,350	40.7
209	Lewisham	10,857	3,135	28.9	4,519	41.6
203	Greenwich	13,644	3,505	25.7	5,447	39.9
892	Nottingham[6]	—	—	—	—	—
301	Barking and Dagenham	10,143	1,783	17.6	2,677	26.4
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	6,040	1,570	26.0	2,157	35.7
341	Liverpool	31,767	9,645	30.4	13,289	41.8
806	Middlesbrough	8,608	1,770	20.6	3,233	37.6
202	Camden	10,932	2,031	18.6	3,180	29.1
330	Birmingham	66,867	15,778	23.6	23,337	34.9
213	Westminster	7,657	2,045	26.7	3,349	43.7
340	Knowsley	9,670	3,528	36.5	5,271	54.5
309	Haringey	10,069	3,135	31.1	4,895	46.6
208	Lambeth	6,589	2,538	38.5	3,486	52.9
204	Hackney	7,347	3,126	42.5	4,289	58.4
316	Newham	15,655	4,118	26.3	6,478	41.4
352	Manchester	21,129	7,022	33.2	9,907	46.9
210	Southward	9,157	4,040	44.1	5,153	56.3
206	Islington	7,580	2,866	37.8	4,440	58.6
211	Tower Hamlets	13,060	3,713	28.4	8,555	65.5
902	Bedfordshire	46,378	5,843	12.6	8,408	18.1
903	Berkshire	49,565	3,930	7.9	4,702	9.5
904	Buckinghamshire	38,257	2,504	6.5	3,769	9.9
905	Cambridge	41,988	3,899	9.3	5,712	13.6
906	Cheshire	65,767	8,716	10.2	8,999	13.7
910	Derbyshire	58,849	5,894	10.0	8,288	14.1
911	Devon	62,022	6,379	10.3	7,939	12.8
912	Dorset	43,497	3,323	7.6	4,365	10.0
913	Durham	37,976	4,623	12.2	7,283	19.2
914	East Sussex	36,281	4,309	11.9	6,346	17.5
915	Essex	97,620	9,236	9.5	12,537	12.8
917	Hampshire	86,176	7,253	8.4	9,321	10.8
918	Hereford and Worcester	47,636	3,404	7.1	4,822	10.1
922	Kent	104,499	10,303	9.9	14,496	13.9
923	Lancashire	87,257	11,777	13.5	17,675	20.3
924	Leicestershire	61,748	5,783	9.4	7,850	12.7
930	Nottinghamshire	65,364	8,322	12.7	13,295	20.3
932	Shropshire	25,987	2,574	9.9	3,442	13.2
934	Staffordshire	71,712	6,344	8.8	9,638	13.4
939	Wiltshire	36,545	2,870	7.9	3,600	9.9

		2006 (provisional)				
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day	Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day[2]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]
	England[5]	3,310,030	328,640	9.9	448,610	13.6
420	Isles of Scilly	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
201	City of London	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
857	Rutland[6]	2,412	66	2.7	91	3.8
872	Wokingham[6]	10,854	372	3.4	483	4.4
868	Windsor and Maidenhead[6]	10,283	317	3.1	465	4.5
867	Bracknell Forest[6]	6,209	193	3.1	292	4.7
865	Wiltshire[6]	29,454	1,155	3.9	1,505	5.1

		2006 (provisional)				
		Number of pupils on roll[1]	*Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day*	*Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day*[2]	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*[3]
869	West Berkshire[6]	12,246	493	4.0	626	5.1
825	Buckinghamshire[6]	35,179	1,440	4.1	1,896	5.4
836	Poole[6]	8,696	401	4.6	485	5.6
855	Leicestershire[6]	46,797	2,073	4.4	2,629	5.6
815	North Yorkshire	41,915	1,744	4.2	2,454	5.9
835	Dorset[6]	30,229	1,280	4.2	1,784	5.9
938	West Sussex	45,883	2,035	4.4	2,769	6.0
936	Surrey	58,760	2,296	3.9	3,573	6.1
800	Bath and North East Somerset	12,625	589	4.7	789	6.2
925	Lincolnshire	48,456	2,241	4.6	3,099	6.4
919	Hertfordshire	80,324	4,473	5.6	5,244	6.5
916	Gloucestershire	40.736	2,160	5.3	2,667	6.5
850	Hampshire[6]	72,727	3,530	4.9	4,813	6.6
937	Warwickshire	34,321	1.614	4.7	2,284	6.7
803	South Gloucestershire	17,113	596	3.5	1,155	6.7
928	Northamptonshire	45,399	2.358	5.2	3,065	6.8
893	Shropshire[6]	18.108	882	4.9	1,304	7.2
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	23,563	1,103	4.7	1,704	7.2
877	Warrington[6]	14.048	788	5.6	1,042	7.4
319	Sutton	16,168	915	5.7	1.216	7.5
931	Oxfordshire	37,801	2,084	5.5	2.869	7.6
933	Somerset	33,154	1,874	5.7	2,529	7.6
314	Kingston upon Thames	9,586	591	6.2	735	7.7
860	Staffordshire[6]	60,948	3,366	5.5	4,777	7.8
873	Cambridgeshire[6]	32,765	1,894	5.8	2,624	8.0
885	Worcestershire[6]	40.883	2,415	5.9	3,289	8.0
875	Cheshire[6]	46.967	2,910	6.2	3,782	8.1
878	Devon[6]	43,435	2,526	5.8	3,516	8.1
816	York	10,228	572	5.6	833	8.1
887	Medway[6]	20,493	1,317	6.4	1,674	8.2
884	Herefordshire[6]	10,405	534	5.1	852	8.2
802	North Somerset	13,003	783	6.0	1,067	8.2
303	Bexley	18,400	1,008	5.5	1,513	8.2
886	Kent[6]	99,085	5,869	5.9	8,179	8.3
881	Essex[6]	91,140	5,841	6.4	7.595	8.3
935	Suffolk	54.201	3.300	6.1	4,774	8.8
866	Swindon[6]	11,630	776	6.7	1,041	9.0
830	Derbyshire[6]	50,968	3.423	6.7	4,714	9.2
311	Havering	16.597	1,083	6.5	1,538	9.3
358	Trafford	16,255	1,275	7.8	1,517	9.3
908	Cornwall	32,893	2.469	7.5	3,145	9.6
820	Bedfordshire[6]	37,703	2,515	6.7	3,628	9.6
305	Bromley	22,489	1,722	7.7	2,200	9.8
826	Milton Keynes[6]	15,105	1,342	8.9	1,507	10.0
929	Northumberland	29,978	2,585	8.6	3,009	10.0
926	Norfolk	46,938	3,248	6.9	4,725	10.1
845	East Sussex[6]	28,732	2,310	8.0	2,953	10.3
392	North Tyneside	13,665	1,047	7.7	1,468	10.7
909	Cumbria	35,676	2,768	7.8	3,916	11.0
334	Solihull	15,559	1,144	7.4	1,739	11.2
813	North Lincolnshire	10,777	873	8.1	1,220	11.3
891	Nottinghamshire[6]	55,028	3,937	7.2	6,248	11.4
837	Bournemouth[6]	9,901	827	8.4	1,134	11.5
879	Plymouth[6]	18,614	1.401	7.5	2,145	11.5
356	Stockport	16.364	1.296	7.9	1,919	11.7
882	Southend-on-Sea[6]	12,601	1.124	8.9	1,480	11.7
381	Calderdale	15,544	1,414	9.1	1,916	12.3

		2006 (provisional)				
		Number of pupils on roll[4]	Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day	Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day[2]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]
880	Torbay[6]	9,237	792	8.6	1,152	12.5
888	Lancashire[6]	75,155	7,881	10.5	9,449	12.6
351	Bury	11,808	1,247	10.6	1,538	13.0
870	Reading[6]	6,068	569	9.4	799	13.2
359	Wigan	20,897	1,954	9.4	2,821	13.5
883	Thurrock[6]	8,843	879	9.9	1,202	13.6
371	Doncaster	20,428	1,732	8.5	2,786	13.6
384	Wakefield	22,316	2,196	9.8	3,059	13.7
841	Darlington[6]	6,262	719	11.5	861	13.7
871	Slough[6]	8,917	912	10.2	1,272	14.3
394	Sunderland	19,196	1,833	9.5	2,762	14.4
921	Isle of Wight	12,166	1,395	11.5	1,751	14.4
302	Barnet	19,558	2,302	11.8	2,855	14.6
851	Portsmouth[6]	9,893	932	9.4	1,445	14.6
332	Dudley	20,756	1,957	9.4	3,037	14.6
350	Bolton	19,643	2,162	11.0	2,931	14.9
846	Brighton and Hove[6]	12,190	1,479	12.1	1,825	15.0
343	Sefton	20,419	2,088	10.2	3,127	15.3
317	Redbridge	20,654	2,411	11.7	3,198	15.5
315	Merton	8,627	1,035	12.0	1,339	15.5
372	Rotherham	20,373	1,975	9.7	3,189	15.7
382	Kirklees	26,656	3,000	11.3	4,174	15.7
874	Peterborough[6]	13,188	1,639	12.4	2,068	15.7
808	Stockton-on-Tees	12,613	1,179	9.3	1,999	15.8
831	Derby[6]	15,675	1,911	12.2	2,513	16.0
373	Sheffield	31,437	3,475	11.1	5,058	16.1
840	Durham[6]	32,508	3,272	10.1	5,304	16.3
318	Richmond upon Thames	7,170	933	13.0	1,172	16.3
331	Coventry	21,214	2,781	13.1	3,521	16.6
894	Telford and Wrekin[6]	10,539	1,231	11.7	1,750	16.6
335	Walsall	21,062	2,287	10.9	3,541	16.8
342	St. Helens	11,807	1,318	11.2	1,997	16.9
390	Gateshead	11,776	1,402	11.9	1,992	16.9
852	Southampton[6]	11,541	1,340	11.6	1,961	17.0
357	Tameside	15,692	2,038	13.0	2,694	17.2
383	Leeds	47,860	5,338	11.2	8,294	17.3
812	North East Lincolnshire	11,075	1,241	11.2	1,930	17.4
312	Hillingdon	17,094	2,492	14.6	2,979	17.4
370	Barnsley	13,744	1,456	10.6	2,427	17.7
801	Bristol, City of	15,524	2,168	14.0	2,766	17.8
306	Croydon	18,722	2,659	14.2	3,404	18.2
876	Halton[6]	8,059	1,073	13.3	1,481	18.4
313	Hounslow	16,600	2,525	15.2	3,083	18.6
336	Wolverhampton	16,973	1,999	11.8	3,168	18.7
308	Enfield	22,172	3,104	14.0	4,175	18.8
890	Blackpool[6]	8,655	1,380	15.9	1,658	19.2
805	Hartlepool	6,465	1,053	16.3	1,244	19.2
353	Oldham	16,548	2,317	14.0	3,186	19.3
861	Stoke-on-Trent[6]	14,697	1,946	13.2	2,851	19.4
310	Harrow	9,039	1,569	17.4	1,774	19.6
807	Redcar and Cleveland	10,018	1,149	11.5	1,991	19.9
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	15,778	1,976	12.5	3,188	20.2
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	16,756	2,198	13.1	3,447	20.6
333	Sandwell	19,878	2,557	12.9	4,242	21.3
355	Salford	11,827	2,033	17.2	2,578	21.8
393	South Tyneside	9,984	1,297	13.0	2,182	21.9

2006 (provisional)

		Number of pupils on roll[1]	Number of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day	Percentage of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day[2]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]
856	Leicester[6]	17,902	3,036	17.0	3,941	22.0
304	Brent	16,418	2,695	16.4	3,701	22.5
344	Wirral	24,101	4,009	16.6	5,469	22.7
821	Luton[6]	12,305	2,019	16.4	2,865	23.3
889	Blackburn with Darwen[6]	9,419	1,690	17.9	2,245	23.8
380	Bradford	34,263	5,804	16.9	8,170	23.8
212	Wandsworth	10,443	1,987	19.0	2,498	23.9
354	Rochdale	14,162	2,377	16.8	3,472	24.5
307	Ealing	15,205	2,923	19.2	3,851	25.3
320	Waltham Forest	14,105	2,735	19.4	3,627	25.7
207	Kensington and Chelsea	3,516	745	21.2	917	26.1
209	Lewisham	11,033	2,150	19.5	2,906	26.3
203	Greenwich	14,576	2,978	20.4	4,069	27.9
892	Nottingham[6]	13,634	2,667	19.6	3,886	28.5
301	Barking and Dagenham	12,638	2,561	20.3	3,633	28.7
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	6,861	1,595	23.2	1,990	29.0
341	Liverpool	32,179	6,972	21.7	9,599	29.8
806	Middlesbrough	5,590	1,041	18.6	1,727	30.9
202	Camden	9,961	2,432	24.4	3,136	31.5
330	Birmingham	70,553	17,600	24.9	22,302	31.6
213	Westminster	8,407	2,243	26.7	2,750	32.7
340	Knowsley	9,528	2,135	22.4	3,227	33.9
309	Haringey	11,679	3,406	29.2	4,064	34.8
208	Lambeth	8,058	2,718	33.7	3,012	37.4
204	Hackney	6,990	2,212	31.6	2,673	38.2
316	Newham	18,395	5,607	30.5	7,404	40.3
352	Manchester	23,545	6,734	28.6	9,632	40.9
210	Southwark	10,304	3,860	37.5	4,413	42.8
206	Islington	8,077	2,617	32.4	3,472	43.0
211	Tower Hamlets	14,419	6,731	46.7	8,566	59.4
902	Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—
903	Berkshire	—	—	—	—	—
904	Buckinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—
905	Cambridge	—	—	—	—	—
906	Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—
910	Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—
911	Devon	—	—	—	—	—
912	Dorset	—	—	—	—	—
913	Durham	—	—	—	—	—
914	East Sussex	—	—	—	—	—
915	Essex	—	—	—	—	—
917	Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—
918	Hereford and Worcester	—	—	—	—	—
922	Kent	—	—	—	—	—
923	Lancashire	—	—	—	—	—
924	Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—
930	Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	—	—
932	Shropshire	—	—	—	—	—
934	Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—
939	Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—

* One or two pupils or a rate based on one or two pupils.
[1] Includes dually registered pupils. Excludes boarding pupils.
[2] The number of pupils taking a free school meal on the census day expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils on roll.
[3] The number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils on roll.
[4] Includes dually registered pupils. Includes boarding pupils.
[5] National totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[6] Before local government reorganisation.

Source:
Schools' Census

Physical Education

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of children aged five to 16-years-old in the East Riding of Yorkshire take part in at least two hours of high-quality physical education and school sport each week; and if he will make a statement. [84655]

Jim Knight: Data from the 2004/05 survey of schools in school sport partnerships found that 80 per cent. of five to 16-year-olds in East Riding of Yorkshire took part in at least two hours-high-quality PE and school sport each week.

School Attendance

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the rate of school attendance was in the East Riding of Yorkshire for 11 to 16 year olds in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [84656]

Jim Knight: Figures for the proportion of half days missed due to absence in maintained mainstream secondary schools in East Riding of Yorkshire local authority are given in the following table:

Percentage of half days missed in maintained mainstream secondary schools[1] in East Riding of Yorkshire local authority due to absence[2, 3]

	Authorised Absence	*Percentage Unauthorised Absence*
1997-98	7.7	0.9
1998-99	7.3	0.9
1999-00	7.2	0.9
2000-01	7.6	0.8
2001-02	7.16	0.89
2002-03	7.04	0.69
2003-04	6.93	0.67
2004-05	6.48	0.56

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Due to local government reorganisation, regional figures are not available prior to 1998.
[3] Local authority figures are only available to 1 decimal place prior to 20001-02.

Authorised absence is absence with permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes instances of absence for which a satisfactory explanation has been provided (for example, illness).

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the rate of school attendance was in Lancashire for 11 to 16 year olds in each year since 1997. [81797]

Jim Knight: Figures for the proportion of half days missed due to absence in maintained mainstream secondary schools in Lancashire local authority are given in the following table

Percentage of half days missed in Maintained Mainstream Secondary Schools[1] in Lancashire Local Authority due to absence[2,3]

	Authorised absence	*Unauthorised absence*
1997-98	7.6	0.8
1998-99	7.8	0.9
1999-2000	7.5	0.8
2000-01	7.9	0.8
2001-02	7.75	0.82
2002-03	7.15	0.82
2003-04	7.25	0.88
2004-05	6.94	0.93

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Due to local government reorganisation, regional figures are not available prior to 1998.
[3] Local authority figures are only available to 1 decimal place prior to 20001-02.

Authorised absence is absence with permission from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes instances of absence for which a satisfactory explanation has been provided (for example, illness).

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of half days were missed due to unauthorised absence in maintained schools in *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset county and *(c)* the South West in each year since 1997. [83392]

Jim Knight: The percentage of half days missed due to unauthorised absence in maintained mainstream schools in *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset local authority and *(c)* the South West Government office region in each year since 1997-98 is as follows:

Percentage of half days missed in Maintained Mainstream Primary Schools[1] due to unauthorised absence[2, 3]

	Yeovil constituency	*Somerset local authority*	*Percentage South West Government office region*
1997/98	0.3	0.2	0.4
1998/99	0.2	0.2	0.4
1999/00	0.2	0.2	0.4
2000/01	0.3	0.3	0.4
2001/02	0.3	0.28	0.34
2002/03	0.3	0.27	0.32
2003/04	0.3	0.26	0.32
2004/05	0.4	0.32	0.33

Percentage of half days missed in Maintained Mainstream Secondary Schools[1] due to unauthorised absence[2, 3]

	Yeovil constituency	*Somerset local authority*	*Percentage South West Government office region*
1997/98	0.3	0.5	0.7
1998/99	0.4	0.5	0.7
1999/00	0.5	0.5	0.8
2000/01	0.6	0.5	0.8

Percentage of half days missed in Maintained Mainstream Secondary Schools[1] due to unauthorised absence[2, 3]

	Yeovil constituency	*Somerset local authority*	*Percentage South West Government office region*
2001/02	0.6	0.63	0.81
2002/03	0.6	0.63	0.81
2003/04	1.0	0.82	0.94
2004/05	1.3	1.01	1.03

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Due to local government reorganisation, regional figures are not available prior to 1998.
[3] Local authority and Government Office Region figures are only available to 1 decimal place prior to 2001-02. Constituency level figures are only available to 1 decimal place.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

School Closures

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools have closed in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [84636]

Jim Knight: Local authorities are responsible for balancing the supply and demand of places in their areas to ensure schools serve the needs of their local communities and provide good quality education in the most cost effective way. As part of this, they need to determine the numbers of schools they need, taking into account the views and aspirations of parents and other stakeholders. Since February 1998 there has been a presumption against the closure of rural schools. Although this does not mean that no rural school will ever close, the case for closure needs to be strong and clearly in the best interests of education provision in the area.

The numbers of primary and secondary schools that have closed in rural and urban areas each year since 1997 are listed in the following table.

	Urban		*Rural*[1]	
	Primary	*Secondary*	*Primary*	*Secondary*
1997	125	11	6	0
1998	115	11	5	0
1999	182	35	2	0
2000	99	7	2	0
2001	188	19	3	0
2002	189	18	5	0
2003	201	17	10	2
2004	205	31	7	2
2005	227	15	8	0
2006[2]	224	21	6	0

[1] The rural figures exclude amalgamations where two schools have been replaced by one new school on the same site.
[2] The 2006 figures include schools that have been approved for closure during the current calendar year.

School Orchestras

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of secondary schools have a school orchestra. [84523]

Jim Knight: This information is not collected centrally.

Pupils (West Lancashire)

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age children normally resident in the West Lancashire district council area are being educated outside the local education authority area. [83566]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been provided in the following table.

	Number of pupils[1] residing within West Lancashire Local Authority District	*Number of pupils[1] residing within West Lancashire Local Authority Attending schools outside of the Local Authority District*	*Percentage of pupils[1] residing within West Lancashire Local Authority Attending schools outside of the Local Authority District*
Primary[2]	7,739	437	5.6
Secondary[3]	7,233	981	13.5
Total	14,972	1,418	9.5

[1] Maintained Primary and secondary schools .includes pupils aged 5 to 15 years, solely registered or main registration of dually registered pupils, excludes boarders
[2] Includes primary and middle deemed primary
[3] Includes secondary and middle deemed secondary
Source:
Schools census 2006 provisional

Sure Start

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the performance of the Sure Start programme in West Lancashire in reaching new families and children in the relevant local area. [83636]

Beverley Hughes: There are three Sure Start children's centres up and running in West Lancashire offering services to 1,037 children under five and their families including 217 childcare places. We do not currently collect data on the number of families and children accessing children's centre services.

One of the Sure Start Children's centres in the West Lancashire constituency was based on the Tanhouse and Digmoor Sure Start Local Programme (SSLP) and data returns provided by the SSLP show the following information. The programme offers services to 520 children under four and their families. Between July 2002 and June 2003 the SSLP submitted monthly data returns reporting significant contact (that is, a home visit or attendance at a centre-based activity) with 200[1]

new children. Between July 2003 and December 2004 the SSLP reported significant contact with an additional 75[2] children.

Source:

[1] Sure Start Local Programme data returns July 2002 to June 2003.

[2] Source: Sure Start Local Programme data returns July 2003 to December 2004. During this period data was collected quarterly and the figure records only new children seen in the months in which returns were submitted.

Teachers (Bristol)

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the pupil to teacher ratio was for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in Bristol local education authority in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the most recent school year for which figures are available. [84608]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the pupil to teacher ratio in maintained primary and secondary schools in Bristol local authority, January 1997 and January 2005 (the latest year for which information is available at local authority level). Information for England is also given to enable comparison.

It is anticipated that local authority level pupil to teacher ratios for January 2006 will become available in September.

Pupil:teacher ratios[1] in maintained primary and secondary schools in Bristol local authority and England, January 1997 and 2005

	Pupil:teacher ratio			
	Primary		Secondary	
	Bristol local authority	England	Bristol local authority	England
1997	23.0	23.4	15.6	16.7
2005	22.6	22.5	15.4	16.7

[1] The pupil:teacher ratio is the full-time equivalent number of pupils divided by the full-time equivalent number of qualified teachers. Dually registered pupils are excluded.

Source:
Annual School Census

Vocational Training

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what links exist between his Department and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training; and if he will make a statement. [84288]

Phil Hope: The Department's links with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) are at the following levels:

(i) Occupying the UK seat on the CEDEFOP management board

(ii) Chairing the steering group of the UK Refernet steering group, which brings together key stakeholders to manage research and exchange of information for CEDEFOP in the UK

(iii) Co-ordinating the CEDEFOP study visits programme in the UK

These roles are carried out by DfES officials.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what projects are funded by the EU in the UK to develop credit systems for vocational education and training, as advertised in *Official Journal* C144 20 June 2006 p.19; and what his policy is on UK participation in this project. [84293]

Phil Hope: The *Official Journal* reference constitutes a call for proposals, with a deadline of 16 August, so as yet there are no funded projects.

We are committed to the development of a flexible European credit system to recognise learners' achievements, and to participating actively in this project. To that end, the UK is represented on a Technical Working Group, set up by the European Commission, to explore all relevant issues.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the threat posed by non-Iraqi insurgent veterans of the Iraq conflict entering Helmand Province. [83702]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 698W.

Colombia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 298W, on Colombia, if he will list the Colombian military units whose personnel have been provided with UK bespoke counter narcotics training. [83816]

Mr. Ingram: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 298W.

I am withholding information on the details of this bespoke training because its disclosure would be to the detriment of the safety of individuals, the prevention and detection of crime and international relations.

Defence Analytical Services Agency

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence why the Defence Analytical Services Agency has suspended its statistics on global deployment of service personnel (TSP 06). [83968]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 11 July 2006]:* TSP 6: Global location of UK regular forces is a DASA publication which shows the distribution of service personnel posted overseas. The publication was suspended at the end of 2002 when conflicts were identified with data from other sources in the department.

TSP 6 was reinstated on the 12 September 2005. This showed the posted location of UK regular forces at the

1 April 2005. TSP 6 is published quarterly and copies are available in the Library of the House and at; www.dasa.mod.uk.

Defence Medical Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures he will take to attract and retain *(a)* medical officers and *(b)* healthcare professionals in the Defence Medical Services. [84482]

Mr. Watson: Manning levels in the Defence Medical Services (DMS) vary across different specialities and services. In some areas we are very well manned, while in others we are experiencing shortfalls.

The Ministry of Defence is taking active steps to address shortfalls through a package of pay and non-remunerative measures, including such schemes as "Golden Hellos" targeted at enhancing direct recruitment in areas of shortfall. In terms of overall remuneration, we aim to ensure that DMS pay is comparable with the NHS. The Government are currently considering the recommendations of the independent armed forces pay review body's (AFPRB) 2006 supplementary report on the pay of Service Medical and dental officers, and an announcement on the pay award will be made once this process is complete.

Nurses and Allied Health Professionals in the DMS are currently covered by the main armed forces 2006 pay award of three per cent., which was implemented from 1 April 2006. As recommended by the AFPRB, we are now in the process of examining the scope for changing Nursed and Allied Health Professionals pay structures to ensure that military pay remains comparable with the new NHS agenda for change pay structure.

Pay can only go some way towards addressing manning shortfalls. Non-remunerative measures are equally as important. Examples of non-remunerative initiatives include: the introduction of new pension arrangements which are designed to encourage retention; looking at alternative means of meeting operational commitments (for example, by working closely with allies and partners on operations overseas and by using DMS civilian medical and dental practitioners and agency staff); and development of the Ministry of Defence hospital unit concept to build a stronger military ethos.

Draft Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what draft Bills have been produced by his Department since October 2005; how many were *(a)* examined and *(b)* are planned to be examined by (i) a Departmental Select Committee and (ii) a Joint Committee; which draft Bills are still to be produced by his Department; when each is expected to be published; how many clauses each has; and if he will make a statement. [81286]

Mr. Watson: The Ministry of Defence has produced no draft Bills since October 2005.

Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be included in the Queen's Speech.

Helicopters

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how long it would take to train a qualified *(a)* civilian and *(b)* army helicopter pilot to the level where he or she is competent to fly patrols in hostile environments in light commercial helicopters; [83637]

(2) how long it takes to train *(a)* an RAF, *(b)* a Royal Navy and *(c)* an Army helicopter pilot to full operational status; [83638]

(3) whether there is scope for training an Army helicopter pilot to full operational status where he or she is competent to fly patrols in hostile environments in a light commercial helicopter in a shorter period of time than normal in periods of high urgent demand for such pilots. [84309]

Mr. Watson: Military helicopter pilots undergo different phases of training, which vary in type and duration according to which service and type of aircraft is involved. All military helicopter pilots undergo an initial period of elementary fixed-wing training. This is followed by basic and advanced rotary-wing training at the Defence Helicopter Flying School at RAF Shawbury. The final phase of training involves pilots undertaking operational conversion flying at their single-service front-line or training units.

The average number of weeks taken to train helicopter pilots of each service from start to until they are able to fly operationally, including initial fixed-wing training, is as follows:

Service	*Weeks*
Royal Navy	87
Army	71
Roy al Air Force	110

Professionally qualified civilian helicopter pilots would need to develop the relevant low-level flying and tactical skills in order to attain the required competence for operational flying in hostile environments. It is estimated that such training would take approximately 20 weeks.

Army helicopter pilots are always trained to full operational status. They do not operate light commercial helicopters but are trained to fly military light utility helicopters, such as the Lynx, in hostile environments as part of the mandated training programme described. Military helicopter training is not shortened or hastened to meet operational demands. It is vital that each training phase is completed and that the syllabus is fully achieved in order to produce the high standards that military flying demands.

Hospital Ships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what frontline hospital ship capacity *(a)* is available and *(b)* is planned to be available to the fleet. [83613]

Mr. Ingram: RFA Argus is designated as the frontline Primary Casualty Reception Ship. She is equipped with a hospital complex which includes two operating theatres and has up to 100 beds for casualties. No decisions have been made on the future provision of a deployed maritime medical capability.

HQ Land Forces/Adjutant-General

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* service and *(b)* civilian manning levels in (i) HQ Land Forces and (ii) Adjutant-General's Department are, broken down by function; and what the planned manning levels after merger and relocation to Andover are. [83697]

Mr. Ingram: There are currently 597 military and 759 civilian posts at HQ Land Command in Wilton and 325 military and 470 civilian posts at the Adjutant-General's headquarters in Upavon, of which approximately 250 are support staff across both sites. It is expected that 677 military and 837 civilian posts will transfer from Wilton and Upavon to the new Land Forces headquarters. In addition, we expect that 103 military and 51 civilian posts currently based at other sites will move to the new headquarters, and that 140 military and 152 civilian posts currently based at Wilton and Upavon will move to other sites. On current plans, 105 military and 240 civilian posts will be removed.

I will write to the hon. Member with a breakdown of current military and civilian posts at HQ Land Command and the Adjutant-General's headquarters and place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

Injured British Servicemen (Treatment)

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British troops are being treated for injuries sustained in Iraq in *(a)* Al Udeid, *(b)* Baghdad, *(c)* Basra Air Station, *(d)* Seeb Tallil, *(e)* Al Muthanna, *(f)* Al Amarah, *(g)* the Princess Mary Hospital, RAF Akrotiri, *(h)* the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham, *(i)* the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court and *(j)* each of the regional rehabilitation units in the UK. [82051]

Des Browne: Information on the number of people treated at each of the facilities requested is not routinely collected and held centrally, and to do so would involve disproportionate cost. However each facility was requested to make a specific report for the purpose of answering this question. Please see the following table, which shows the number of personnel who received treatment in each facility on the date shown for injuries sustained in Iraq.

Medical facility/location	*Date data collected*	*Number of personnel*
Al Udeid	29 June 2006	0
Baghdad	29 June 2006	0
Basra Air Station	29 June 2006	0
Seeb	29 June 2006	0
Tallil	29 June 2006	5
Al Muthanna	29 June 2006	0
Al Amarah	29 June 2006	0
The Princess Mary Hospital, RAF Akrotiri	29 June 2006	0
Royal Centre for Defence Medicine, Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham	29 June 2006	2
The Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Headley Court (inc. London RRU)	4 July 2006	7
Regional Rehabilitation Units (RRUs)[1]		
Plymouth (Drake)	30 June 2006	0
Portsmouth (Nelson)	30 June 2006	0
Colchester	3 July 2006	0
Edinburgh	3 July 2006	0
Aldergrove, Northern Ireland	3 July 2006	0
Bulford/Tidworth	3 July 2006	0
Aldershot	3 July 2006	1
Catterick	3 July 2006	2
Cranwell	4 July 2006	0
Halton	4 July 2006	0
Honnington	4 July 2006	0
Shaibah Logistics Base (Role 3)	29 June2006	16

[1] Lichfield is not shown since it is a Multi-injury Assessment Clinic and does not provide treatment.

Iraq

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which units have remained in Iraq longer than their planned deployment because of shortages of air transport in the last 12 months; how long each has remained in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [81134]

Des Browne: No units have remained in Iraq longer than their planned deployment because of shortages of air transport in the last 12 months. Scheduled routine flights may however be delayed for a variety of reasons, including adverse weather, technical difficulties, ground handling problems, de-conflicting aircraft movements and force protection of airfields.

RAF Complaints Process

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what complaint process is available to RAF personnel who experience administrative errors in the payment of wages and salary; and how complaints under the process are dealt with. [84386]

Mr. Watson: Complaints from RAF personnel concerning payment of salary may be routed via mail, e-mail or fax to the Armed Forces Personnel Administration Agency (AFPAA), as set out in a customer care charter. Alternatively, a complaint may be raised via the Unit Personnel Services Flight who will pass it to AFPAA.

Each complaint is logged and given a unique reference number enabling it to be tracked, and an acknowledgement sent. The complaint is then passed to the appropriate operations area for investigation and response. Where the individual remains dissatisfied with the response, they are able to invoke the general formal P.AF Redress to complaint procedure.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary Ships

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is for *(a)* the retention in service and *(b)* the upgrading of Royal Fleet Auxiliary Argus. [83612]

Mr. Ingram: On current plans Royal Fleet Auxiliary Argus will be withdrawn from service in 2020. No decisions have been taken on the upgrading of RFA Argus, though we are considering our options for the future provision of a Joint Casualty Treatment Ship capability.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* additions and *(b)* deletions have been made within the past 12 months to the list of Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary ships scheduled for refitting and upgrading. [83614]

Mr. Ingram: During the twelve months from 30 June 2005 to 1 July 2006, there were no additions or deletions to forward plans to the refit of Royal Navy (RN) and Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) ships. Refits are, however, part of a wider upkeep programme, from which there have been seventeen deletions, but no additions. These deletions, which remove projects between 2006 and 2020, are listed in the following table:

	Ship	*Reason for the deletion*
2008	HMS Illustrious	Replaced with alternative maintenance
2010	HMS Illustrious	Replaced with alternative maintenance
2006	RFA Sir Tristram	Reviewed and no longer required
2012	HMS Ark Royal	Reviewed and no longer required
2015	HMS Ocean	Reviewed and no longer required
2007	HMS Endurance	Revised maintenance cycle
2008	HMS Roebuck	Revised maintenance cycle
2011	HMS Scott	Revised maintenance cycle
2012	HMS Endurance	Revised maintenance cycle
2014	HMS Endurance	Revised maintenance cycle
2014	HMS Roebuck	Revised maintenance cycle
2017	HMS Quorn	Revised maintenance cycle
2017	HMS Scott	Revised maintenance cycle
2018	HMS Chiddingfold	Revised maintenance cycle
2019	HMS Middleton	Revised maintenance cycle
2020	HMS Hurworth	Revised maintenance cycle
2020	HMS Scott	Revised maintenance cycle

RN and RFA ships are not specifically scheduled for upgrades, since equipment is upgraded when the opportunity arises, usually as part of an upkeep period. Opportunities to undertake upgrades are kept under regular review and can change for operational reasons.

Tour Intervals

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress in his Department's measurement of tour intervals of personnel in the *(a)* Royal Navy and *(b)* Royal Air Force. [81136]

Mr. Ingram: Harmony guidelines are measured in two ways: unit harmony, which is expressed in tour intervals, and individual harmony through separated service, which is the length of time individuals spend away from their home base. The former is relatively easy to measure but can mask the actual effect of deployments on individuals. Work is therefore in progress to develop a common and effective system of separated service measurement. Currently, each service has its own procedures for measuring harmony. These take account of the different service regimes for manning and career management, training requirements and patterns of deployment. The different systems do not allow straightforward comparisons of the impact of separation on people to be made between services.

A common definition of separated service has now been developed and the service rules for recording have been harmonised. These harmonised rules take effect, for each service in turn, with the roll out of the Joint Personnel Administration system. This is now in operation for the Royal Air Force and, when complete for the Royal Navy (anticipated in November 2006) and Army (anticipated in March 2007), will allow accurate measurement of separated service across the armed forces.

Welfare Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on morale of servicewomen of using Nell McAndrew to advertise the Confidential Support Line. [83915]

Mr. Watson: One of Nell McAndrew's chosen charities is the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, which operates the Confidential Support Line. We are very grateful for her support for Service personnel and its positive effect on morale.

HEALTH

Food (Nutritional Content)

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will assess the merits of banning the sale of food containing hydrogenated fats. [84713]

Caroline Flint: The Government have no plans to ban the sale of foods containing hydrogenated fats. There have been concerns expressed about

hydrogenated fats due to their high level of trans fatty acids (TFA). The average consumption of TFA is below the maximum level recommended by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy in 1994.

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will introduce regulations requiring fast food outlets to publish nutritional information about their products in an easily accessible and public form. [84715]

Caroline Flint: There are no plans to introduce regulations of this sort. The Food Standards Agency encourages catering establishments, including fast food outlets, to voluntarily provide information about the nutritional content of the food they serve to help consumers who wish to use such information to inform their choices.

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will assess the merits of making the traffic light system for nutritional information on food packaging compulsory for all forms of packaged food. [84716]

Caroline Flint: The Government currently have no plans to make front of pack signpost nutritional labelling compulsory. Responsibility for food labelling lies with the European Union and the rules are harmonised across Europe. The European Commission wishes to update the existing nutrition labelling legislation and recognises the need for simpler nutritional information which will help the consumer to make healthier choices. Formal proposals are expected from the Commission next year.

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the voluntary traffic light system for nutritional information on food packaging. [84717]

Caroline Flint: Comprehensive consumer research with more than 2,500 participants conducted by the Foods Standards Agency (FSA) has shown that the Government-endorsed approach recommended by the FSA helps consumers across all population groups make healthier choices. The vast majority of consumers (96 per cent.) thought a simplified front of pack nutritional signposting scheme would help them make healthier choices.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Energy Efficiency

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the Government's strategy is for encouraging energy efficiency measures for those living in fuel poverty. [79695]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

A range of schemes and policies are in place to help tackle fuel poverty. It was announced in the 2005 pre-Budget report that an additional £300 million would be made available to tackle fuel poverty across the UK over the 2005-08 period.

The main tool for eradicating fuel poverty in England is the Warm Front scheme which provides a range of energy efficiency measures and advice to vulnerable households. Warm Front has already assisted more than one million vulnerable households. Similar schemes exist in each of the devolved administrations.

There are a range of other schemes and policies in place to improve the energy efficiency of domestic properties, such as the Energy Efficiency Commitment and the Decent Homes Standard. These have provision to target assistance at the most vulnerable low-income families and pensioner households.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Costs

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what costs arising from setting up her Department have been allocated to the corporate communications budgets. [79381]

Angela E. Smith: To date the total costs that have been allocated to the corporate communications budget come to £12,000. This has come from existing budgets.

Departmental Discussions

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* the Cabinet Office regarding the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if she will make a statement. [82848]

Angela E. Smith: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has had and will continue to have wide ranging and regular discussions with the chief secretary about preparations for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, as a matter of key importance to the Department for Communities and Local Government's medium and long term planning.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which matches *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83618]

Angela E. Smith: No Minister from this Department has attended any of the FIFA World Cup 2006 matches in Germany, but we did watch them on T.V.

Fire Service

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the planned regionalisation of fire service control rooms. [80248]

Angela E. Smith: Independent reviews have consistently shown that creating an integrated system of nine regional control centres will provide a more resilient, effective and efficient service. The current 46 fire control centres were not designed to deal in a

co-ordinated way with major, regional or national incidents. The new system will offer more reliable fallback in times of peak demand or external threats such as flooding, and more effective response to all incidents, particularly those of substantial scale or complexity.

Private Finance Initiative Projects

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what total amount Private Finance Initiative projects for which her Department is responsible which went over budget did so in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [83652]

Angela E. Smith: Responsibility for the Department for Communities and Local Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) projects rest with individual local authorities taking forward PFI projects. To date the Department has not been informed of any PFI projects going over budget.

The risk of PFI projects going over budget is normally transferred to the private sector. If a cost overrun affects the delivery of the service being provided, the public sector has the right to make performance deductions from the unitary charge. Furthermore, unitary charge payments do not commence until the service is operational and meets agreed standards.

Swindon Borough Council

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what purposes funding was allocated to Swindon borough council under the category of building capacity in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [84730]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is set out in the following table.

2004-05		*2005-06*	
Headline project and date approved	*Grant approved (£)*	*Headline project and date approved*	*Grant approved (£)*
Peer support grant (April 2004)	10,400	Leadership support grant (September 2005)	3,95.0
Leadership support grant (July 2004)	21,200	Public protection grant (September 2005)	11,000
Peer support grant (September 2004)	38,400	Programme and Project Management (August 2005)	271,000
Public protection grant (January 2005)	15,000	Workforce Development and Human Resources (August 2005)	130,000
		Member Development (August 2005)	15,000
		Communications and Information Technology Communications (August 2005)	182,000
		Strategy and Efficiency Review (August 2005)	146,000
		Local Area Agreements (August2005)	20,000
		Corporate Management recruitment (August 2005)	136,000
		Revenues and Benefits service (August 2005)	100,000
Total	85,000	Total	1,014,950

In addition, Swindon received approval for a grant of £1,000,000 in March 2005 to establish a partnership between Kent county council and Swindon borough council in order to improve the social services provided to the people of Swindon. The Department of Health met £180,000 of the £1,000,000.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Clissold Road Swimming Pool

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the Clissold Road swimming pool will re-open. [84165]

Mr. Caborn: I understand that Clissold Leisure Centre is now expected to re-open in July 2007. Sport England will continue to monitor the time scales and milestones towards the re-opening.

Football

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many football coaches have been funded from public funds in Crewe and Nantwich constituency in the last two years for *(a)* ethnic minorities, *(b)* women and girls and *(c)* children with learning difficulties; where these sessions were held; how many sessions were held for each group; how many primary and after school sessions have been arranged; where; by whom; and at what cost. [83359]

Mr. Caborn: Through its Whole Sport Plan, the FA provides coaching in the Crewe and Nantwich area. Detailed information in the requested format is not available. However, I can confirm that 15 Community Sports Coaches are employed within the Cheshire and Warrington Sports Partnership to provide coaching sessions, including in primary schools and after school. Three of these coaches spend a proportion of their coaching time in Crewe and Nantwich. Two of the Community Sports Coaches coach football, although not in Crewe and Nantwich. However, the local

authority in Crewe and Nantwich has recruited a part-time football Community Sports Coach who will focus on females, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities.

According to Sport England figures, between April 2005 and March 2006, there were 108,209 attendances at coaching sessions provided by Community Sports Coaches in the Cheshire and Warrington Sports Partnership area. Of these, 36,428 were female, 2,632 had a disability and 2,306 were from black, Asian or other minority ethnic group.

London Olympics

Mr. Khabra: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government is taking to extend the benefits of the 2012 London Olympics to *(a)* Ealing, Southall and *(b)* West London. [83825]

Mr. Caborn: The Government are determined that the whole of London and the UK will benefit from the games in 2012.

The Greater London Authority, which is the body responsible for co-ordinating the delivery of the legacy and benefits of the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympics Games for London, is working closely with the London Development Agency and local and sub-regional partnerships to ensure that people and businesses all over London have the information and skills they need to take advantage of the full range of opportunities arising from hosting the games.

Specifically, the London borough of Ealing has been working at a local level through the West London Alliance Olympic Officers Group, to develop an action plan to maximise benefits to Ealing and West London as a whole.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the 2012 London Olympic park is expected to cost. [84240]

Mr. Caborn: The Olympic Delivery Authority is currently procuring the delivery partner that will help the ODA to deliver the Olympic and legacy construction. One element of the delivery partner's role will be to examine the programme for the Olympic Park and costs associated with it. We expect this assessment to be completed within six to nine months of the appointment.

Lottery Funding (School Facilities)

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much national lottery funding has been made available for local sports facilities over the past five years. [84643]

Mr. Caborn: Since the start of 2001, 17,689 lottery awards worth a total value of £1.3 billion have been made by the five sports lottery distributors.

Local sports facilities are not identified as a category on the Department's lottery grants database. The information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Information on all lottery awards is available from the database, searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk, which uses information supplied by the lottery distributors.

Royal Parks Agency

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was given in grants by her Department to the Royal Parks Agency in each of the past five financial years. [84121]

Mr. Lammy: The table shows the funding received by the Royal Parks from the Department for the periods shown.

	Amount of public funding given by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (£)	
Financial year	*Resource*	*Capital*
2002-03	25.6 million	1.4 million
2003-04	25.4 million	5.1 million
2004-05	26.7 million	2.7 million
2005-06	26.2 million	[1]900,000
2006-07	26.2 million	[1]900,000

[1] Budgeted figures rather than actual outturn.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Comprehensive Spending Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what discussions the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs has had with *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* the Cabinet Office regarding the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if she will make a statement. [82841]

Bridget Prentice: The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs had a formal discussion (bi-lateral) on the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) with the Chief Secretary HM Treasury in June 2006. All other discussions between the Department of Constitutional Affairs and *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* Cabinet Office on the CSR have been at official level.

No discussions regarding the CSR have been had by the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs with the Cabinet Office.

Electoral Registration

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she plans to take to increase voter registration in inner city areas. [84552]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have embarked on a number of initiatives to increase voter registration and promote participation in democracy.

The 1824 collective campaign, promoted awareness of voter registration amongst London's urban youth in the run up to local London election in May this year.

We are funding seven local authorities, working with community organisations and education institutions to explore new methods of encouraging people to register to vote and participate in elections.

The Electoral Administration Bill makes a number of changes to improve the registration process. These include a new duty setting out the minimum steps that the ERO will be expected to take to ensure a comprehensive register and enable people to register after an election has been called. The Bill also provides a new power for returning officers to promote participation at elections, and the Government have made available £2.5 million to support the new power.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what powers will be available to local electoral registration officers under the Electoral Registration Bill to share data in drawing up election registers; if she will provide a list of the sources of data which will be able to be used under powers contained within the Bill; and if she will make a statement. [83524]

Bridget Prentice: Electoral registration officers are currently able to inspect and take copies of any records kept by their own council, and to inspect and take copies of records kept by any registrar of births and deaths.

The Electoral Administration Bill does not change this. However, it does require electoral registration officers, when compiling the electoral register, to make full use of their powers to inspect those records which they are permitted to inspect.

We are also looking at whether there are records which are not covered by existing powers, but which could be covered by secondary legislation, if it were appropriate to do so.

Mr. Betts: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what powers are available to local electoral registration officers to share data in drawing-up election registers; if she will provide a list of sources of data which can be used; and if she will make a statement. [83525]

Bridget Prentice: Electoral registration officers are currently able to inspect and take copies of any records kept by their own council, and to inspect and take copies of records kept by any registrar of births and deaths.

Family Visitor Appeals

Mr. Binley: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs how many family visitor appeals were lodged in 2005-06; and how many are awaiting a decision. [84607]

Bridget Prentice: In the period from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, a total of 59,047 family visitor appeals were received by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. Of those appeals, 18,063 remain to be decided and are currently either listed for a hearing before, or awaiting a decision from, an Immigration Judge.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs pursuant to the answer to Question 80303, what meetings she has held with Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions to discuss their response to the president of the tribunal's reports on their standards in making incapacity benefit decisions; and if she will make a statement on *(a)* resulting initiatives and *(b)* the expected levels of tribunal workload over the next two years. [83883]

Bridget Prentice: No meetings have been held with Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions on this subject since responsibility for appeal tribunals transferred to this Department on 1 April 2006. The president of appeal tribunals' sixth report on the standard of decisions made on behalf of the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in cases which come before appeal tribunals was published on 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, Column 52WS.

A Joint Steering Committee has been established between the Tribunals Service and Jobcentre Plus, the agency which administers Incapacity Benefit, to provide feedback on cases considered by appeal tribunals and to look for ways to avoid customers having to go through the appeals process.

Legal Profession (Consumer Demands)

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what plans she has to ensure the legal profession is more responsive to consumer demands; [84564]

(2) what progress she has made in increasing consumer choice in legal services. [84565]

Bridget Prentice: The draft Legal Services Bill, which was published on 24 May 2006, builds on recommendations made by Sir David Clementi following his independent review of the regulatory framework for legal services in England and Wales which was published in December 2004. Both Sir David and the Government have been keen to ensure wide engagement with stakeholders in developing these proposals.

The proposals in the draft Bill respond to consumer demands. They provide for a new and independent oversight regulator, the Legal Services Board, and a single and independent Office for Legal Complaints. They also provide, through the licensing of alternative business structures, for legal services to be delivered in new ways. The Government are committed to putting the consumer at the heart of these reforms, and there is also a statutory duty on the Legal Services Board to establish a consumer panel to advise it.

Taken together, these proposals will provide for greater independence in regulation and complaints handling, and increased competition through a more flexible approach to the delivery of legal services.

Subject to robust safeguards, lawyers and non-lawyers will be able to work together on an equal footing to deliver legal and other services. External investment will also be possible. These arrangements will provide practitioners with flexibility to respond to market demands by providing consumers with the services they want, when they want them, and in the packages they want them.

The draft Bill is currently undergoing pre-legislative scrutiny by a Joint Committee. The Joint Committee is due to report by 25 July. After considering the Committee's report, the Government intend to introduce legislation as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Scheme

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the implications for *(a)* central Government Departments' budgets and *(b)* disabled people of the ending of Access to Work funding in October. [79932]

Mrs. McGuire: The Secretary of State is not in a position to assess the implications for other Government Departments' budgets. However, the large majority of these workplace adjustments are inexpensive.

Our intention is that disabled staff should continue to receive the support they need as now, including obtaining advice from specialist staff in Jobcentre Plus. However, instead of their support being paid for by the Access to Work programme, it will be funded out of departmental running costs. Officials will be working with those in other Government Departments to help them implement this requirement.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent changes to the Access to Work Scheme have applied to employees of *(a)* central Government departments and agencies, *(b)* large private sector employers and *(c)* other employers; and if he will make a statement. [81941]

Mrs. McGuire: Access to Work funding will be removed from employees working in central government departments from October 2006. Our intention is that disabled staff should continue to receive the support they need as now, including obtaining advice from specialist staff in Jobcentre Plus. However, instead of their support being paid for by the Access to Work programme, it will be funded out of departmental running costs. Officials from the Office of Disability Issues will be working with those in other Government Departments to help them implement this requirement.

No changes have been made to Access to Work which affect people working for large private sector employers or other employers.

Carer's Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the annual cost of removing the 21-hour study rule for carer's allowance. [80550]

Mrs. McGuire: We estimate that the annual cost of removing the 21-hour full-time education rule for carer's allowance would amount to approximately £30 million for the first full year following its removal. This total is made up of £16 million for carer's allowance, and £14 million in respect of income-related benefits.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria were used to determine performance-related bonus payments for senior civil servants at the Child Support Agency in each of the last four years. [77976]

Mrs. McGuire: For each of the last four years decisions have been made by relatively assessing individuals in relation to others in the same senior civil service pay band. When determining performance-related bonus payments the following criteria were used:

2004-05 and 2005-06

Performance against agreed priority business objectives or targets;

Total delivery record over the year;

Relative stretch;

Response to unforeseen events which affected the performance.

2003-04 and 2004-05

How successful staff were in meeting their objectives;

How difficult/challenging the objectives were, given available resources, foreseen and unforeseen factors;

How the success had been achieved taking account of the Departmental Aims and Values.

Disability Living Allowance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to review the requirement for those with lifelong disabilities to make periodic reapplications for disability living allowance. [82665]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of disability living allowance is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, whether he plans to review the requirement for those with lifelong disabilities to make periodic reapplications for disability living allowance.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

There is no specific requirement for those with lifelong disabilities to make periodic reapplications for disability living allowance (DLA). As you may be aware, entitlement to DLA does not depend on the diagnosis of a condition but on how that condition affects a person on a daily basis. It is entirely possible for a person with permanent disability not to satisfy the conditions for an award of DLA. There is a wide variation in the amount of help required by people with similar disabilities and for this reason entitlement to DLA is based on needs rather than diagnosis.

Where a Decision Maker concludes that a customer is entitled to DLA, and in their judgment there is unlikely to be any change in the way the customer's disabling condition affects their mobility or ability to self-care, an indefinite award would be the expected outcome. Such customers would not be required to renew their claims at intervals.

However, even where entitlement to benefit is awarded indefinitely, it can be affected by a change in the disabled person's circumstances. There is a statutory obligation for the customer to report relevant changes of circumstances that may affect entitlement.

Awards for a limited period are made where the Decision Maker judges that there might be some material change, affecting either the entitlement or the rate of benefit as a person adapts to their disability or their condition improves or worsens over a period of time. The customer would be invited to make a renewal claim at the appropriate time.

As part of the Government's plans to modernise the Welfare State we introduced the "periodic inquiry" procedures to ensure that our customers are receiving the correct level of benefit. These involve the random selection of cases where checks are made upon a customer's continuing entitlement to benefit. Accurate, up to date information about a customer's needs is collected to make sure that the benefit entitlement is correct. It is applied fairly giving people the opportunity to have their award increased as well as decreased in line with entitlement.

I hope this is helpful.

Incapacity Benefit

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of incapacity benefit claims in West Lancashire which have been turned down on the basis of insufficient national insurance contributions (NIC) as a result of the time taken in updating NIC records. [83543]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Hereford (Mr. Keetch) on 28 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 688W.

London Olympics

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which officials in his Department *(a)* are responsible for Olympics-related activity and *(b)* sit on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group for the Olympics. [81569]

Mrs. McGuire: Bill Wells, the divisional manager in the economy and labour market division represents the Department for Work and Pensions on the Inter-Departmental Steering Group for the Olympics. He, together with Chris Hayes, Jobcentre Plus field director for London, is responsible for Olympics-related activity within DWP and Jobcentre Plus.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport are leading for the Government on this work.

Pensioners Abroad

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with the Czech Republic to ensure the provision of (i) state and (ii) private pensions to UK pensioners resident in that country; [83140]

(2) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with Denmark to ensure the provision of benefits to support UK pensioners resident in that country; [83142]

(3) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with Denmark to ensure the provision of (i) state and (ii) private pensions to UK pensioners resident in that country; [83143]

(4) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with the Czech Republic to ensure the provision of benefits to support UK pensioners resident in that country; [83146]

(5) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with Austria to ensure the provision of (i) state and (ii) private pensions to UK pensioners resident in that country; [83147]

(6) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with Austria to ensure the provision of benefits to support UK pensioners resident in that country; [83148]

(7) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with Belgium to ensure the provision of benefits to support UK pensioners resident in that country; [83149]

(8) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with Belgium to ensure the provision of (i) state and (ii) private pensions to UK pensioners resident in that country; [83150]

(9) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with Cyprus to ensure the provision of benefits to support UK pensioners resident in that country; [83152]

(10) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with Cyprus to ensure the provision of (i) state and (ii) private pensions to UK pensioners resident in that country; [83153]

(11) what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with (i) Finland, (ii) Estonia, (iii) France, (iv) Germany, (v) Greece, (vi) Hungary, (vii) Ireland, (viii) Italy, (ix) Latvia, (x) Lithuania, (xi) Luxembourg, (xii) Malta, (xiii) Netherlands, (xiv) Poland, (xv) Portugal, (xvi) Slovakia, (xvii) Slovenia, (xviii) Spain and (xix) Sweden to ensure the provision of (A) (1) state and (2) private pensions and (B) benefits to UK pensioners resident in that country. [84398]

Mr. Plaskitt: The social security schemes of all the member states of the European Union are co-ordinated by EC Regulation 1408/71. It provides for member states to pay their state pensions to pensioners resident in other member states at the same rate as if

they were living in the paying state. The UK also makes winter fuel payments to people aged 60 or over living in other member states provided they qualified for a payment before leaving the UK.

The UK maintains bilateral social security agreements with many EU member states, including Denmark, Austria, Belgium and Cyprus. They were entered into before the application of Regulation 1408/71 and continue to be of relevance to the Crown Dependencies, where they also apply, as their social security schemes are outside the scope of co-ordination under the EC Regulation.

The EC legislation relating to private pensions is council directive 98/49/EC on safeguarding the supplementary pension rights of employed and self-employed persons moving within the community. The directive ensures that the occupational pension rights of scheme members who move from one EU member state to another are protected. The provisions of the directive have been implemented in the UK through an amendment to the Pensions Act 1995. Section 66A of the Act ensures that occupational pension schemes cannot have different rules for members who have accrued pension rights in the UK but who now reside overseas.

Pre-CSR Report

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the *(a)* Treasury and *(b)* Cabinet Office regarding the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if he will make a statement. [82751]

Mrs. McGuire: The Secretary of State has had and will continue to have wide-ranging and regular discussions with the chief secretary about the 2007 comprehensive spending review, as a matter of key importance to the Department for Work and Pensions medium and long-term planning.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Carriage of Dangerous Goods Regulations

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted under the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations in the last five years. [81074]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

The Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2004 is enforced by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the police on behalf of the Department for Transport which has the policy lead.

HSE has taken seven prosecutions under the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2004 and predecessor legislation.

One further prosecution has been taken under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. This prosecution related to the 2004 Regulations.

One of these prosecutions was taken against an individual person.

One of these prosecutions was taken against a partnership.

Information on police prosecutions is unavailable; the Court Proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform holds information on all prosecutions including police prosecutions but does not separately identify the offences requested.

Debt Collectors

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its (i) executive agencies and (ii) non-departmental public bodies use the services of private debt collectors. [71062]

Mr. Coaker: The Security Industry Authority, a non-departmental public body of the Home Office, is the only part of the Home Department that uses private debt collectors. They are employed for the recovery of licence debts and court costs only

Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when sections *(a)* one and *(b)* four of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 will be implemented. [75062]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004 is the biggest overhaul of domestic violence legislation for 35 years. It is a key part of the Government's aim of putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system. The Act has been rolling out in stages since January 2005. The remaining provisions will be implemented as appropriate.

Foreign Prisoners

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has conducted on the causes of the increase in the number of foreign nationals in prisons in England and Wales over the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [68872]

John Reid: The Home Office regularly monitors the size and make-up of the foreign national prisoner population and trends within it. Information on this is published in Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004, a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Home Detention Curfews

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of prisoners sentenced for crimes involving violence have been granted home detention curfews in the last 12 months. [46395]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 30 January 2006]:* Prisoners who are subject to the registration requirements of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and those serving extended sentences for serious violent or sexual offences are statutorily ineligible for HDC. Furthermore, prisoners with any history of sexual offending and those serving sentences for certain serious offences such as manslaughter, child cruelty, possession of an offensive weapon, possession of a firearm with intent, certain explosives offences and racially aggravated offences are presumed unsuitable for release unless there are exceptional circumstances. All eligible prisoners must pass a careful risk assessment before release on HDC is possible. No prisoner who is considered to present a significant risk to public safety or of re-offending during the curfew period is released on HDC. The information requested, as recorded on the prison IT system, is provided in the following table.

Home detention curfew releases in 2005

	Violent offences[2]
Prisoners with sentences of 3 months to less than 4 years with an HDC eligibility date in the period	12,828
Number released on HDC during 2005[1]	4,105
Percentage who received HDC during 2005	32

[1] These figures are based are based on information recorded on the central prison IT system at 22 May 2006. Further updates and amendments may be made to records on this system in future resulting in revised figures.

[2] Offence recorded on prison IT system. Covers violence against the person and robbery. Investigations suggest that around 5 per cent. of offence types recorded on this system do not relate to the offence they were released on HDC for but relate to offences committed after release from prison and before the licence expiry date for their sentence.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set up a *(a)* specialised immigration status for trafficking victims and *(b)* shelter capacity for trafficking victims; and if he will make a statement. [80352]

Mr. Byrne: The Secretary of State already has the discretion to grant periods of leave to trafficking victims, or to defer removal while the facts of the case are established. There are currently no plans to create a specialised immigration status for trafficking victims.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate have been granted British citizenship in *(a)* the last 12 months, *(b)* the last five years and *(c)* the last 10 years; and what the country of origin of each such employee is. [77117]

John Reid: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how long Mr. Dawute has been employed by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate; how long Mr. Dawute has been employed at Lunar House in Croydon; and whether Mr. Dawute continues to carry out his duties. [73686]

John Reid: James Dawute was employed by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate from 12 August 2002 to 1 June 2006. He was employed at Lunar House in Croydon from 22 December 2003 to June 2006. Mr. Dawute was dismissed on 1 June 2006.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who the head of Prisoner Escort and Custody Services at the National Offender Management Service is; how many people have held the position *(a)* permanently and *(b)* temporarily in the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [78166]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The current head of the Prisoner Escort and Custody Service is a senior Prison Service manager on loan to the National Offender Management Service. Two other people have held this post in the last four years. There was a short temporary appointment between May and October 2002, and a permanent appointment from then until August 2005.

Operation Safeguard

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date prisoners were last held in police cells under Operation Safeguard; in which criminal justice areas they were held; and what the status of the prisoners was. [75433]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prisoners were last held under Operation Safeguard on 20 December 2002. Details of prisoners held under operation Safeguard were only recorded by police constabulary area. The following forces held prisoners: Cheshire, Cleveland, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Dorset, Durham, Dyfed Powys .Essex, Greater Manchester, Hertfordshire, Humberside, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Metropolitan, North Yorkshire, Northumbria, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Sussex, West Mercia, West Midlands, West Yorkshire and Wiltshire.

Information on the status of the prisoners held is not available.

Parliamentary Questions

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to question *(a)* 76539 and *(b)* 76540, on oxycodone hydrochloride, tabled by the hon. Member for Castle Point for answer on 12 June. [84114]

Mr. Coaker: The two questions 76539 and 76540 on oxycodone hydrochloride were answered on 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1330W.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of staff employed in the London area office of HM Prison Service receive the RHS allowance; and if he will make a statement. [74016]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is assumed the hon. Member is referring to Required Hours Addition (RHA). Of the 29 staff employed in the London area office, four are currently in receipt of RHA.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding charities have received from the Prison Service in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of the total prison service budget this represented in each year. [84402]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service works with many charities that provide a service to the Prison Service for which they are remunerated. However, the accounting system does not identify charitable organisations and the total paid to these organisations could be provided only at a disproportionate cost to the benefit. The following table shows the donations made by the Prison Service in the last five years.

Donations to charities by the Prison Servia: 2001-06

	Donation	*Percentage of spend (less than)*
2005-06	115,197	0.1
2004-05	101,518	0.1
2003-04	150,027	0.1
2002-03	45,133	0.1
2001-02	21,066	0.1

Note:
As a result of changes to the accounting systems to obtain information for earlier years could be done only at a disproportionate cost.

Prisons

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deaths in prison were deemed to have *(a)* been caused by and *(b)* involved (i) other inmates and (ii) prison officers in each prison, in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [82927]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of apparent homicides in prisons in England and Wales, 2001-2005, and where they occurred, is shown in the following table. The perpetrator in each case was another prisoner.

Number of apparent homicides

Prison	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Full Sutton	—	—	—	—	1
Leeds	—	—	—	1	—
Leicester	—	—	—	1	—
Manchester	—	—	1	—	—
Risley	—	—	—	—	1
Rye Hill	—	—	—	—	1

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times illegal drugs have been found in each of the prisons in Wales in each of the past five years, broken down by *(a)* type of drug and *(b)* quantity of drugs. [73728]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 5 June 2006]:* The table details drug finds in prisons in Wales during the last five years. Centrally available data does not record the quantity of drugs found.

Illegal drugs found in prisons in Wales 2000-05

Prison		*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Number Total*
Cardiff	Heroin	5	8	4	2	3	9	31
	Cocaine	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
	LSD	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
	Amphetamines	1	3	1	0	0	1	6
	Barbiturates	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Cannabis	45	26	17	11	11	14	124
	Cannabis plant	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Tranquillisers	2	1	1	0	0	0	4
	Other	5	13	3	0	1	4	26
		59	53	27	15	15	29	198
Pare	Heroin	1	5	1	5	12	14	38
	Cocaine	0	1	0	2	0	1	4
	LSD	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Amphetamines	0	6	0	1	0	1	8
	Cannabis	25	25	23	44	38	44	199
	Cannabis plant	1	0	0	0	1	1	3
	Crack	0	0	0	1	0	2	3

Illegal drugs found in prisons in Wales 2000-05

Prison		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Number Total
	Other	0	3	5	16	16	20	60
		27	41	29	69	67	83	316
Swansea	Heroin	1	4	2	0	0	0	7
	Cocaine	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
	Amphetamines	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
	Cannabis	14	10	0	2	3	2	31
	Crack	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Other	2	3	0	0	1	1	7
		18	19	2	2	5	4	50
Usk/Prescoed	Crack	—	0	—	1	—	—	1
	Other	—	1	—	0	—	—	1
		—	1	—	1	—	—	2

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what obligation is placed on the Prison Service to establish the nationality of prisoners during the reception process under Prison Service Order 0500. [78170]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prison Service Order 0500 requires prison reception staff to interview all incoming prisoners and note their stated nationality in the prisoner's core record. Prisons will report the details of all prisoners who state that they are foreign nationals or dual nationals, all those whose nationality is initially unclear and all those who refuse to give their nationality to the immigration service who will then establish their immigration status. As the Home Secretary outlined in his ministerial statement of 23 May, officials are now looking at the possibility of placing a legal obligation on those suspected, charged or convicted to declare their nationality.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women were imprisoned in each year since 1997; how many of them served their sentences in open prisons; how many women in prison are serving sentences in excess of three years; and if he will make a statement. [82357]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of females received into prison establishments between 1997 and 2004 is given in table 7.1 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2004. Similar information on the number of females in prison as at June each year is given in table 8.1. Information on the numbers of females in open prison, including those in open young offender prison establishments and semi-open prisons, is given in the first part of the following table. Information on female prisoners whose sentence is more than three years is provided in the second part of the following table.

Female prisoners in open prisons and young offender institutions since 1997: As at June 30

	Total
1997	507
1998	498
1999	418
2000	345
2001	449
2002	506
2003	524
2004	518
2005	457

Female population in prison establishments under an immediate custodial sentence of more than three years: As at June 30

	Population
1997	817
1998	959
1999	1,075
2000	1,134
2001	1,321
2002	1,581
2003	1,719
2004	1,720

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued on minimum and maximum temperatures for cells in *(a)* prisons, *(b)* young offender institutions and *(c)* juvenile custody in England and Wales for each month of the year. [83341]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Offender Management Services (NOMS) takes seriously its responsibility to treat prisoners decently. Guidance has been issued to all custodial establishments, including those in the juvenile estate that defines the standard of prisoner accommodation including the capability of the heating system and ventilation requirements in Prison Service order "Certified Prisoner Accommodation" and its supporting Prison Service standard "Accommodation". The Youth Justice Board (YJB) contracts with the Secure Training Centre (STC) providers stipulate specific requirements for ranges of temperatures which must be met. These ranges vary depending on the type and usage of the accommodation. Within the Secure Children's Homes

contracts the YJB requires that the provider will ensure that all parts of the premises are adequately ventilated, heated and lit in keeping with the type of usage to which they are put.

Probation Service

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* legal advisers and *(b)* social services advisers have been employed or seconded to work in the Probation Service in each of the last eight years. [79953]

John Reid: The current data collection process for workforce information does not provide data in sufficient detail to provide the information requested. Senior Circuit Judges are appointed by the Department of Constitutional Affairs to sit on Local Probation Boards and advise them on legal matters, as the appointments are made by DCA the National Probation Directorate does not keep records of how many Judges have taken post over the last eight years.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total number of *(a)* operational and *(b)* non-operational officers employed in the Probation Service was in each of the last eight years. [79954]

John Reid: Information is not available for the full period requested. Data collected prior to one April 2003 is unreliable, and is not directly comparable with the more accurate figures collected since that time. The figures presented in the table show the proportion of staff, in terms of full time equivalent value, employed in an operational capacity at the close of each quarter from one April 2003 to 31 March 2006. Operational staff in the National Probation Service operate in multi-disciplinary teams including dedicated support staff. For this reason the figures provided include both the number of operational staff, and the number of support staff dedicated to operational service teams. The total of these two staff groups gives an accurate representation of the total resource applied to operational services. The non-operational staff in the National Probation Service are all other staff who provide non operational support services.

	Operational staff	*Non-operational staff*	*Total staff in post*
2003-04			
Quarter 1	16,261.20	1,491.00	17,752.2
Quarter 2	16,731.61	1,540.47	18,272.08
Quarter 3	17,641.16	1,522.66	19,163.82
Quarter 4	17,678.57	1,517.01	19,195.58
2004-05			
Quarter 1	17,564.00	1,531.84	19,095.84
Quarter 2	17,510.27	1,554.86	19,065.13
Quarter 3	17,852.21	1,670.73	19,522.94
Quarter 4	18,082.90	1,672.46	19,755.36
2005-06			
Quarter 1	18,150.45	1,705.30	19,855.75
Quarter 2	18,331.27	1,765.00	20,096.27
Quarter 3	18,713.26	1,990.80	20,704.06
Quarter 4	18,340.46	2,694.8	21,035.26

Rape Charge/Sentencing

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received about the potential to be able to charge with rape clients who use the services of a woman who has been forced into prostitution. [81614]

Mr. Coaker: In response to its consultation document on trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, the Home Office received a number of representations which expressed support for the "Swedish model" whereby the purchase of sex is made a criminal offence. A summary of the responses received can be found on the Home Office website.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average sentence was for *(a)* rape and *(b)* date rape in each of the last five years. [77160]

Mr. Coaker: The average sentence length of those given custodial sentences for rape, excluding those sentenced to life imprisonment, from 2000 to 2004 is in the following table. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced on 1 May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences. It redefined rape to include the non-consensual penetration of a male. 'Date rape' is not classified as a separate offence to rape.

Average length of determinate custodial sentences for rape all courts England and Wales 2000-04.

Rape[1]	*Average sentence length (months)*
2000	85.4
2001	84.6
2002	87.7
2003	90.5
2004	87.9

[1] On 1 May 2004 the law changed to include rape of a male.

Source:
RDS NOMS 12 June 2006

Road Safety

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the latest figures are for prosecutions of drivers using mobile phones while driving, broken down by police authority area. [82203]

Mr. Coaker: Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform for the year 2004 (latest available) is in the following table. 2005 data will be available early in 2007.

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1] by police force area, England and Wales 2004

Police force area	Number of offences Total proceedings
Avon and Somerset	19
Bedfordshire	5
Cambridgeshire	7
Cheshire	2
Cleveland	4
Cumbria	24
Derbyshire	17
Devon and Cornwall	19
Dorset	2[2]
Durham	1
Essex	28
Gloucestershire	1
Greater Manchester	73
Hampshire	18
Hertfordshire	6
Humberside	4
Kent	2[2]
Lancashire	17
Leicestershire	12
Lincolnshire	9
London, City of	7
Merseyside	22
Metropolitan Police	203
Norfolk	20
Northamptonshire	2[2]
Northumbria	32
North Yorkshire	18
Nottinghamshire	8
South Yorkshire	12
Staffordshire	11
Suffolk	7
Surrey	9
Sussex	1
Thames Valley	24
Warwickshire	7
West Mercia	17
West Midlands	61
West Yorkshire	11
Wiltshire	21
Dyfed Powys	13
Gwent	2[2]
North Wales	3
South Wales	16
England and Wales	789

[1] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110(3).
[2] Nil prosecutions.
Source:
Court Proceedings Database.

Vulnerable Witnesses

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the national roll-out of the intermediaries scheme for vulnerable witnesses will be implemented; and if he will make a statement. [83895]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We will make a statement following consideration of the final report from the evaluation of the intermediary scheme in the six pathfinder areas.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the *(a)* area and *(b)* yield of this year's opium crop in the Helmand province; [80429]

(2) what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of opium eradication programmes in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. [80436]

Dr. Howells: It is too early to provide accurate figures on the area and yield of this year's opium crop in Helmand Province. However, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's (UNODC) Rapid Assessment Survey of March 2006 suggests that following a 21 per cent. reduction in overall cultivation last year, planting may increase in 13 of Afghanistan's 32 provinces, including Helmand. Research commissioned by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has shown that in areas with better security, governance and access to resources, there may be further reductions this year.

Eradication was carried out in Helmand by the Afghan Government, at the request of and under the control of the Provincial Governor. The UNODC is currently in the process of verifying levels of eradication delivered, both in Helmand and in Afghanistan as a whole. Final figures for both eradication and cultivation should be available in the autumn. Eradication is a useful deterrent where there is access to legal livelihoods, tackling the drugs problem requires a range of activities including arresting and convicting the traffickers who profit from the trade, and putting in place the development programmes which enable fanners to move away from growing poppy. That is why the UK is spending £270 million over a three-year period on supporting the Government of Afghanistan's National Drug Control Strategy.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials from her Department are based in each province in Afghanistan, broken down by job function. [82734]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently has 34 staff serving in Afghanistan. For reasons of personnel security and safety it is not possible to give details of locations or specific functions of staff deployed in Afghanistan.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1448W, on Afghanistan, what progress the Afghan/UN/US forum in Kabul is making in respect of each of the five pillars of Security Sector Reform. [83288]

Dr. Howells: The London conference on Afghanistan launched the Afghanistan Compact. This provides the framework for continued international engagement in Afghanistan over the next five years. The Joint

Co-ordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB) was established by the Compact to co-ordinate the international effort more effectively and to measure progress against the benchmarks and timelines set out in the Compact. Consultative Groups focussing on the eight sectors and five cross-cutting themes covered in the Compact have met and will report to the next JCMB's meeting at the end of July.

Alcoholic Beverages

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the estimated value is of central Government's stock of alcoholic beverages; and how many bottles of *(a)* wine, *(b)* beer, *(c)* spirits and *(d)* other alcoholic beverages are held by the Government. [82816]

Mr. Hoon: Pursuant to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) the then Foreign Secretary to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs Villiers) on 17 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2529-30W. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is responsible for the administration of the Government hospitality wine cellar. The cellar contains a mixture of fine and beverage wines, spirits, liqueurs and beers. The current estimated value is approximately £674,000, based on cost price. The cellar contains just over 36,500 bottles, of which fewer than 300 are spirits and liqueurs. Beer is not held in large quantities and is bought on an ad hoc basis, depending on requirements.

Balkan States

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her counterparts in the Balkan states on the way that the recent history of the region is taught in schools; and if she will make a statement. [83433]

Mr. Hoon: Neither my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, nor I have yet raised this with our counterparts. However, education is part of the reform agenda that officials regularly discuss with Balkan states. We recognise the importance of this issue as a means to tackling inter-ethnic tension in the region. It is a vital element of longer-term stability. We have funded a range of projects to support this, including part funding the book 'Clio in the Balkans—The Politics of History Education'. Our Embassy in Sarajevo is also involved in supporting educational reform. 'Education and Youth' was the theme of our local EU presidency and the ambassador in Sarajevo has co- chaired the Education Reform Committee.

Bulgaria/Romania

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the European Union is providing to *(a)* Bulgaria and *(b)* Romania to strengthen the border security of those countries. [82120]

Mr. Hoon: The EU offers assistance to Romania and Bulgaria on strengthening border security through a range of projects designed to help both countries comply with EU standards. In particular, through the European Commission's 2005 Phare programme, we have provided assistance to Romania to the value of €41 million for nine projects covering training and the provision of equipment, such as "Upgrading the Surveillance Capacity of Romanian Border Police Special Surveillance Vehicles". Similar capacity building was provided to Bulgaria amounting to almost €17 million for "Development of Centralised Information Systems and Introduction of EU Best Practices and Standards in the Field of Border Control". Many other EU projects on other aspects of accession preparations also touch on border security, e.g. customs, veterinary controls and police training.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* the Cabinet Office regarding the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if she will make a statement. [82839]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had and will continue to have wide ranging and regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary about preparations for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, as a matter of key importance to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's medium and long term planning.

Cuba

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response her Department has made to the United States Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba's recent call for a democracy fund for Cuba. [82989]

Mr. Hoon: We understand that the US Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba is due to issue its latest report this week.

UK and EU policy towards Cuba continues to be based on constructive engagement with both the Government and civil society in order to encourage a peaceful transition to pluralist democracy.

Departmental Premises (Security)

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether her Department has *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly employed illegal immigrants as security guards. [80816]

Mr. Hoon: Security guards at Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) premises in the UK are employed indirectly via the contractor Pegasus Security. Pegasus Security has assured the FCO that illegal immigrants have not been employed as security guards at premises in the UK. Applicants must provide proof of British nationality during the recruitment process.

Deposited Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make it her policy to make copies of Deposited Papers available in *(a)* the Vote Office and *(b)* Printed Paper Office at the same time as copies are deposited in the Library; and if she will make a statement. [82466]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) regularly deposits papers in the Libraries of the House for the reference of hon. Members and noble Lords. The FCO assesses the level of interest in the deposited paper and in cases where there is likely to be wide interest provides copies of the document to the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office accordingly.

The FCO is always happy to provide copies of deposited papers to hon. Members and noble Lords on request.

Drugs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the work of the British embassy's drugs team in Kabul in co-ordinating anti-narcotics operations with International Security Assistance Force and the United States Operation Enduring Freedom. [83241]

Dr. Howells: The Government of Afghanistan rather than the British embassy drugs team in Kabul is responsible for co-ordinating the counter narcotics campaign in Afghanistan. Afghan Ministries are also responsible for implementation of the campaign. Co-ordination of assistance takes place nationally via the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics (MCN) and the Counter Narcotics Cabinet Sub-Committee, which brings together all relevant Ministries to oversee and monitor the implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy (NDCS). With support from the British embassy drugs team in Kabul, the MCN also chairs a series of working groups to take forward detailed implementation planning for all aspects of the NDCS. International partners including the military take part in the working groups and structures are also in place to ensure Afghan counter narcotics law enforcement operations are co-ordinated and deconflicted with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and US Operation Enduring Freedom operations. As partner nation for counter narcotics, the UK continues to encourage international partners including all ISAF troop contributors to provide support to the Afghan counter narcotics campaign in line with the commitments identified in the Afghanistan Compact and with agreed ISAF policy.

Government Wine Cellar

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her answer of 11 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 664W, on the Government wine cellar, how many bottles of wine are held in the Government wine cellar; what the latest estimate is of the value of the collection; how much was spent on the Government wine cellar in 2005-06; how many staff work in the wine cellar; what their salaries are; and under what circumstances Ministers have access to the wine cellar. [83668]

Mr. Hoon: As has been made clear in the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) today (UIN 82816) the Government Hospitality wine cellar contains just over 36,500 bottles. The most recent valuation, at the end of March 2006, placed on the stock is £674,000. In 2005-06, Government Hospitality spent a little over £95,000 on new stock for the cellar. The cellar is administered by Government Hospitality, under the guidance of the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine. Three civil servants assist in the administration of the cellar, among other duties. Ministers do not have access to the cellar; wines from the cellar are supplied to events hosted by Ministers as part of the service offered by Government Hospitality.

Illegal Immigration (North Africa)

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her counterparts in *(a)* Libya, *(b)* Tunisia and *(c)* Algeria on their plans to tackle illegal immigration from North Africa to Europe. [80333]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not as yet had discussions with her counterparts in these countries. I raised migration with my Algerian counterpart when I visited on 7-8 June and my Libyan counterpart in Tripoli on 25-27 June.

Migration from Africa to Europe has also been discussed this week at a meeting of African and European countries in Rabat.

Israel

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what monitoring is being undertaken by the Government to ascertain whether components subject to an export licence which are supplied to a third country and were known either to be intended for re-export to Israel, or where there was a known risk of diversion to Israel, are being used in the military incursions by Israel into Gaza and the West Bank which commenced on 27 June; and what the results have been of any such monitoring. [84048]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply I gave him on 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column1158W and the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Trade, Investment and Foreign affairs, (Mr. McCartney) on 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1340W. All licences, including for incorporation, are assessed against the consolidated criteria and prevailing circumstances at the time of application. This would include the risk that equipment could be diverted to an undesirable end-user or end-use.

Nigeria

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what date her Department received a letter from the Chancellor of the Exchequer informing her of the plans for his trip to Nigeria on 22 May 2006. [83336]

Mr. McCartney: Arrangements were in line with normal procedures.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has *(a)* to encourage further peace talks at Abuja to try to resolve the Darfur crisis and *(b)* to make further appeals to the opponents of the Darfur Peace Agreement to sign up to the agreement. [84504]

Mr. Hoon: We welcome the signature of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) on 5 May. We believe that if successfully implemented it will constitute a good basis for the resolution of the crisis in Darfur. Neither we nor the African Union envisage further talks at Abuja: reopening the text of the DPA would threaten the agreement that has been reached. We continue to urge all parties in Darfur to support the DPA and are pushing for its rapid implementation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact on the North-South Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan of the continuing conflict in Darfur. [84505]

Mr. Hoon: Continued conflict and instability in Darfur risks undermining the successful implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Sudan. And failure to implement fully and effectively the CPA risks exacerbating the conflict in Darfur. That is why the UK is doing all it can to secure both peace in Darfur and rapid implementation of the CPA.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress she has made in persuading the unified Government of Sudan on the need for UN involvement; and what assessment she has made of the prospect for chapter 8 agreement. [84507]

Mr. Hoon: Security Council Resolution 1679 called for a UN force for Darfur. The African Union (AU) reaffirmed its support for a UN force at its recent summit in the Gambia, President Bashir continues to oppose this. But, there are signs of different views within his Government on this issue. His own coalition partners, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, have said that they accept a UN force for Darfur, We will continue to urge the Government of Sudan to admit a UN force.

Chapter 8 of the UN charter provides for the UN to support peacekeeping operations by regional organisations. We believe that, even with substantial UN or other support, the current AU force in Darfur would struggle to meet the substantial new demands placed on it by the Darfur Peace Agreement, and thus that full transition to a UN force needs to occur as soon as possible.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* the objectives of organisations opposed to the Darfur Peace Agreement and *(b)* their treatment of (i) internally displaced peoples and (ii) their views on compensation to those affected by the conflict. [84508]

Mr. Hoon: Abdul Wahid's faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) refused to sign the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA). They asserted that the DPA provided insufficient representation for Darfuris in Government and insufficient compensation for those affected by the war. They have been rallying opposition to the DPA in the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps.

We disagree. We believe that the DPA offers a good deal for the people of Darfur, including a say for the rebels in Government at the national and Darfur levels, and a substantial reconstruction package. If implemented properly, the DPA will provide the basis for the return of the IDPs to their homes. Those who oppose the DPA are delaying the day when such returns can take place.

Uganda

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to President Museveni of Uganda about the international implications of offering amnesty to the leadership of the Lords Resistance Army. [84506]

Mr. Hoon: We are following the Government of southern Sudan's current mediation process closely and we welcome all efforts to bring the long-running conflict in northern Uganda to an end. Such efforts should focus on securing a permanent end to the conflict and encouraging Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) foot-soldiers out of the bush to seek amnesty and reintegration into their communities.

President Museveni has recently said that he will offer an amnesty to the five LRA commanders facing International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants if the talks process is successful The ICC has indicated that the arrest warrants still stand and reminded Uganda of its obligation as a state party to the Rome statute to effect the arrest warrants.

We endorse this—the UK is a strong supporter, in principle and in practice, of the work of the ICC. We are committed to seeing an end to impunity for the worst human rights abuses and criminal acts. My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, made this point most recently to the Uganda Foreign Minister when they met in the margins of the African Union summit in Banjul earlier this month.

Yemen

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of *(a)* the security situation and *(b)* political stability in Yemen; and if she will make a statement. [84200]

Dr. Howells: We have concerns about the security situation in Yemen and judge there is a continuing high threat from terrorism. During my visit to Yemen in January, I emphasised to Government Ministers that determined action against terrorist threats was vital. The UK provides practical counter terrorism support to Yemen.

This is a key year for Yemen's political and democratic systems with presidential elections in September. We will closely monitor the election process.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Delegations

Mr. Dismore: To ask the honourable Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1082W, on delegations, how many overseas visits the eight members of staff referred to undertook in total between 1 June 2005 and 31 May 2006; and at what cost. [84452]

Nick Harvey: In the year 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006, the total number of overseas visits undertaken by the eight members of staff referred to in the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1082W, was 38, to 19 separate sessions or meetings of international parliamentary assemblies. The total cost of subsistence and travel payments for those overseas visits was £53,946.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Cervical Cancer

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the most recent survival rate is for patients in the Province diagnosed with cervical cancer. [83725]

Paul Goggins: The survival time for a cancer patient is defined as the time elapsed between diagnosis and death The following table details information on the incidence of cervical cancer (ICD-10 C53) in Northern Ireland for the last period for which data was available.

Relative survival for cervical cancer in Northern Ireland

Diagnosis Period 1996-99	
1-Year (95 % CI)	85.9 % (81.4, 89.4)
5-Year (95% CI)	71.9 % (65.9, 77.0)

Source:
NI Cancer Registry.

Survival from cervical cancer is highly dependent upon the stage at which the disease is diagnosed. The five-year survival rate for stage I cervical cancer was 82 per cent. for patients diagnosed between 1996 and 1999, compared to 2 per cent. for Stage IV disease.

This information has been provided by the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry and is the most up to date currently available.

Notes:

1. Figures in brackets represent the 95 per cent. confidence interval, which is the range of values within which there is a 95 per cent. probability of finding the true value for the survival rate.

2. The estimation of patient survival is complicated by the fact that some patients die of causes unrelated to the cancer of interest. To allow for the deaths due to other diseases, survival is expressed as relative survival rate (RSR). Relative survival is the ratio of the observed survival divided by the survival that the patients would have experienced if they had the same probability of dying as the general population having the same age and sex.

Child Services

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans are in place to manage the process of change between existing health boards and trusts in the Province and the new Health and Social Services Authority in relation to services for children, young people and families. [83686]

Paul Goggins: By April 2007 the 18 existing trusts will be formally dissolved and the five new Health and Social Care trusts will become fully operational. The new Health and Social Services Authority will subsequently be established by April 2008. The new authority will have a role in commissioning the full range of services, including those for children, young people and families, either centrally or through the Local Commissioning Groups. The services will be delivered by the five new trusts and, where appropriate, the community and voluntary sector.

Specific plans are being developed to ensure that continuity and appropriate governance and accountability arrangements are maintained for services to children and families and, where necessary, strengthened in the move to the new commissioning and service provision arrangements. This work is being taken forward collaboratively by the Department, boards, trusts and the Northern Ireland Social Care Council with input from representatives of service users and carers.

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what expenditure is planned on each of the measures contained in Theme 3 of the Children and Young People Funding Package on improving education provision and support for looked-after children and vulnerable young adults in 2006-07; and on what timetable. [83687]

Paul Goggins: The information is as follows;

1. Supporting and equipping foster carers to discharge their role effectively as "First Educators" of the children in their care:

The planned expenditure for this initiative in 2006-07 is £1.04 million. The service will be provided by a voluntary organisation (or consortia), selected in the autumn following a public tender process. Interim arrangements are currently being finalised to deliver the scheme in the meantime.

2. Supporting staff in residential care settings to promote improved educational outcomes for the children in their care:

An outreach worker will be employed in each of the education and library board areas to support staff in residential care settings to promote improved educational outcomes for the children in their care. Expenditure in 2006-07 is expected to be some £200,000.

A further one-off figure of £0.1 million is available in 2006-07 to refresh computer equipment in children's homes. Expenditure in the Western health and social services board has been approved and its trusts are currently purchasing equipment. The other three boards are finalising their costs. The boards have been asked to implement this initiative as quickly as possible.

3. Enabling young people who are not yet ready for independence to remain living with their foster carers, and to encourage more young people leaving care to continue in education or training up to age 21:

The planned expenditure for this initiative in 2006-07 is £0.75 million. At the end of June 2006, this funding has supported 80 young people in foster placements. By March 2007, we expect this initiative will enable a further 70 young people to benefit from this scheme.

4. Empowering children and young people in care to engage actively in the process of ensuring the system works in their best interests:

The planned expenditure for this initiative in 2006-07 is £0.66 million. The service will be provided by a voluntary organisation (or consortia), selected in September following a public tender process. Interim arrangements are being finalised to deliver the scheme in the meantime.

Child Worker Vetting

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures are in place for co-ordination between authorities in Northern Ireland and *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the Republic of Ireland to ensure that people deemed unsuitable for work with children in one jurisdiction are unable to secure such employment in the other. [83023]

Paul Goggins: With effect from 1 April 2005, the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003 (POCVA) introduced a statutory requirement for childcare organisations to carry out a vetting check on prospective employees wishing to work with children in a paid or unpaid capacity in Northern Ireland. As part of the services introduced under POCVA, employers in Northern Ireland can check to confirm that a prospective employee or volunteer is not disqualified from working with children.

Where previous addresses indicate that an individual may have resided in:

England or Wales, a criminal records check is carried out with the relevant police forces for that jurisdiction and a check is also carried out against the relevant Disqualification Lists for that jurisdiction;

Scotland, a criminal records check is carried out. Discussions are ongoing to allow Northern Ireland access to Scotland's Disqualification Lists;

Republic of Ireland, a criminal records check will be requested from the Garda Vetting Unit by the PSNI.

Where an individual resides in England/Wales or Scotland and wishes to work or volunteer to work with children, the onus will be on the prospective employer to carry out a vetting check through the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) or Disclosure Scotland respectively. If the individual has a previous address in Northern Ireland CRB or Disclosure Scotland will request a criminal records check from the PSNI. PSNI will also check if individuals have been listed on the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) and the Department of Education (DE) Disqualification Lists.

Employers in Republic of Ireland (ROI) can also register with the DHSSPS to ascertain whether prospective employees resident in ROI but with previous addresses in Northern Ireland are included on the DHSSPS Disqualification list.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average cost to his Department was of replying to a letter written *(a)* by an hon. Member and *(b)* by a member of the public in the latest period for which figures are available; and how much of that sum is accounted for by (i) officials' time, (ii) cost of stationery and (iii) postage costs. [80489]

Mr. Hain: The information requested is not recorded centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, on an annual basis the Cabinet Office publishes a report to Parliament on the performance of departments in replying to Members/Peers correspondence. The report for 2005 was published on 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 76-78WS.

Dentistry

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of *(a)* children, *(b)* adults and *(c)* the population in Northern Ireland were registered with a dentist in each of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) by board. [83945]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is detailed in the following table. Registration figures by Health and Social Services Board for 2000 are not available.

Percentage of population registered with general dental practitioners

HSS board	*Eastern*	*Northern*	*Southern*	*Western*	*NI*
2001 (as at May)					
Children	64.7	64.4	62.6	62.3	63.8
Adults	52.3	49.8	53.1	43.1	50.3
All	55.4	53.6	55.8	48.7	53.9
2002 (as at August)					
Children	64.7	63.7	62.7	61.5	63.5
Adults	53.5	50.8	53.7	44.4	51.4
All	56.2	54.2	56.2	49.3	54.5

Percentage of population registered with general dental practitioners

HSS board	Eastern	Northern	Southern	Western	NI
2003 (as at July)					
Children	65.1	64.2	63.8	60.5	63.8
Adults	53.7	51.4	54.2	43.5	51.6
All	56.5	54.7	56.9	48.3	54.7
2004 (as at July)					
Children	65.4	62.8	63.1	60.3	63.3
Adults	53.0	49.2	53.6	41.6	50.3
All	56.0	52.6	56.2	46.8	53.6

Note:
Figures are derived from dental registration data and the corresponding mid-year estimate of population from General Register Office, Northern Ireland.
Source:
Central Service Agency and General Register Office

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* fillings and *(b)* extractions were carried out on children's teeth in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) in each board area. [83946]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is detailed in the following table:

	EHSSB	NHSSB	SHSSB	WHSSB	Total
(a) Fillings in children's teeth					
2000-01	83,961	54,552	40,725	39,807	219,045
2001-02	74,105	51,594	39,509	37,744	202,952
2002-03	63,171	45,818	32,871	30,354	172,214
2003-04	61,512	42,348	31,177	30,838	165,875
2004-05	60,938	39,856	28,702	26,872	156,368
2005-06	59,426	40,689	28,563	26,474	155,152
(b) Extractions of children's teeth					
2000-01	37,309	20,080	13,979	17,462	88,830
2001-02	32,463	18,733	12,113	17,573	80,882
2002-03	19,077	13,933	9,573	10,655	53,238
2003-04	19,184	13,614	8,708	8,895	50,401
2004-05	18,764	12,731	7,552	8,550	47,597
2005-06	17,219	11,141	7,794	7,689	43,843

Note:
Children are defined as those aged 0-17 years
Source:
Central Services Agency

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list in date order the *(a)* Green and *(b)* White papers produced by his Department since October 2005. [81635]

Mr. Hain: My Department has published two numbered Command Papers since October 2005. Details are as follows:

(i) Autumn Report (Cm. No. 6720) published on 5 December 2005; and

(ii) Departmental Report (Cm. No. 6836) published on 19 April 2006.

The Northern Ireland Office does not keep central records of unnumbered Command Papers that have been published.

Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the merits of creating a database of people in the Province with foetal alcohol syndrome or other alcohol-related complications of pregnancy. [83779]

Paul Goggins: A formal assessment has not been made of the merits of creating a database or registry of people in the Province with foetal alcohol syndrome or other alcohol-related complications of pregnancy. Foetal alcohol spectrum disorder is a difficult condition to diagnose accurately because of the wide range of symptoms with which it can present, signs and symptoms which themselves can be indicative of other conditions e.g. behavioural problems. In addition there are also the difficulties associated with ascertaining or establishing the mother's alcohol intake before and during pregnancy.

Genital Warts

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will estimate the number of patients in the Province who suffer from genital warts; how many new cases of genital warts have been diagnosed amongst *(a)* males and *(b)* females in the Province in each of the last five years; and if he will estimate the cost arising from management of (i) new and (ii) existing cases of genital warts in the Province in 2005-06. [83724]

Paul Goggins: An estimate of the number of patients in the Province who suffer from genital warts is not available.

The number of new cases of genital warts that have been seen at Genito-Urinary Medicine clinics in Northern Ireland, broken down by gender, in the Province in each of the last five years is detailed in the following table.

	(a) Males	*(b) Females*
2001	1,107	1,023
2002	1,147	1,029
2003	1,111	1,065
2004	1,059	1,042
2005	1,208	1,098

Notes:
1. Figures refer to calendar years.
2. The number of new cases of genital warts only includes the condition anogenital warts—first attack.
Source:
Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre Northern Ireland (CDSC (NI)).

Information is not readily available on costs of treating new and existing cases of genital warts due to

the relatively small numbers of cases involved. For the year 2005-06 the planned expenditure for this area fell under the Genito-Urinary Medicine specialty, which was expected to cost, excluding capital, £4.7 million Province-wide.

Health Expenditure

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of health expenditure in the Province in each of the last five years was allocated to *(a)* acute hospitals, *(b)* community-based health care and *(c)* primary care. [83778]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	Acute and hospital percentage of total	*Community percentage of total*	*PSS percentage of total*	*Primary care (BFR(F)) percentage of total*	*Total*
2000-01	47	10	27	17	100
2001-02	47	10	27	17	100
2002-03	43	10	26	22	100
2003-04	42	10	26	23	100
2004-05	42	10	25	23	100

The percentages quoted relate to the whole of the integrated health and personal social services (HPSS) budget. It should be noted that there was a reclassification of costs in the financial year 2002-03, which resulted in a decrease in recorded spend under the acute hospitals head and an equivalent increase under primary care.

Health Service Employees (Absence)

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many days sick leave were taken in Northern Ireland by *(a)* doctors, *(b)* nurses, *(c)* other health professionals and *(d)* other health service employees in each of the last three years, broken down by health trust area. [83777]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 470W.

Hospital-acquired Infections

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Northern Ireland regional strategy to fight infections acquired in hospital launched on 20 June 2005. [83963]

Paul Goggins: The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety launched its action plan for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections at a major infection control conference in Belfast on 13 March 2006. Entitled "Changing the Culture", the plan took forward the proposals in the June 2005 strategy after due consideration of the responses made during the consultation period. It is a three-year plan and it is intended that its effectiveness will be assessed on its conclusion in 2009. A multi-disciplinary steering group is in place to monitor implementation during this period.

Lakewood Centre

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will meet a delegation of North Down constituents to discuss the relocation of facilities from the Lakewood Centre in Bangor to Childhaven in Millisle. [81813]

Paul Goggins: I will write to the hon. Member with the specifics of this case and place a copy in the library.

Medical Services

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of all GP practices in Northern Ireland were single-handed in each of the last five years. [83941]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided in the following table:

Percentage of Single-handed GP Practices in Northern Ireland, 2002 to 2006

	Number of single-handed practices	*Percentage of all practices*
July 2006	66	18.2
July 2005	68	18.7
July 2004	72	19.7
July 2003	63	17.5
August 2002	62	17.2

Note:
Data is at July each year with the exception of 2002 which is at August
Source:
Central Services Agency

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what *(a)* the average GP practice list size for registered patients and *(b)* the average practice list size for dental practices in Northern Ireland was in each of the last five years (i) in total and (ii) in each trust area. [83942]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided in the following tables.

Table (a)(i): The Average GP Practice List Size (Totals)

	GP practice list size	*Number of GP practices*	*Average practice list size*
July 2006	1,804,757	363	4,972
July 2005	1,794,440	364	4,930
July 2004	1,788,589	365	4,900
July 2003	1,781,565	361	4,935
August 2002	1,776,199	361	4,920

Source:
Central Services Agency

Table (a)(ii): The Average GP Practice List Size by Trust

Trust	Average GP practice list size				
	July 2006	*July 2005*	*July 2004*	*July 2003*	*August 2002*
Armagh and Dungannon	4,751	4,652	4,598	4,556	4,526
Causeway	5,568	5,288	5,241	5,196	5,167
Craigavon and Banbridge	4,879	4,810	4,728	4,670	4,634
Down and Lisburn	5,615	5,576	5,552	5,510	5,503
Foyle	6,645	6,661	6,681	6,658	6,647
Homefirst	5,186	5,144	5,106	5,250	5,221
Newry and Mourne	4,141	4,266	4,228	4,232	4,205
North Down and Ards	4,991	4,960	4,938	5,108	5,111
North and West Belfast	4,386	4,418	4,384	4,414	4,433
South and East Belfast	4,779	4,761	4,771	4,764	4,759
Sperrin	4,159	3,998	3,993	4,092	4,061

Source:
Central Services Agency

Table (b)(i):The Average Dental Practice List Size (Totals)

	Dental practice list size	*Number of dental practices*	*Average dental practice list size*
June 2006	913,110	376	2,428
June 2005	911,915	374	2,438
October 2004	908,119	369	2,461
June 2003	930,375	n/a	n/a
August 2002	925,478	n/a	n/a

Source:
Central Services Agency

Table (b) (ii): The Average Dental Practice List Size by Trust

Trust	Average Dental Practice List Size				
	June 2006	*June 2005*	*October 2004*	*June 2003*	*August 2002*
Not Assigned[1]	36,658	33,205	31,079	33,413	34,768
Armagh and Dungannon	60,564	60,309	60,793	60,753	60,018
Causeway	57,997	56,613	55,380	55,620	54,798
Craigavon and Banbridge	65,803	64,661	64,545	64,820	63,856
Down and Lisburn	90,737	89,865	88,796	89,138	89,199
Foyle	78,212	78,212	79,148	80,616	80,644
Homefirst	173,836	174,011	172,601	181,555	179,354
Newry and Mourne	70,725	71,558	71,933	73,599	73,282
North Down and Ards	80,184	82,901	82,433	83,082	83,105
North and West Belfast	51,218	51,103	50,990	50,472	48,854
South and East Belfast	101,287	102,355	101,909	105,492	105,001
Sperrin	45,889	47,122	48,512	51,812	52,599

[1] Some patients could not be assigned to a Trust because of missing, incomplete or invalid postcodes and/or incorrect Central Health Index numbers.

Note:
This table is based on where the patient is resident (that is, the location of the patient by Trust)

Source:
Central Services Agency

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of GP practices in Northern Ireland had at least 50 per cent. of their patients living three or more miles away in each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each board area. [83948]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided as follows.

Number and percentage of GP practices with at least 50 per cent. of their patients living three or more miles away by Health and Social Services Board (HSSB) and in total

	Eastern HSSB	*Northern HSSB*	*Southern HSSB*	*Western HSSB*	*Northern Ireland total*
July 2006					
Number of practices	9	10	16	15	50
Percentage of practices	6.1	12.3	20.8	25.9	13.8
July 2005					
Number of practices	9	10	16	17	52
Percentage of practices	6.1	12.2	21.1	28.8	14.3

Number and percentage of GP practices with at least 50 per cent. of their patients living three or more miles away by Health and Social Services Board (HSSB) and in total

	Eastern HSSB	Northern HSSB	Southern HSSB	Western HSSB	Northern Ireland total
July 2004					
Number of Practices	8	10	15	17	50
Percentage of practices	5.4	12.2	19.7	28.8	13.7
July 2003					
Number of practices	5	10	15	11	41
Percentage of practices	3.4	12.5	19.7	19.0	11.4
August 2002					
Number of practices	4	10	15	10	39
Percentage of practices	2.7	12.5	19.7	17.2	10.8

Note:
Data are at July each year with the exception of 2002 which is at August
Source:
Central Services Agency

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost of ophthalmic services in Northern Ireland was in each of the last five years. [83950]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided in the following table.

	Cost of ophthalmic services (£000)
2000-01	12,028
2001-02	12,278
2002-03	13,458
2003-04	16,211
2004-05	14,428

Note:
Costs exclude patient contributions.
Source:
Central Services Agency

Ministerial Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions he has stayed overnight in Northern Ireland since his appointment. [83906]

Mr. Hain: Since my appointment as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in May 2005 until the end of June 2006, I have stayed overnight in Northern Ireland on 79 occasions. In the same period I have also spent 130 days in Northern Ireland. The hon. Gentleman will be aware that I also carry out Northern Ireland duties from the NIO Office in London and in Parliament, as every one of my predecessors has done.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 29 June, *Official Report*, column 600W, on MS treatment, how much of the additional £2 million identified for multiple sclerosis treatment has been allocated to the Western Health and Social Services Board; how much of that it is planned to receive; and what plans the Board has for that money. [84107]

Paul Goggins: The additional £2 million to improve access to disease modifying therapies for people with MS has been allocated to Health and Social Services Boards on a capitation basis. The Western Board's allocation, and the amount it will receive, is £343,000. The Board will use the funding to improve treatment for patients on the waiting list for disease modifying therapies, as well as new patients who come forward.

Obesity

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what initial assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the new guidelines on the treatment of obesity in Northern Ireland. [83957]

Paul Goggins: A guideline on the management of obesity in secondary care, issued by the Clinical Resource and Efficiency Support Team (CREST) in June 2005, has not been assessed for its effectiveness by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. CREST is an independent group comprised of local healthcare professionals from a range of backgrounds. The Department does not formally assess the effectiveness of CREST guidance.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently developing guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children. This guidance is due to be published in November 2006 and, under the Department's link with the institute, will be assessed for its applicability to the health and personal social services in Northern Ireland, The review of applicability will not include an assessment of the effectiveness of the NICE guidance. In linking with NICE, the Department accepts the professionalism and expertise of the institute's guidance development process and is not seeking to duplicate this process in Northern Ireland.

Organic Farming

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps he is taking through the planning process to encourage organic farm development; and if he will make a statement. [83085]

David Cairns: The planning process does not differentiate between organic and non organic farm development. It is recognised that as agriculture continues to change and develop, it is important that the planning process continues to support operational needs.

Under the Planning (General Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 1993, certain development relating to agriculture and forestry is permitted development (PD) i.e. a planning application is not required as permission is deemed to be granted.

Where a proposal is not PD and express permission is required, planning permission will be granted for agricultural and forestry building/works subject to certain criteria and policy requirements. Any application is very much site specific and is treated on its own merits subject to detailed planning and environmental criteria.

Paediatric Cardiology

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average waiting time was for an initial paediatric cardiology assessment in the Province in the last period for which figures are available [74627]

Paul Goggins *[pursuant to the reply, 5 June 2006, Official Report, c. 447W]:* My initial response has been amended to take account of an error in data provided by Ulster Community and Hospitals Trust.

Waiting list information is collected by time band. It is therefore not possible to calculate the arithmetic mean (average) length of time waiting. It is however possible to identify the median or mid point waiting time band. Current median (average) waiting times for children waiting an initial paediatric cardiology out-patient assessment, in each applicable Health and Social Services Trust, are shown in the following table.

HSS Trust	*Median waiting times for an out-patient paediatric cardiology assessment (months*
Royal Group of Hospitals	7
United Hospitals	6-9
Craigavon Area Hospital Group	3-5
Altnagelvin Group	3-5
Causeway	Within 2
Ulster Community and Hospitals	9-11

Source:
Health and Social Service Trusts

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many patients are waiting for an initial paediatric cardiology assessment within the Ulster Community and Hospital Trust area, broken down by the length of time which has been waited. [83781]

Paul Goggins: The number of patients waiting for an initial outpatient assessment in the paediatric cardiology specialty at the Ulster hospital at 31 May 2006 by length of time waiting is provided in the following table.

Timeband	*Number waiting*
0 to two months	21
Three to five months	12
Six to eight months	10
Nine to 11 months	11
12 to 14 months	7
15 to 17 months	5
18 to 20 months	10
21 to 23 months	9
24 plus months	11
NI total	96

Source:
Ulster Community and Hospitals Group HSS Trust

Pharmaceutical Payments

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost of pharmaceutical payments in Northern Ireland was in the last five years; what the total net ingredient cost was; and what the gross cost was per person. [83953]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided as follows.

Gross cost, net ingredient cost and gross cost per person, 2001 to 2005

£

	Gross cost	*Net ingredient cost*	*Gross cost per person*
2001	295,606,789	272,437,580	175
2002	323,650,874	298,933,228	191
2003	354,350,542	330,158,987	208
2004	380,996,679	365,272,924	223
2005	383,146,826	359,853,479	224

Source:
Central Services Agency

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average cost per prescription item in Northern Ireland was in each of the last five years; what the total number of prescription forms was; and what was the average number of prescription items per person was in each year. [83956]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is provided as follows.

Total number of prescription items, average cost per prescription item and average number of prescription items per person, 2001 to 2005

	Total number of prescription items	*Average gross cost per prescription item (£)*	*Average number of prescription items per person*
2001	24,551,125	12.04	15
2002	25,419,957	12.73	15
2003	26,399,016	13.42	16
2004	27,318,349	13.95	16
2005	27,959,494	13.70	16

Source:
Central Services Agency

Respiratory Disease

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made on the 10 year strategy to reduce respiratory disease in Northern Ireland announced on 9 June 2005. [83962]

Paul Goggins: A draft strategy for respiratory disease was published for consultation in June 2005. A final document "A Healthier Future: A Strategic Framework for Respiratory Conditions" was formally launched on 15 March 2006 by my hon. Friend, the Member for St. Helens South.

The framework recommends that a network of local multidisciplinary respiratory groups should be established to facilitate and co-ordinate the implementation of the strategy in their area. The work of these local groups will be overseen by a Regional Respiratory Forum which will comprise the lead professionals from each of the local groups. The Health and Social Services Boards are currently taking steps to constitute their local groups and the establishment of the regional forum will follow later this year.

In 2006-07 the Department of Health Social Services and Public Safety has invested an additional £3 million through the QMS Contract in a Directed Enhanced Service to help people with respiratory conditions. These resources will be used to provide effective self-management training to enable people with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to manage their own conditions more effectively and to provide care and rehabilitative services to improve the long-term health and wellbeing of these patients.

Waiting Lists/Times

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average waiting time was at each hospital emergency department in the Province in each of the last 12 months. [83780]

Paul Goggins: Information on the time that patients wait to be seen in accident and emergency departments is not collected centrally.

For those trusts who have electronic data systems in place, data extracts have been requested and work is due to begin on merging these extracts in mid-July. Work is in progress to develop an electronic solution for the trusts that currently have manual systems and the development of detailed data definitions is underway, Unvalidated data on accident and emergency waiting times should be available by end September 2006.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 13 July 2006

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Child Care

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1082W, on child care, how many staff, and at what grades, took advantage of the child care voucher scheme; and what the total annual cost is of the scheme. [84451]

Nick Harvey: Currently 116 House of Commons staff claim child care vouchers. The scheme records do not include details of the pay bands of the staff concerned. The cost of the scheme for the last full year (2005-06) was £215,000.

House Staff

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1983W, on senior staff, what consideration has been given to *(a)* positive action and *(b)* positive discrimination to improve the diversity of House staff, especially at senior levels. [84439]

Nick Harvey: The House administration is taking several actions which are working towards the goals of improving ethnic-minority representation at senior levels and helping staff from all backgrounds to realise their full career potential. A corporate Senior Management Development Programme was introduced in 2005 to prepare managers for more senior positions. The first cohort of the programme has a number of ethnic minority staff participants. The Diversity Forum has as part of its action plan for 2006-07 the aim that talented staff from under-represented groups should actively be encouraged to develop their careers. A proposal will go to the House's Human Resources Group in 2007. On external recruitment, the House's job advertising policy requires that ethnicity of readership should be a priority in the placing of an advertisement. For fast-stream recruitment the House participates in the Cabinet Office's policy of targeting minorities, and specifically the House is involved in a fast-stream summer development programme which includes an open day aimed at ethnic minority applicants. The next open day is on 18 July.

Staff Travel Allowances

Mr. Dismore: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1083W, on staff travel allowances, what the total cost was of the late night transport service in relation to late sittings for *(a)* senior House staff and *(b)* in total in each of the last three years. [84647]

Nick Harvey: The total cost of providing a late night transport service in each of the last three years has been:

	£000 *Cost*
2003-04	215.7
2004-05	279.6
2005-06	287.8

Costs attributable to senior House staff are not separately identifiable, for the reasons set out in my earlier answer.

WALES

Environmental Management

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if he will make a statement. [81193]

Mr. Hain: In June 2003 the Wales Office became a separate entity within the Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA). The office adopts its own internal controls and monitoring to track energy and water consumption. At a strategic level, we are included within the DCA strategy, which includes a commitment achieving EMSs to ISO 14001 standard for the DCA as a whole.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85210]

Mr. Hain: Four Ordinary Written questions were outstanding as of 10 July 2006 *(a)* None *(b)* None.

Statutory Instruments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales on what occasions a statutory instrument sponsored by his Department has been reported by the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments as defective since October 2005. [85192]

Mr. Hain: None.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what assessment he has made of the relevance to sustainable energy in Wales of the latest report of the Sustainable Development Commission, From "Pioneer to Delivery". [83671]

Mr. Hain: The Sustainable Development Commission report "From Pioneer to Delivery" makes a number of recommendations relating to the Welsh Assembly Government's policies on sustainable development.

I discuss these matters regularly with the First Minister and share his commitment to the goal of sustainable development.

To that end, the Government of Wales Bill, currently before Parliament, provides for a statutory duty for the Welsh Ministers to produce a sustainable development scheme and provides the Welsh Ministers with additional powers to discharge their duties in relation to sustainable development.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Access to Work Scheme

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many disabled staff in her Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82221]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) was established on 5 May 2006. Staff now working in the Department were formerly employed in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Home Office.

(a) In 2005-06 support was provided through Access to Work for 11 disabled members of staff in ODPM. In 2004-05 such support was provided for seven staff, and in 2003-04 for four staff. Comparable figures do not exist for cases supported in ODPM before 2003-04, as during this period this service was provided for disabled staff in ODPM through a shared service based in the Department for Transport.

Figures for staff now in DCLG who used to be employed in DTI and the Home Office would be included in responses from those Departments, where relevant.

(b) In the first three months of 2006-07, support has been provided through Access to Work for five disabled members of staff in the former ODPM who are now employed in DCLG. DCLG has not yet handled any relevant cases for staff who used to be employed in the Home Office or DTI.

The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) will be monitoring the overall situation to ensure that there is no detriment to current and future employees who are disabled.

Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department first notified Castle Point borough council of the decision to allow Canvey Island to establish its own town council. [84927]

Angela E. Smith: Castle Point borough council was notified of the decision to accept, in principle, the petition to create a parish and parish council for Canvey Island on 21 June 2006.

Correspondence

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer of 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 416W, on correspondence, what estimate she has made of the cost of answering the question; and if she will make a statement. [82633]

Angela E. Smith: It is not possible to separately identify the average cost of officials' time in replying to letters from hon. Members and members of the public. Such correspondence is often of a varied and complex nature. Therefore any exercise to determine the average cost in officials' time in responding to letters would incur disproportionate cost.

It is not possible to separately identify stationery and postage costs for the Department when replying to correspondence from hon. Members and members of the public.

Council Tax

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the change in the level of council tax between 1997 and 2006; and if she will make a statement. [84521]

Mr. Woolas: The average band D council tax has risen from £688 in 1997-98 to £1,268 in 2006-07. This is an increase of 84 per cent. in actual terms or 40 per cent. in real terms.

Departmental Expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on telephone calls in the private office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2004-05. [83019]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on helicopter hire for the Deputy Prime Minister in 2004-05. [83084]

Angela E. Smith: Nothing.

Deposited Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the deposited papers placed in the Library by her Department since 2000; and when each was published. [81271]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government was formed on 5 May 2006. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. A Deposited Papers List is published by the House on the Parliament website at www.deposits.parliament.uk.

Empty Dwellings

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether empty ministerial residences owned by *(a)* the public sector and *(b)* a private trust may be subject to an Empty Dwelling Management Order. [83025]

Angela E. Smith: Empty Dwelling Management Orders cannot be made against dwellings owned by the Crown or public-sector bodies such as local housing authorities, registered social landlords and police, fire and health authorities.

A dwelling owned by a private trust or any property owner could only be subject to an Empty Dwelling Management Order if the local authority proposing the order sought and received authorisation from a Residential Property Tribunal. In deciding whether to grant such authorisation, the Tribunal must be satisfied that the dwelling had been wholly unoccupied for more than six months, that it did not come within any of the exceptions set out in the 'Housing (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Prescribed Exceptions and Requirements) (England) Order 2006', that there was no reasonable prospect that it would become occupied in the near future and that, if an interim order was made, the local authority would be able to get the dwelling occupied.

The Tribunal must also be satisfied prior to granting such authorisation that the local authority had made reasonable efforts to ascertain what steps the owner had taken or intended to take to secure occupation of the dwelling, and that the local authority had complied with all of the requirements of the Act and the secondary legislation. It and must take into account the interests of the community and the effect the order would have on the rights of the property owner.

Equality and Diversity

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to promote equality and diversity within local authorities; and what targets it has set in relation to this. [82407]

Mr. Woolas: The Government encourage the promotion of equality and diversity within local authorities in a number of ways, as follows:

There is a Duty to promote race, disability and gender equality.

The Government have introduced the Beacon Scheme for local authorities and their partners.

Government have worked and continue to work with the Improvement and Development Agency and the Regional Centres of Excellence on the improvement programme for local government, including programmes to support embedding equality and diversity.

Best Value Performance Indicators

Examples include:

The level of performance in respect of the authorities' delivery on the Race Equality Duty

Percentage of top-paid 5 per cent. of local authority staff who are women.

The percentage of the top 5 per cent. of local authority staff who are from an ethnic minority.

Percentage of the top paid 5 per cent. of staff who have a disability.

The percentage of local authority employees with a disability.

The percentage of the economically active population in the local authority area who have a disability.

The percentage of local authority employees from ethnic minority communities.

The percentage of the economically active (persons aged 18 to 65) population from ethnic minority communities in the local authority area.

The percentage of authority buildings open to the public in which all public areas are suitable for, and accessible to, disabled people.

Percentage of proposed statements of Special Educational Need issued by the authority in a financial year and prepared within 18 weeks.

Older people helped to live at home per 1,000 population aged 65 or over.

Satisfaction of ethnic minority council housing tenants (excluding white minority) with their opportunities for participation in management and decision-making in relation to housing services provided by their landlord.

Whether the authority follows the Commission for Racial Equality's code of practice in Rented Housing and the Good Practice Standards for Social Landlords on Tackling Harassment included in 'Tackling Racial Harassment: Code of Practice for Social Landlords'.

The percentage of pedestrian crossings with facilities for disabled people, as a proportion of all crossings in the local authority area.

The number of racial incidents reported to the local authority, and subsequently recorded, per 100,000 population.

The percentage of racial incidents reported to the local authority that resulted in further action.

Fires

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many deliberate *(a)* vehicle fires and *(b)* fires there were in (i) Ribble Valley and (ii) Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. [84754]

Angela E. Smith: The available information covers part (ii) of the question, deliberate primary fires attended in Lancashire. Information on Ribble Valley constituency is not available centrally.

	Deliberate road vehicle fires attended by Lancashire FRS	*Deliberate fires attended by Lancashire FRS*
1995	827	2,128
1996	885	2,018
1997	821	1,968
1998	918	2,117
1999	1,229	2,532
2000	1,169	2,532
2001	1,366	2,834

	Deliberate road vehicle fires attended by Lancashire FRS	Deliberate fires attended by Lancashire FRS
2002	[1]1,440	[1]2,704
2003	[1]1,290	[1]2,807
2004	1,043	2,285

[1] Figures for 2002 and 2003 include estimates for incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action.

Note:
Figures are based on sampled data grossed to fire and rescue service totals.

Source:
Fire and Rescue service returns to DCLG

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many large outbreaks of fire there were in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [84756]

Angela E. Smith: The available information covers part *(b)* of the question. Information on Ribble Valley constituency is not available centrally.

Fires involving five or more pumps attended by Lancashire FRS

1995	20
1996	28
1997	35
1998	53
1999	78
2000	43
2001	43
2002	[1]33
2003	[1]46
2004	51

[1] Figures exclude any fires in November 2002 and January-February 2003 strike periods

Notes:
Figures are based on sampled data grossed to fire and rescue service totals.

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many malicious false fire alarm calls were attended by the fire and rescue service in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire in each year since 1995. [84758]

Angela E. Smith: The available information covers part *(b)* of the question. Information on Ribble Valley constituency is not available centrally.

Malicious false fire alarms attended by Lancashire FRS

1995	2,065
1996	1,909
1997	1,709
1998	1,408
1999	1,316
2000	1,443
2001	1,480
2002	[1]1,463
2003	[1]1,338
2004	1,205

[1] Figures for 2002 and 2003 include estimates for incidents not recorded during periods of industrial action.

Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to DCLG

IT

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Eastleigh of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1369W, on IT, what the purpose is of each IT project sourced externally since May 2002 by her Department and its predecessor. [82980]

Angela E. Smith: I refer the hon. Lady to the answers provided to the hon. Member for Tatton (Mr. Osborne) on 19 January 2005, *Official Report*, columns 998-99W, and to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) on 19 January 2005, *Official Report*, columns 1420-421W. One additional project has been completed since the last answer:

System	Purpose
Data and statistics catalogue (it will be launched under the short name of StatSearch)	The catalogue comprises an interface and repository for information (metadata) about data and statistics resources. Its primary benefit is as a discovery tool, allowing users to find and assess sources by searching or browsing.

New Houses

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what building regulations are in place to ensure that new houses built in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* England use environmental protection and conservation techniques. [84893]

Angela E. Smith: There are no building regulations applying specifically in Milton Keynes. The Building Regulations 2000, as amended, apply throughout England and Wales and include requirements for the conservation of fuel and power (which address energy efficiency and hence the emissions of carbon dioxide from buildings) and the avoidance of oil pollution from domestic fuel tanks. We announced in March that consultations would be conducted later this year on new regulations for water efficiency.

Overcrowded Accommodation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households are listed as overcrowded in *(a)* Gloucestershire and *(b)* Stroud; and how many children are in overcrowded accommodation. [84157]

Yvette Cooper: There are two measures of overcrowding—the statutory definition and the bedroom standard.

Using the bedroom standard, the only recent estimate of the number of overcrowded households in Gloucestershire is 3,000. This is from an ad hoc report based on combined data from both the Survey of English Housing and the Department for Work and Pension's Family Resources Survey for the three years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03.

Reliable estimates for the number of children living in overcrowded accommodation in Gloucestershire are not available. Separate data for Stroud are also not available.

Estimates based on the statutory standard are not available because the underlying data are not collected systematically. A one-off estimate was made in the autumn of 2001 that there were approximately 25,000 households across the whole of England that were in conditions of overcrowding that breached the statutory standard. This estimate was based on data from the Survey of English Housing for the period 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and from the 1996 "English House Condition Survey". Equivalent estimates for Gloucestershire are not available.

Tomorrow we will be publishing a discussion document entitled on "Tackling Overcrowding in England" which sets out options for revising the outdated definition of overcrowding and developing long-term solutions.

Renewable Energy

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will ask the Government Office for the West Midlands to explain the reasons for the delay in publishing *(a)* the report on wind energy development in the West Midlands from TNEI Services Ltd commissioned jointly with Advantage West Midlands in 2004 and *(b)* the appendix to this report. [84923]

Angela E. Smith: The final report was completed in June 2004 and owing to its specialist nature it was considered the demand would be insufficient to warrant publication of a glossy hard copy. Electronic copies were made available on request following the publication of the regional energy strategy in November 2004, which was informed by the study and made specific reference to it. Delays in commissioning the GOWM website resulted in a delay until February this year, when the Environment and Rural pages on the site were redesigned, and a link was placed on the new site to improve public access to the report.

The appendices attached to the final report covering details of wind farm financial models and background to the consultants were made available at the same time as the main report.

DEFENCE

Advertising Campaigns

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Armed Forces advertising campaigns have featured female models in each of the last 10 years. [83917]

Mr. Watson: None, apart from the one recent occasion when Nell McAndrew was featured to help promote the Confidential Support Line.

Afghanistan

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to change the number of *(a)* fixed wing aircraft, *(b)* Apache helicopters and *(c)* infantry troops in Afghanistan. [84241]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1131-135, to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to his answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1100W, on Afghanistan, if he will place in the Library a copy of the medical planning guidelines. [84840]

Mr. Ingram: The medical planning guidelines are being withheld on grounds of operational security. To reveal details of the specific policies underpinning UK operations in Afghanistan or elsewhere would be detrimental to the safety of UK forces.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures he has taken *(a)* to assess the influence and *(b)* to promote the constructive engagement of (i) Iran and (ii) Pakistan in Afghanistan. [84900]

Des Browne: We keep the situation in Afghanistan and the influence of neighbouring countries constantly under review. Pakistan, in particular, remains influential in Afghanistan, notably among the Pashtun communities of the south. Her Majesty's Government maintain frequent contact with the Government of Pakistan on strategic issues, including the need to counter the influence of the Taliban and the drug-trafficking warlords. In addition, British forces deployed to Afghanistan have military liaison with the Pakistani Army.

The United Kingdom and Iran also have a common interest in supporting Afghan efforts to promote stability and economic development and to combat the drugs trade. Iran has said it supports the long-term reconstruction of Afghanistan and the efforts of the Afghan Government and international community to build stability and security. We welcome this commitment and hope to see it demonstrated in practice. Her Majesty's Government have discussed these issues regularly with the Iranian authorities, through the British embassy in Tehran and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

Aircraft

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will list the theatres in which helicopters without fuel tank protection are not deployed; and if he will make a statement; [71152]

(2) if he will take steps to fit fuel tank protection to all helicopters. [71153]

Mr. Ingram: Helicopters are fitted with protection, including for their fuel tanks, according to the operational threats they are likely to face and the characteristics of the aircraft themselves. The level of threat, and any action that needs to be taken, are kept under review.

Defence Purchasing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he operates a European buying policy in any areas of defence purchasing; and if he will make a statement. [83791]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence does not operate a "buy European" policy. In an open competition, any company (European, American or otherwise) can bid for a MOD contract. Contractors are chosen on the basis of best value for money for the UK taxpayer, not the nationality of the bidder.

Defensive Aids Suites

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 704W, on defensive aids suites, what defensive aids suites were carried by UK Hercules aircraft in Afghanistan in 2002. [83813]

Mr. Ingram: The following defensive aids, in a variety of combinations, were employed on Hercules aircraft in Afghanistan in 2002:

Missile Approach Warning System
Radar Warning Receiver
Countermeasures Dispensing System
Infra Red Counter Measure

Helicopters

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has carried out an evaluation of deploying *(a)* the Huger 500 and *(b)* other light utility helicopters as convoy or patrol escorts in Iraq; and what assessment he has made of the merits of the use of machines of this type in such a manner to enhance force protection for British troops in convoy or patrol in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [83639]

Mr. Ingram: British forces in Iraq and Afghanistan have Lynx light utility helicopters which can be used for escort duties if commanders judge that appropriate. The threat to our troops deployed on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan is kept under constant review and our force posture, including the use of helicopters in force protection roles, is adjusted accordingly.

Injured British Servicemen (Treatment)

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many armed forces personnel in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Air Force and *(c)* the Royal Navy were medically discharged from the armed services in Iraq owing to (i) an accident, (ii) limb amputation and (iii) psychological problems in each year since March 2003; and if he will make a statement; [82461]

(2) how many armed forces personnel in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Air Force and *(c)* the Royal Navy have been medically discharged from the armed services in Afghanistan owing to (i) an accident, (ii) limb amputation and (iii) psychological problems in each year since October 2001; and if he will make a statement. [82463]

Des Browne: Details of armed forces personnel who have been discharged as a result of a condition that can be attributed specifically to service in Iraq or Afghanistan could be obtained only by a search of the individual medical records of all personnel discharged from the armed forces since October 2001, which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

In recent years, some 1,500 to 1,700 people have been medically discharged annually from the armed forces for any reason. Even when it is not possible to return an individual to full operational fitness following an injury or illness, it will often be possible to retain them in service in a different role, and it is our policy to do this whenever practical.

Iraq

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the British armed forces are serving on Operation Telic. [83110]

Mr. Ingram: As the then Secretary of State for Defence set out on 13 March, the total number of UK armed forces personnel serving in Iraq since the last transfer of authority took place on 30 April is now in the region of 7,200. Currently up to 2,800 further service personnel are stationed outside Iraq in support of Operation Telic.

Military Vehicles

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (Humvees) are *(a)* owned and *(b)* leased by the Department; and whether any such vehicles have been acquired under the Stormer Programme. [82608]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence does not own or lease any high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles (Humvees) and there are currently no plans for their procurement.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 15WS, on the support vehicle programme, for what reasons MAN ERF UK Ltd was selected as the provider of support vehicles; what process was followed to select the provider; and which other companies bid for the contract. [83775]

Mr. Ingram: MAN ERF UK Ltd was selected to supply the extra 2,077 support vehicles through an option in the existing support vehicle contract. This contract was let on a competitive basis and four companies submitted bids: MAN ERF UK Ltd, Mercedes-Benz UK Defence, the Oshkosh Truck Corporation and Stewart and Stevenson TVS UK. Following a detailed assessment it was concluded that MAN ERF UK Ltd offered the best value for money

and it was selected as preferred bidder in October 2004. A detailed negotiation phase was then undertaken before MAN ERF UK Ltd was awarded the contract on 31 March 2005.

Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* range and *(b)* circular area probability are of the (i) Trident missile system, (ii) Polaris Chevaline missile system and (iii) Polaris missile system. [84025]

Des Browne: The range of the Trident D5 missile is some 6,000 nautical miles. Both Polaris Chevaline and Polaris missiles have a range of up to 2,500 nautical miles.

I am withholding the information on circular error probable, which indicates the accuracy of the missile, as this could enable deductions to be made that could be prejudicial to national security and international relations.

Pre-CSR Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* the Cabinet Office regarding the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if he will make a statement. [82843]

Des Browne: I have and will continue to have wide ranging and regular discussions with my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury about preparations for the 2007 comprehensive spending review, as a matter of key importance to the Ministry of Defence's medium and long-term planning.

Press Releases

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the releases issued to the media by his Department between 17 July 2003 and 20 July 2003; and at what *(a)* time and *(b)* date each was (i) drafted, (ii) cleared for release and (iii) released under embargo to the media. [83604]

Des Browne *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* On 19 July 2003, my right hon. Friend, the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon) the then Secretary of State for Defence, released a statement to the media, which explained that the Government had invited Lord Hutton urgently to conduct an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the death of Dr. Kelly. According to our records, this statement was released to the media at 3.20 pm on 19 July 2003.

On 21 July 2003, Lord Hutton issued his own statement to the media through the Department for Constitutional Affairs, which confirmed his appointment and set out his Terms of Reference.

The Ministry of Defence does not hold records of precisely when statements to the media are drafted or cleared for release to the media. It is normal practice that press notices are issued to the media shortly after clearance for release is given.

Two other press releases were issued by the Ministry of Defence between 17 July 2003 and 20 July 2003. The way ahead for Multi Role Armoured Vehicles and Future Command and Liaison Vehicles was released to the media at 12.48 pm on 17 July 2003. The launch of the UK Missile Defence Centre was released to the media at 4.42 pm on 18 July 2003.

School Fees

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel on overseas service have experienced delays in the payment of school fees made in respect of members of their families in each of the last five years; and what steps are taken to minimise such delays. [84169]

Mr. Watson: There have been 14 late Continuity of Education Allowance (CEA) (formerly Boarding School Allowance) payments out of 115,000 applications over the last five years. Broken down by year, the CEA late payments are in the following table.

	Royal navy	*Army*
2001-02	0	0
2002-03	0	0
2003-04	4	0
2004-05	2	2
2005-06	6	0

It is not known which, if any, of these 14 late payments were in respect of personnel serving overseas. Details of how many of the affected service personnel were overseas are not held centrally and even if the source documents still existed, the breakdown could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

All three services issue reminders each term of when the deadline is for submitting applications and unit administrative staff also have a responsibility to remind likely applicants personally of the cut-off dates.

Spectrum Utilisation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what receipts his Department received for spectrum released for civil use in financial years 1997-98 to 2005-06; and what proportion was appropriated in aid. [83351]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence received no direct receipts for spectrum released for civil use in financial years 1997-98 to 2005-06. Where the Department has released spectrum for civil use, Ofcom does not levy a fee to the Department for this released spectrum.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library copies of the information that his Department has released to Ofcom about its prospective spectrum utilisation. [83352]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence provided information to Ofcom about its prospective spectrum utilisation in spectrum bands between 137MHz and 17.7GHz in support of the independent audit of public sector spectrum holdings undertaken by Professor Martin Cave for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. A

redacted version of the information is publicly available in the independent audit of Spectrum Holdings (December 2005)—Annex B refers. The report, published by HSMO, can also be accessed on the internet at: www.spectrumaudit.org.uk.

Trident

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what studies are being carried out into whether to reuse or replace the Trident warhead pit; and when a decision on pit reuse or replacement is likely to be made. [79089]

Des Browne: The Atomic Weapons Establishment undertakes a range of studies as part of a warhead assurance programme designed to ensure the safety, effectiveness and durability of the UK nuclear warhead stockpile. This process is designed to enable regular assessments of the service life of any particular pit, and ensure that essential capability continues to be maintained at all times.

There is currently no requirement for any replacement warhead; nor is there any programme to develop one.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has allocated for US contract N00178-04-D-4042 to EG and G, a Trident software support contract for K Development at the Naval Surface Warfare Centre Dahlgren, for the development and testing of *(a)* UK targeting, *(b)* reference and simulation models and *(c)* verifying the removal of US-eyes only items from Trident targeting and fire control software. [82405]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence does not allocate funding for individual US Government contracts. Arrangements for support of the UK Fire Control Software and related matters are agreed between the US and UK Governments under the Polaris Sales Agreement (as amended for Trident).

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 35W, on Trident, whether he makes a distinction between designing and developing in the context of work on a new warhead for use in Trident missiles. [82426]

Des Browne: We do not draw a distinction between "designing" and "developing" in the context of nuclear warheads. As we said in the 1998 Strategic Defence Review (supporting essay 5 paragraph 14), we maintain a minimum capability at the Atomic Weapons Establishment to design and produce a replacement for the current Trident warhead, should that prove necessary.

There is no programme at the Atomic Weapons Establishment to either develop or design a new nuclear warhead as we currently have no requirement for a new warhead.

Troop Numbers

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the *(a)* actual and *(b)* establishment figures are for each regiment of the (i) Royal Household Cavalry, (ii) Royal Armoured Corps and (iii) Royal Artillery; [84546]

(2) what the *(a)* actual and *(b)* establishment figures are for each (i) regiment and (ii) battalion of the *(A)* Royal Engineers, *(B)* Royal Corps of Signals, *(C)* Royal Logistics Corps, *(D)* Royal Army Medical Corps and *(E)* Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. [84547]

Mr. Ingram: Strengths and establishment figures for these Arm/Services, broken down by regiment/battalion, are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. I am able to provide the strengths and liability for these Arm/Services as at 1 May 2006:

Full-time trained strength as at 1 May 2006 and liability

Full-time trained strength (including full-time reserve service (FTRS[1]) *Arm/Service*	*Liability[2]*	*Strength[3]*	*Strength as percentage of liability*
The Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps	5,760	5,510	96
Royal Regiment of Artillery	7,510	7,300	97
Royal Corps of Engineers	9,180	8,790	96
Royal Corps of Signals	8,500	8,520	100
The Royal Logistics Corps	15,720	15,710	100
Royal Army Medical Corps	3,180	2,860	90
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	9,700	9,760	101

[1] FTRS figures include full, limited and home commitment.
[2] Based on Regular Army Liability (RAL 06). This liability is the Army target strength to be achieved by 1 April 2008, following the commencement of Northern Ireland Normalisation (NIN) and the implementation of the Future Army Structure (FAS).
[3] As at 1 May 06
Notes:
1. Figures exclude Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, mobilised reserves, Territorial Army and other reserves.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Uniforms

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the procedure is for replacement of ill-fitting uniforms for members of the Armed Forces. [83918]

Mr. Ingram: Uniforms are generally issued through the unit Quartermaster stores. Any ill-fitting pieces of uniform can be exchanged there and then for a better fit. In cases where the individual falls outside of the standard size range, they receive made to measure uniforms. Exceptionally, where an item of uniform is

found to have been badly made, the Defence Clothing Integrated Project Team (DCIPT) examines the specification, identifies the problem and ensures that corrective action is taken.

Veterans

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans living in the Leicester South constituency have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received their veterans lapel badge. [84028]

Mr. Watson: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Accenture

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department paid to the company Accenture in each year since 2002; and what sums his Department owes the company. [78370]

Ian Pearson: From information held centrally the Department has paid Accenture the following sums since 2002:

Financial year	*Amount (£ million)*
2002-03	3.1
2003-04	14.625
2004-05	10.725
2005-06	22.299

As at 16 June 2006, the sum of £2,301,976 had not been paid to Accenture and this figure represented invoices received since 5 June 2006 which were in the process of being released for payment within the Department's agreed payment terms window.

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advertising campaigns his Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81914]

Ian Pearson: For the Department's overall advertising expenditure for 2004-05 and 2005-06, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1818W.

The principal advertising campaigns run by DEFRA since July 2004 are in the following table.

Campaign	*Objective*	*Timing*	*Media spend (£)*
Personal food imports	To raise awareness of food restrictions of food imports from outside the EU into the UK's animal disease prevention plans	December 2004-March 2005	92,343
		December 2005-March 2006	94,278
Avian flu/poultry register	To raise awareness of the biosecurity measures poultry keepers should follow in light of the international avian flu outbreaks. To encourage poultry keepers with more than 50 birds to sign up to the Poultry Register as part of the GB's avian flu contingency plans.	October 2005-March 2006	185,976

The Department also undertakes a wide range of recruitment, statutory notice and one-off advertising activities which accounts for the balance in spending. Information on advertising campaigns by non-departmental public bodies, executive agencies, independent statutory bodies and other DEFRA-funded bodies is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Agricultural Support

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total budget is in 2006-07 for agricultural support in England; and what the administrative cost is of distributing it. [82445]

Ian Pearson: The amount forecast for agricultural support in England in 2006-07 is approximately £1.6 billion. This will be administered by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA), whose administrative costs are budgeted at £197.1 million in 2006-07.

Air Conditioning

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department collects on the number of homes in the United Kingdom which have domestic air conditioning installed. [84953]

Ian Pearson: No detailed information is available about the number of air conditioning units in domestic homes or their associated energy consumption.

However, the Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) has collected estimates of the amount of energy consumed by air conditioning units in the UK that are subject to the Energy Information (Household Air Conditioners) No.2 Regulations 2005 (that is, units which consume less than 12 kilowatts). The 2005 Regulatory Impact Assessment for those regulations indicates that

these appliances, which are used in both domestic and commercial premises, consume about 5.6 terawatt hours of electricity per year. This is equivalent to approximately 672,000 tonnes of carbon. The report is available on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/energylabelling-regsaircon/index.htm

No information is collected for indirect greenhouse gas emissions from these appliances.

Badgers

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether badger body snares had been used by the Central Science Laboratory for *(a)* ecological and *(b)* other research work before 2006. [82469]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer my hon. friend to the reply I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 89W.

Given the real security concerns associated with work of this nature, it is our policy not to comment on any involvement or otherwise of agencies or contractors in relation this topic.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many badgers there are, broken down by region. [83249]

Mr. Bradshaw: Surveys of badger populations in Great Britain were undertaken in the mid-1980s and mid-1990s. In the mid-1980s the badger population was estimated to be 250,000 and in the mid-1990s a survey estimated that the population had increased by 77 per cent.

DEFRA is not aware of any other national surveys which have attempted to estimate badger numbers in England and Wales. We do not have regional breakdowns of these figures.

Bovine TB

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle slaughtered under the TB eradication scheme in each of the last three years were subsequently found on post mortem not to be infected and their carcasses sold into the food chain; and what the financial proceeds were of those sales in each year. [82486]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 4 July 2006]:* The number of cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis control measures, and their confirmation status, is set out in the following table:

	Total number of cattle slaughtered under TB control measures in GB[1]	*Number of confirmed reactors*	*Number of unconfirmed cases*
2005	30,063	8,657	21,406
2004	23,064	6,422	16,642
2003	23,821	6,308	17,513

[1] Reactors, inconclusive reactors and direct contacts.

Failure to confirm the disease by post-mortem examination at the slaughterhouse, or by culturing *Mycobacterium bovis* in the laboratory, does not mean that the disease was not present in the animal, or that the animal had not been in contact with bovine TB. In the early stages of the disease, it is not always possible to see lesions with the naked eye, and, owing to the fastidious nature of the organism, it is not possible to culture from samples in every case.

Carcasses and their associated offal are inspected by the Meat Hygiene Service at slaughter and those with signs of generalised infection are fully condemned and declared unfit for human consumption. When localised TB lesions are found in more than one organ or area of a carcass the whole carcass is condemned. Those carcasses with lesions in a single organ or part of the carcass and associated lymph nodes are only passed fit for human consumption once the affected part of the carcass has been cut out and condemned. If no TB lesions are found, the carcass is passed fit for human consumption. If any *M. bovis* organisms remain these will be killed by thorough cooking of the meat.

Figures for financial proceeds are not available for unconfirmed cattle. However, figures for the financial proceeds from all cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis control measures are set out in the following table:

Financial proceeds from all cattle slaughtered under bovine tuberculosis control measures

	£ million
2005	4.4
2004	2.7
2003	3.6

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether an assessment was made of the merits of using weight charts rather than an estimate by the Department or an auctioneer when the system by which farmers are compensated for a cow with bovine TB was changed. [83070]

Mr. Bradshaw: The current arrangements were only introduced after two full, public consultations and, wherever possible, DEFRA reacted to the detailed concerns raised by stakeholders.

Various options were considered before a system based on table valuations was developed, but weight charts were not suggested at any time during the consultation process.

Basing the level of compensation on an animal's weight would not be practical. For example, such a system would work against those farmers with young pedigree stock.

We are working with stakeholders through the Cattle Compensation Advisory Group, which was set up to monitor the introduction of the new system, to consider whether (and what) system enhancements might be needed.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many outbreaks of bovine TB in cattle there were in 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [83271]

Mr. Bradshaw: There were 1,562 new herd TB incidents between January and May 2006[1]. This indicates a real and substantial reduction in the number of new incidents when compared to the same period in 2005 (1,959).

Given the cyclical nature of the disease, it is too early to draw any conclusions about whether the decrease is a temporary or a more sustained reduction. However, we consider the decrease to be an important and welcome development, and we are working hard to determine its cause. It is likely to be the result of a complex combination of factors, which may take some time to analyse.

[1] Data from DEFRA's Animal Health Database (Vetnet). Provisional statistics, subject to change as more data becomes available.

Chemicals Regulations

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure that the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulations will operate effectively alongside the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations; and if he will undertake an assessment of the risks of REACH undermining COSHH. [83888]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* DEFRA is involved in ongoing discussions on the implementation of the new Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulations with the agencies involved in the regulation of chemicals, and with the devolved administrations. The Health and Safety Executive, which acts as the competent authority for the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH), has been fully involved throughout this process.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the cost per person per week of the common agricultural policy in the United Kingdom. [82895]

Ian Pearson: The common agricultural policy (CAP) generates costs to both consumers and taxpayers. Consumers' costs arise because of the higher prices that prevail under the CAP. Taxpayers fund both direct subsidies to producers and the cost of operating the market management instruments of the CAP. However, the UK does not contribute to individual EU budget categories; it contributes to the entire EU budget. Therefore, in order to provide an indication of the cost to UK taxpayers we have calculated a notional UK contribution to expenditure on the CAP.

Our provisional estimate of the consumer and taxpayer cost of the CAP person per week in the UK, in 2004, is approximately £2.50.

Environmental Regulation

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what proportion of the Department's budget was spent directly on environmental regulation in each year since 2000-01, broken down by region. [82753]

Ian Pearson: The Department does not maintain a separate record of expenditure on environmental regulation, which is included in the overall administration costs. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Flags

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) on how many days since May 1997 the St. George's flag has been flown from his Department's buildings; [77727]

(2) what his Department's policy is on flying the *(a)* St. George's flag and *(b)* EU flag from departmental buildings. [77728]

Ian Pearson: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport issues the guidance for flying flags on Government buildings. This includes flying the St. George's flag on St. George's day, 23 April, and the European flag on Europe day, 9 May, on buildings with two or more flag poles provided they are flown alongside the Union flag with the Union flag in the superior position.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs only has one flag pole, and therefore does not fly the St. George's flag or the European flag. On that basis, the St. George's flag has not knowingly been flown from any buildings on the DEFRA estate.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure the Union flag is flown from his Department's buildings on every day the offices are open. [77729]

Ian Pearson: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs follows the rules and guidance on flag flying issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. These rules are approved by the Queen on advice from the Department. There are no plans at present to change the number of days on which flags can be flown from Government buildings.

Outsourcing

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what administrative functions for which his Department is responsible are outsourced overseas; and what assessment he has made of the merits of outsourcing further such functions overseas. [81547]

Ian Pearson: According to information held centrally, no administrative functions for which the Department is responsible have been outsourced overseas. Sourcing decisions are made on the basis of

value for money. Any decisions to outsource functions overseas would be taken in the light of that policy and would recognise the Department's emergency preparedness and business continuity requirements.

Post Office Contracts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for which services *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81542]

Ian Pearson: According to information held centrally, the Department has no contracts with the Post Office.

Poultry Farmers

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what special EU support is offered to poultry farmers; and what assessment he has made of the impact of such support on the poultry industry in the UK. [82712]

Ian Pearson: Recent amendments to EU Council Regulations 2777/75 and 27771/75 provide legal powers to make special support measures available to member states in the event of a significant decline in consumer confidence in poultry products, as a direct result of avian influenza, causing the market to collapse.

It is a long established Government policy that accommodating market fluctuations is something for the industry to manage. It is principally for this reason that we do not propose to exercise the EC provision to provide these exceptional market support measures.

Private Sewers

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last reviewed the legislation on private sewers; and if he will make a statement. [83845]

Ian Pearson: The Government are very aware of the problem of private sewers, whereby householders often do not know they have a private sewer until a problem occurs such as a blockage or collapse, which can lead to disputes and consumer resistance to paying for repairs. Local authorities have also traditionally lacked any kind of records of where such sewers are, and the condition that they are in.

Legislation concerning private sewers has been kept under review by the Government since 2001 when a protocol was proposed for the construction of new sewers, enabling them to be built to a standard suitable for adoption by water and sewerage companies. The Government published their "Review of existing private sewers and drains in England and Wales" in July 2003, which sought views on a number of possible solutions to the problem of maintenance of such sewers including their adoption by water and sewerage companies. This report is available on the DEFRA website:

http://defraweb/corporate/consult/sewers/conpap.pdf

In January 2005, DEFRA held a stakeholder seminar—"Review of Existing Private Sewers in England and Wales: What Next?"—which explored and drew conclusions on sustainable options for the scope and form of any potential transfer of private sewers to water and sewerage companies. There was general consensus at the seminar that transfer provided the most comprehensive solution.

DEFRA has worked hard with stakeholders, including Ofwat, Water UK and the Consumer Council for Water, to examine the scope and form of any potential transfer to water and sewerage companies. This has included its costs and funding, the impact on the drain repair and insurance industries, and public expectation. We intend to publish a decision on existing private sewers in England and Wales in the autumn.

Rural Payments Agency

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to resolve the applications from applicants for the Entry Level Scheme where applications have been delayed because of disputes over Rural Payments Agency mapping and where payments have consequently been lost for one year; and if he will pay compensation to those affected. [83518]

Ian Pearson: The Rural Development Service (RDS) have implemented a variety of measures to facilitate the earliest possible entry into the Environmental Stewardship (ES) Scheme.

Under the Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) strand of ES in particular, the following steps have been taken:

Monthly, rather than quarterly start dates were implemented in the summer of 2005;

Shortly after the launch of the scheme, a prioritisation list of ELS applicants with outstanding Rural Land Register (RLR) mapping issues was established. This enabled Rural Payment Agency staff to prioritise cases more effectively;

In circumstances where applicants were not able to fully register all of their land on the RLR, applicants could consider either:

applying for an agreement on the land initially registered and then applying for a separate subsequent ELS agreement on the newly registered land; or

applying for an agreement on the land initially registered and then once land registration for all land was completed, applying for a new, re-started agreement across the whole of the holding.

It should also be noted that applicants are able to take up a full five-year ELS agreement. Therefore, though payments may be initially delayed for some, the opportunity to participate in an ELS agreement and receive payment for this will not be lost.

Given the steps outlined, and the voluntary nature of the ES scheme rather than its being a regulatory entitlement, I do not believe that there is a sufficiently robust case for compensation, where a later than anticipated entry into the scheme has been experienced.

Sheep (Electronic Tagging)

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on progress towards the implementation of mandatory electronic tagging for sheep. [84362]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 903W.

Single Farm Payment

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 902W to the hon. Member for Hereford (Mr. Keetch), on the single farm payment, on what date he will publish details of payments made in England up to 30 June 2006. [82361]

Ian Pearson: In his statement to the House on 5 July 2006 the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced the details of payments made in England up to 30 June 2006.

Supermarkets (UK Produce)

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the amount of UK food produce sold in supermarkets in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [82030]

Ian Pearson: Estimates of the amount of UK food produce sold in supermarkets are not available.

Tallow

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department takes to enforce the Waste Incineration Directive in relation to the burning of tallow; what assessment he has made of enforcement levels; and if he will make a statement; [83342]

(2) how many breaches of the Waste Incineration Directive there were in relation to the burning of tallow in each of the last 12 months, broken down by local authority. [83344]

Ian Pearson: The Waste Incineration Directive (WID) applies to all technical units incinerating waste or co-incinerating waste along with non-waste material. As the law currently stands, the burning of waste tallow as fuel is subject to the requirements of the WID and is regulated by local authorities and the Environment Agency depending on the type of rendering unit.

Having received representations—including one from the UK Government—that the application of the stringent requirements of the WID is disproportionate in relation to the burning of tallow, the European Commission has set up a study to help establish whether such controls are appropriate and necessary to the protection of the environment. The study is expected to report by the autumn, and the Government are pressing the Commission for the study to be completed as soon as possible.

Against this background, operators have argued that the continued burning of tallow in rendering plants would be more beneficial for the environment than switching to alternative fossil fuels, which do not require WID-compliant plants. In addition, switching fuels would have damaging cost impacts on the livestock chain.

Recognising these points and the ongoing Commission study, but also the current state of the law, Ministers have encouraged the industry to enter technical discussions with the regulators to determine how best individual plants might plan move over time to comply with the WID.

A plant's failure to comply with WID requirements included in Pollution Prevention Control permits is a matter for the regulator. My Department does not maintain a database of Waste Incineration Directive breaches. Following detection of non-compliance, decisions about enforcement action and/or prosecution are taken in line with the regulator's existing enforcement and prosecution policies. The latter includes consideration of "public interest" in upholding environmental law.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of the use of tallow by the soap production and oleochemical industries on levels of recycling in the context of the Government's policies on waste management and sustainable development; and what research he has commissioned on this. [83345]

Ian Pearson: Approximately 265,000 tonnes of tallow are produced in the UK annually. Approximately 50-65,000 tonnes (including imported tallow) are used by the soap production and oleochemical industry in the UK per year. No assessment of the effects on levels of recycling from the use of tallow has been made, nor has any research been commissioned.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the impact of the incentive scheme for the production of biodiesel in the context of competing uses for tallow; and what discussions he has had with the Department *(a)* of Trade and Industry and *(b)* for Transport on the impact; [83346]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of the incentive scheme in place for the use of tallow in the production of biofuels on levels of *(a)* recycling and *(b)* renewable energy production. [83347]

Ian Pearson: The Government are supporting the production of biodiesel through a 20p per litre duty rate cut. This has brought forward biodiesel from a variety of feedstock, including tallow. The forthcoming Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation will require 5 per cent. of road fuel to come from renewable sources by 2010. Tallow-derived biodiesel will qualify under the obligation. Burning tallow for the generation of electricity may also qualify for Renewables Obligation

Certificates (ROCs), although the Government are not aware of any significant burning of tallow which is eligible for ROCs.

We are aware that the oleochemical industry is concerned that the use of tallow for the production of biodiesel and electricity generation will reduce available supplies of tallow for their industry. No formal assessment of this has been made by the Government. However, Defra is in close contact with the Department for Transport and the Department of Trade and Industry, which are engaged in on-going discussions with the oleochemical industry.

Waste Incineration Directive

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance is issued to regulators of the rendering industry in England and Wales on determining whether a rendering plant is working towards compliance with the European Union Waste Incineration Directive. [78044]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 June 2006]:* The Environment Agency has met the UK Renderers Association on two recent occasions to agree steps to be taken by the sector in moving towards compliance with the waste incineration directive (WID). Those steps include emissions monitoring at two rendering plants. All plants will also investigate the cost and lead times for the supply and installation of suitable continuous emissions monitoring equipment, as well as the engineering feasibility. Relevant local authorities in England and Wales have been made aware of the outcome of the meeting. A third meeting is planned in July.

Guidance on the regulatory and technical requirements of the WID is provided by my Department and the Welsh Assembly in "Guidance on Directive 2000/76/EC on the incineration of waste", available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/ppc/wasteincin/pdf/wid-guidance.pdf.

Water Companies

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has made representations to Thames Water about its water leakage rates. [80616]

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings he *(a)* has held and *(b)* plans to hold with (i) Thames Water and (ii) Ofwat regarding Thames Water's performance against its leakage reduction targets. [80974]

Ian Pearson: The Secretary of State and I met with representatives of the water industry, including Thames Water, on 1 June to discuss the water supply challenges we face in the short, medium and long term. Leakage levels was one of the issues discussed. I also met Thames Water seperately in May and made clear that its leakage rates were unacceptably high.

I have discussed the issues of leakage and enforcement options available to Ofwat with it. However, I must add that Ofwat carries out its functions independently of Ministers.

On 4 July, Ofwat announced that it had secured a legally binding undertaking, committing Thames Water to £150 million of additional investment in replacing leaking mains. This is more than double the maximum imposable fine and will come from the shareholder, not the bill payer. Ofwat has also set revised leakage targets for the period up to 2010 to get the company's leakage reduction back on track and to take leakage down to 720 rather than 725 megalitres per day by 2009-10. It is right that the consumer does not bear the burden of the increased investment needed for Thames Water to deal with its failure to meet its leakage targets.

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which water companies missed their leakage reduction targets in each year since 2001. [80970]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat has recognised that leakage is affected by severe weather conditions and since 2002-03 it has assessed the water companies' achievement of targets on a 36-month rolling average. Following Ofwat's assessment of the companies, 2004-05 leakage performance, United Utilities and Thames Water were deemed to be operating above their 36-month average targets. Thames Water had targets suspended in 2001-02 and 2002-03 owing to its performance and data problems.

The following water companies missed their single year leakage reduction targets between 2001 and 2005:

2001-02

Anglian Water
Three Valleys Water
Northumbrian Water (South)

2002-03

Anglian Water
Severn Trent Water
United Utilities
Three Valleys Water

2003-04

Anglian Water
Thames Water
United Utilities
Mid Kent Water
Three Valleys Water

2004-05

Thames Water
United Utilities
Cambridge Water

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to review the criteria by which Ofwat *(a)* reviews and *(b)* penalises the performance of water companies. [84287]

Ian Pearson: The powers of Ofwat were reviewed as part of the Water Act 2003. There are no proposals for further changes at present.

Water Desalination Plants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many water desalination plants are *(a)* in operation, *(b)* under construction and *(c)* planned; what the location is of each; and which company is involved in each case. [84054]

Ian Pearson: The water companies' proposals for resource developments, including proposed desalination plants, were set out in their 25 year water resources plans, prepared in 2004. The Environment Agency reported on the appropriateness of those plans in 'Maintaining Water Supply', which is available from its website:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/subjects/waterres/981441/837307/?version=1&lang=_e

Currently, no water company has a desalination plant in operation. South East Water has been testing a pilot plant at Newhaven, although no water from this pilot project has gone into supply. The company is preparing the documentation to support a planning application for a plant at this site. Thames Water is appealing against the refusal of planning permission for a plant at Beckton in the Thames estuary. The company's water resources plan also identifies provision for a second plant in the 2020s. Folkestone and Dover Water plans a small desalination plant at Hythe in 2019 and Southern Water proposes the development of a desalination plant in the 2020s.

Water Services

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many customers were in receipt of the vulnerable groups tariff for each water company over the last three years for which figures are available. [84056]

Ian Pearson: Each year, Ofwat collects information from companies on the number of households applying for, and successfully receiving, assistance offered under the vulnerable groups regulations.

The following table sets out the numbers for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

	Total number of applications			*Total number of successful applications*		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Anglian and HPL	958	1,293	1,311	993	843	682
Dwr Cymru	121	374	417	78	245	319
United Utilities	1,222	1,439	1,489	946	1,031	1,114
Northumbrian and Essex and Suffolk	376	439	569	316	378	483
Severn Trent	557	771	1,072	449	651	916
South West	608	1,446	1,647	601	1,440	1,645
Southern	332	278	262	325	271	258
Thames	798	1,302	1,655	675	1,097	1,323
Wessex	228	178	519	202	294	481
Yorkshire and York	635	829	1,131	594	768	1,059
Bournemouth and West Hampshire	50	69	87	50	69	73
Bristol	97	120	118	93	99	93
Cambridge	52	77	89	51	74	81
Dee Valley	3	5	10	3	5	10
Folkestone	29	32	28	12	11	12
Mid Kent	66	86	171	66	83	138
Portsmouth	15	14	25	14	13	24
South East Water	87	85	105	65	78	91
South Staffs	63	37	39	32	36	39
Sutton and East Surrey	7	10	38	5	10	38
Tendring Hundred	156	119	103	132	98	87
Three Valleys/North Surrey	213	81	275	157	49	251
Water and Sewerage Companies	5,835	8,349	10,072	5,179	7,018	8,280
Water Only Companies	838	735	1,088	680	625	937
Industry	6,673	9,084	11,160	5,859	7,643	9,217

TREASURY

Affordable Housing

16. **Andrew George:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on implementation of the recommendations of the Barker review on affordable housing. [84777]

John Healey: Good progress has been made on implementing the recommendations contained in the Barker Review of Housing Supply.

The Government set out, in the last pre-Budget report, an ambitious agenda to raise the level of house-building to 200,000 new homes a year over the next decade, making housing more affordable.

So far we have succeeded in driving up housing supply, with new house building in England reaching 160,000 in 2005, the highest level since 1990.

We have set out major reforms to encourage housing growth including a new Planning Policy Statement for Housing to bring forward more land in response to demand, and a planning gain supplement to help fund infrastructure to support growth.

Economic Growth

17. **James Brokenshire:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with his G8 colleagues regarding prospects for global economic growth. [84778]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Preseli Pembrokeshire (Mr. Crabb) on the Floor of the House earlier today.

Stamp Duty

18. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forecasts he has made of stamp duty receipts from sales of residential property during the periods between 1 June 2006 and 31 December 2006 and 1 June 2007 and 31 December 2007. [84779]

Ed Balls: Forecasts of yield are made at Budget time on a fiscal year basis. The forecast is published in table C8 which aggregates stamp duty on property with that on shares.

A retrospective analysis of yield from residential and commercial stamp duty land tax (stamp duty on property) is published in the autumn.

23. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the future of stamp duty on residential property sales. [84785]

Ed Balls: All taxes are kept under review and announcements are made in the Budget.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 95W, on stamp duty (1) how much was raised in stamp duty from home sales in *(a)* the United Kingdom, *(b)* London, *(c)* Southend and *(d)* Wales in 2005-06; [83692]

(2) how much was raised in stamp duty from home sales in *(a)* each local authority area, *(b)* the United Kingdom, *(c)* London, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Wales in the nearest year to 1997-98 for which figures are available. [83696]

Ed Balls: Estimates of stamp duty raised from home sales in 1997-98 in the United Kingdom, London, Scotland and Northern Ireland (combined) and Wales are available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stats/stamp_duty/table15_2_october04.xls

Final figures for 2005-06 have not yet been published.

G8 Summit

19. **Mrs. Betty Williams:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the forthcoming G8 meeting in St. Petersburg on 15 to 17 July. [84780]

Ed Balls: The Prime Minister will attend the G8 summit in St. Petersburg this weekend. This is the first Russian G8 Presidency and the UK is working with G8 partners for a successful summit. The Presidency's focus is on energy security, infectious diseases and education. These and other current issues will be discussed at the meeting. The Prime Minister will lead two sessions on Africa at the summit, in recognition of continuing G8 focus on Africa.

Unemployment (Shropshire)

20. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on levels of unemployment in Shropshire between June 2005 and June 2006. [84782]

John Healey: The number of people unemployed and claiming benefit in Shropshire in May 2006 is 2,599. This is 603 higher than the previous year, but it is nearly 1,700 lower than it was in 1997, and nearly 10,000 lower than it was in 1986 under the last Government.

Tax Credits

21. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the level of fraud in the tax credit system in 2005-06. [84783]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC has published estimates of error and fraud for tax credits from the random enquiry programme on its website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people are employed in HM Revenue and Customs to handle *(a)* tax credit complaints and *(b)* telephone calls about tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [75748]

Dawn Primarolo: On *(a)*, I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 13 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1835W, 18 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 1333W, and 6 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 437W.

As to *(b)*, around 3,500 FTE staff were employed on tax credits helplines in May 2006.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors were taken into account when deciding that industrial injuries disablement should not be treated as income for tax credit purposes. [81750]

Dawn Primarolo: The child and working tax credits are part of the tax system, so the tax credits income assessment is generally based on income tax rules. Apart from industrial death benefit pensions, industrial injuries benefit is exempt from income tax and, therefore, is not taken into account as income for tax credit purposes.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, pursuant to his answer of 3 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1724W, on tax credits, if he will break down the management information data collected by the period for which it is collected. [81782]

Dawn Primarolo: A wide variety of management information is kept across all the HMRC business areas involved in the administration of tax credits. This is a combination of reports and the extraction of supplementary information as and when required.

Because of the large amount of information produced it is not practicable to provide a comprehensive breakdown. This management information is used to provide data for the Department's annual report.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the results of the proactive contact pilots designed to reduce tax credit overpayments. [82832]

Dawn Primarolo: All three phases of the proactive contact pilot exercise have been completed and the initial results are being evaluated. The impact in terms of helping claimants to avoid an overpayment cannot be determined until after the 2005-06 awards have been finalised later this year.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent assessment he has made of the extent of tax credit fraud by migrant workers; and if he will make a statement; [83419]

(2) how many people are receiving tax credits in the UK while living abroad; and if he will make a statement; [83420]

(3) what steps he has taken in the last 12 months to reduce tax credit fraud by migrant workers. [83421]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answers 11 July 2006]:* Tax credits are normally only payable to people who are present and ordinarily resident in the UK. The residence rules for eligibility to tax credits are explained on the HMRC website, at www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/residence-rules.htm

In some cases, recipients of child tax credit may have legitimate foreign correspondence addresses. These include, for example, families of the armed forces or other Crown servants serving abroad.

HMRC takes fraud very seriously and has a range of checks in place throughout the life of each claim. If fraud is suspected, payment is stopped.

International Finance Facility

22. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the international finance facility; and if he will make a statement. [84784]

Ed Balls: The International Finance Facility for Immunisation (IFFIm) was launched in September 2005 with contributions from France, Italy, Spain and Sweden, as well as the UK. Norway, Brazil and South Africa have since pledged contributions. The first bonds will be issued within a few months, and the IFFIm will begin purchasing vaccines and delivering these to the poorest countries through the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) before the end of the year. The IFFIm will demonstrate the benefits of frontloading aid using legally binding, long-term commitments from donors through issuing bonds in international capital markets.

The World Health Organisation estimates that in frontloading aid and investing an extra $4 billion in vaccination now, the IFFIm is expected to save a total of 10 million lives, including 5 million children before 2015. The on-going effectiveness of the disbursements will be monitored by GAVI.

Makinson Incentive Scheme

24. **Mr. Todd:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the evaluation of the Makinson incentive scheme in HM Customs and Excise. [84786]

Dawn Primarolo: Incentive schemes for teams (team bonuses) were trialled within HM Customs and Excise between July 2000 and 31 December 2002 in two phases. The first, from 1 July 2000 to 31 March 2001, involved six teams and a total of 650 staff. A second more extensive trial took place between April 2002 and 31 December 2002. It involved 12 teams ranging in size from 24 to 890. The trials were subject to rigorous evaluation during and at the end of the trials.

Advanced Pricing Agreements

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many advanced pricing agreements *(a)* have been made and *(b)* were in force with multinational companies in each year since 2001; and in how many cases in each year (i) enforcement action was taken and (ii) penalties were imposed in transfer pricing disputes. [84887]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1258-59W.

Antique Imports

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what VAT regulations apply to importing antiques; and if he will make a statement. [84426]

Dawn Primarolo: The law relating to the import of antiques is covered in the VAT Act 1994 as amended, section 1 and section 21 items (4 and 5(b)).

Financial Literacy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research he has commissioned to ascertain the level of financial literacy in the UK; and whether this has sought to ascertain differences in financial literacy in different *(a)* age groups, *(b)* genders, *(c)* classes, *(d)* ethnic groups and *(e)* occupations. [84499]

Ed Balls: The Financial Services Authority (FSA), in partnership with the Government, the financial services industry and voluntary organisations, leads the national strategy for financial capability.

The FSA recently published a comprehensive baseline survey[1] to establish the current state of financial capability in the UK. Published on 27 March

2006, the baseline survey identified five separate components of financial capability: making ends meet, keeping track of your finances, planning ahead, choosing financial products and staying informed about financial matters.

The full research report, "consumer research 47 Levels of Financial Capability in the UK: Results of a baseline survey" (available at http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pubs/consumer-research/crpr47.pdf), provides detailed analysis of each component and includes commentary of differences by particular groupings such as age, gender, income, qualifications, ethnicity, employment status and housing tenure.

Information on social class and occupation was not collected but the FSA has incorporated a proxy measure based on a wide range of life-stage characteristics[2] which is undergoing further analysis.

The FSA continues to analyse the data, particularly to understand more about the needs of more vulnerable groups. The survey will be repeated in the next four to five years to assess the impact of initiatives targeted to improve financial capability.

[1] In total 5,328 respondents were interviewed July-September 2005 to provide a robust measurement of financial capability in the UK population.

[2] Using Experian's Financial Strategy Segments

New Buildings (VAT)

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on proposals to exempt from value-added tax new buildings for use by youth and educational facilities and the local community. [84770]

John Healey: VAT is chargeable on the construction of all new youth, educational or other community facilities, except those new buildings that will be used at least 90 per cent. for a relevant charitable purpose, such as the provision of free-of-charge education by a charity. In such cases, construction of the building is VAT zero-rated. VAT agreements with our European partners mean that while we can maintain this relief for the construction of charitable buildings, it cannot be extended further.

Pension Tax Relief

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will estimate the savings to public funds of restricting all pension tax relief to a maximum of 22 per cent.; and what that saving is estimated to be in the first year in which it is intended to implement the proposed new personal pension arrangements; [84230]

(2) if he will estimate the cost to public funds of the 1 per cent. contribution to be made to personal pension arrangements under the Government's recent proposals in the first year in which the arrangement will come into effect. [84231]

Ed Balls: In relation to the savings from restricting tax relief on pension contributions to a maximum of 22 per cent., I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) on 26 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1175W.

The estimate of the cost to public funds of the tax relief available to individuals in the proposed system of personal accounts is extremely uncertain and will depend on individual levels of participation. The regulatory impact assessment (RIA) published in May 2006 by the Department for Work and Pensions—"Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system", "Regulatory Impact Assessments and technical annexes"—estimates that the increased saving resulting from the proposals could increase tax relief paid on individual contributions by around £1 billion once the scheme is fully operational. On the same central assumption of take-up as the RIA for the first year of personal accounts, the cost of tax relief on individual contributions is estimated to be £350 million, of which £100 million is estimated to be higher rate tax relief. The costs are lower in the first year owing to the proposed three-year phasing of contributions for both employers and employees.

Postage Stamps

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether postage stamps are subject to the same VAT regulations as other antiques when they have been imported into the UK. [84416]

Dawn Primarolo: Postage stamps that are no longer legal tender even if of an age of 100 years or over are covered by subsection (c) of section 21(5) of the VAT Act 1994 which states that any collection or collector's piece of philatelic interest qualifies for the reduced rate of VAT at 5 per cent. Antiques are covered by subsection (b) of 21(5) of the VAT Act 1994.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Clissold Road Swimming Pool

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with members and officers of the London borough of Hackney on the case of the closed Clissold road swimming pool. [84164]

Tessa Jowell: I have had no official discussions. Sport England has continued to monitor developments towards the re-opening of Clissold Leisure Centre, through a project working group established by the London borough of Hackney. Sport England has also instigated a series of meetings between its executive directors and a representative of the Mayor's office, in the London borough of Hackney. The object of these meetings is to provide regular updates and to ensure that the agreed time scales and milestones towards the Centre's re-opening are being met.

Environmental Standards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if she will make a statement. [81181]

Mr. Woodward: New sustainable operations targets for the Government Estate were launched on 12 June by the Prime Minister and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

The new targets included a commitment that all Government Departments should have an Environmental Management System (EMS) in place, based or modelled upon a recognised system (such as ISO14001, or the European regulation EMAS).

Previous targets for EMSs for the Government Estate (published September 2002) had the same wording as the recently announced commitment.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport currently has an uncertified EMS based on IS014001 and has a planned timetable to certify its EMS externally in line with the new standards for IS014001 by March 2007.

Departments have submitted data relevant to this question (including external certification) for annual Sustainable Development in Government Reports. The last Report published by the Sustainable Development Commission in December 2005, covering the reporting period April 2004 to March 2005, is available at: http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/watchdog.

Licensing Laws

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what regulations govern the licensing of pubs that offer adult entertainment in the form of strip dancing. [84374]

Mr. Woodward: Public houses offering such forms of entertainment are licensable under the Licensing Act 2003 (the 2003 Act) if they are selling alcohol and if they are putting on regulated entertainment such as the performance of dance. As such, their activities are open to scrutiny in relation to the four licensing objectives: public safety, the prevention of crime and disorder, the protection of children from harm and the prevention of public nuisance.

Pornography, indecent displays, public indecency and obscenity legislation are matters for the Home Office.

London Olympics

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether there are plans to allow members of the public to stay overnight in the Royal Parks during the 2012 Olympic games; [84698]

(2) what plans there are for public events in the Royal Parks during the 2012 Olympic games; [84699]

(3) what discussions have been held between her Department and representatives of the Royal Parks on use of those parks by members of the public during the 2012 Olympic games; [84700]

(4) what discussions have been held on the use of Richmond park during the 2012 Olympic games. [84712]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 12 July 2006]*: Richmond park is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a National Nature Reserve—as well as a candidate European Special Conservation Area—and there are no plans to use it for the Olympic games.

Some of the other Royal Parks—Greenwich park, Hyde park, Regent's park and Horse Guards Parade in St. James's park—will be hosting Olympic events, and these are bound to affect whether, and how, the public will be able to use certain areas of these parks.

Planning for the cultural programme and the details of the role that the Royal Parks will play in it is still at an early stage. However, my officials have already been discussing with the Royal Parks how the games will impact on the parks, and will continue to involve them in the planning of aspects of the games, and their attendant events, which might affect them before during and after the games take place.

There are no plans to make the Royal Parks available for overnight accommodation during the games. There are thousands of hotels, guest houses and hostels in and around London, offering excellent accommodation.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many parliamentary questions tabled to her Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85201]

Mr. Lammy: Forty-two parliamentary questions tabled to DCMS were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006. None of these had been waiting longer than two weeks for a reply.

Philip Anschutz

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she was informed of the Deputy Prime Minister's intention to stay with Philip Anschutz during his visit to the US in July 2005. [84174]

Tessa Jowell: I was not informed of the Deputy Prime Minister's intention to stay with Philip Anschutz, nor would I expect to have been.

Public Libraries

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1608-9W to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on library closures, how many libraries *(a)* closed, *(b)* were scheduled for closure and *(c)* opened in (i) rural areas and (ii) non-rural areas in that period; and if she will make a statement. [84615]

Mr. Lammy: The table in the answer to which the hon. Member refers was derived from the Public Library Statistics published annually by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). These do not break down the numbers of public libraries by rural and non-rural areas, however defined.

Nevertheless, the CIPFA statistics contain year on year figures allowing comparisons to be made between the numbers of libraries operated by the London boroughs (inner, outer and the City), metropolitan

districts, counties and unitary authorities. The statistics also offer breakdowns by English region. Copies are held by the House Library.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the *(a)* performance and *(b)* popularity of Sutton's self-service public library. [83829]

Mr. Lammy: There has been no such assessment. Day to day operational issues are for the judgment of the 149 library authorities in England.

However, I understand that the self-issue facilities in place at Sutton's libraries have proved popular with the majority of users and, along with other improvements, have contributed to an increased number of visits and issues as well as helping with stock management.

Part of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's (MLA's) role is to investigate and disseminate good practice. Some of the improvements at Sutton libraries are featured on the Designing Libraries website, jointly funded by the MLA, at www.designinglibraries.org.uk.

TV Advertising

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what meetings Ofcom has held with organisations and individuals to discuss restrictions on television advertising for food products targeting children; and which meetings were *(a)* initiated by Ofcom and *(b)* attended by Ofcom in response to requests from a third party; [85241]

(2) what the length was of each meeting attended by Ofcom to discuss restrictions on television advertising of food products targeting children; and which meetings were with organisations *(a)* in favour of, *(b)* opposed to and *(c)* neutral on restrictions of such advertising. [85244]

Mr. Woodward: The matters raised are the responsibility of the Office of Communications as independent regulator. Accordingly, my officials have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

TV Licence Savings Card

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what assistance her Department is giving to elderly people to transfer from television licence savings stamps to the new savings card before the deadline of 31 July; and if she will make a statement; [84651]

(2) how many and what proportion of people have transferred from television licence savings stamps to the new savings card to date; and if she will make a statement; [84652]

(3) what estimate she has made of the number of elderly people who will have transferred from television licence savings stamps to the new savings card by 31 July; and if she will make a statement; [84653]

(4) what assessment she has made of the likely impact of the decision to replace television licence savings stamps with a savings card on *(a)* people residing in rural areas and *(b)* elderly people; and if she will make a statement. [84654]

Mr. Woodward: The provision of assistance to licence fee payers switching from savings stamps to savings cards is a matter for the BBC, as television licensing authority, rather than the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The corporation is also responsible for maintaining licensing records. I have asked the BBC's head of revenue management to reply.

The Department's assessment of the impact of replacing savings stamps is likely to be limited. Stamp sales have been falling for several years, being 60 per cent. lower in 2005-06 than in 1999-2000. The introduction of free TV licences for over-75s has relieved some 3.5 million older citizens of the need to pay the licence fee.

TV Licences

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people *(a)* received free television licences and *(b)* evaded payment of a television licence in West Lancashire in each year since 1997. [84892]

Mr. Woodward: TV Licensing, which administers free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, does not record the number of free licences issued, or the estimated evasion rate, by parliamentary constituency. However, the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming the winter fuel payment in 2004-05 in the West Lancashire constituency was 4,975, according to Department for Work and Pensions records.

TRANSPORT

Aviation Emissions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has held with his foreign counterparts about measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from aviation. [82343]

Gillian Merron: The subject of reducing carbon dioxide emissions from aviation was last discussed by EU Transport Council members in October 2005. Subsequently the December 2005 Environment Council recognised that the inclusion of the aviation sector in the EU Emission Trading Scheme seemed to be the best way forward and urged the Commission to bring forward a legislative proposal by the end of 2006. We intend to work closely with foreign counterparts as the details of this proposal take shape.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to his answer of 12 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 967W, on roads, what modelling has been applied to the road schemes in the Highways Agency targeted programme of improvements on carbon dioxide emissions; whether the estimate from the "Future of Transport" White Paper included such modelling; and why this figure remained unchanged from the original 10-year Transport Plan of 2000 despite the inclusion of additional new schemes. [84685]

Dr. Ladyman: Modelling has been applied at two levels to the road schemes in the targeted programme of improvements (TPI): first at the individual scheme level where carbon dioxide assessments are carried out in accordance with the guidance in the Design Manual of Roads and Bridges (DMRB) volume 11.3.1, and secondly, at the national level (for all schemes) using the Department's National Transport Model.

The road build included in our national modelling is the Highway Agency's illustrative forward programme of schemes. This includes schemes in the targeted programme of improvements (TPI), plus an estimate of schemes that may make their way into the TPI going forward.

The modelling carried out for the "Future of Transport" White Paper included this HA illustrative programme, with it adding around 0.15 million tonnes of carbon in 2010, in England. The carbon added from just the current TPI would, therefore, be somewhat less than this, as my estimate of the 12 June response reflects.

The modelling carried out for the 10-year Transport Plan gave an aggregated figure for the carbon impact of the plan as a whole (including sustainable distribution etc.) and did not split out the road build impact. However, given that the amount of road build in the 10-year plan is of a similar magnitude to that modelled for the White Paper, the carbon impact is likely to be of similar size as well.

Cars

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of households without access to a car (i) in total, (ii) in each region, (iii) in each local authority area, (iv) in each income quintile and (v) in each classification of residential neighbourhoods in (A) the latest year for which figures are available and (B) 1997. [84442]

Dr. Ladyman: Data available from the National Travel Survey on the number of households without access to a car in each region, and the percentage of households without access to a car, (i) in Great Britain, (ii) in each region, (iii) in each income quintile and (iv) by the Office for National Statistics area classification, are given in the following table.

Households without access to a car in Great Britain, by region, income quintile and ONS area classification

	Number (Thousand)		*Percentage*	
	1997	*2003*	*1996-98*	*2004*
Great Britain	7,110	—	30	26
Region				
North East	440	410	40	32
North West and Merseyside	880	790	31	27
Yorkshire and the Humber	700	640	33	28
East Midlands	470	380	28	24
West Midlands	660	540	31	24
Eastern	470	480	21	18
London	1,150	1,250	38	41
South East	640	620	20	19
South West	460	430	22	18
England	5,860	5,520	29	25
Wales	370	330	31	24
Scotland	830	—	38	32
Income quintile				
Lowest real income level	—	—	60	54
Second level	—	—	50	37
Third level	—	—	23	20
Fourth level	—	—	11	11
Highest real income level	—	—	5	8
ONS area classification				
Industrial Hinterlands	—	—	—	28
Traditional manufacturing	—	—	—	40
Built-up Areas	—	—	—	43
Prospering Metropolitan	—	—	—	46
Student Communities	—	—	—	25
Multicultural Metropolitan	—	—	—	54
Suburbs and Small towns	—	—	—	16
Coastal and Countryside	—	—	—	20
Accessible Countryside	—	—	—	7

The data requested are not available by local authority. Data based on the ONS area classification are not available for 1997. Estimates of the number of households are available by region for 1997 and for English regions and Wales for 2003, but are not available for more recent years or by income quintile or area classification.

Channel Tunnel Rail Link

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains per hour will use the Channel Tunnel Rail Link at Stratford during peak hours; how many of these will be *(a)* domestic and *(b)* international; and what the full passenger capacity of each train will be. [80823]

Derek Twigg: We will not be in a position to know how many trains per hour will use the CTRL at Stratford during peak hours until the domestic operator (London South Eastern Railways), and the international operator (Eurostar) announce their timetables for these new services.

Subject to final confirmation of the design requirements, the high speed domestic trains are expected to comprise six-car trains with about 350 seats. The six-car trains will be capable of being coupled to run as 12-car trains. The international trains comprise 16 carriages and have 766 seats.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Jim Dowd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what facilities there are at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for the return of original documents by secure delivery. [85163]

Dr. Ladyman: It should be emphasised that identity documents are required with applications for a first photocard driving licence only and where there are personal changes subsequently. As over 25 million drivers now have a photocard licence the requirement for identity documents is diminishing. In addition, arrangements are in place for digitised passports to be checked by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) online with the Identity and Passport Service (IPS). Non digitised UK passports can be checked at Post Offices, with the same facility available at DVLA's 40 Local Offices, which can also check ED passports and those from certain designated countries where licence exchange agreements exist. All these facilities remove the need for submission of a passport to DVLA.

The use of Special/Recorded delivery arrangements for the return of all submitted identity documents to drivers has been examined, but it would involve substantial clerical intervention, which would result in a significant increase in the fees charged for driving licences. The use of plain fit-for-purpose envelopes by DVLA has not revealed any widespread problems. Some drivers send their own special envelopes for return, but this is a matter of personal choice.

Large Goods Vehicles

Mr. David: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce *(a)* a mandatory register of large goods vehicles instructors and *(b)* a system of check-testing rather than re-testing for large goods vehicle instructors. [84354]

Dr. Ladyman: Currently we have no powers to introduce a mandatory register of LGV instructors. Parliament is currently considering a Road Safety Bill that includes provision to introduce such a scheme by regulation. Arrangements to assure standards maintenance would be part of the consultation before any scheme was introduced.

Before the voluntary register was established in 1997, the Driving Standards Agency proposed a continuing test of instructional fitness and ability (or 'check-test') as the means to stay on the register. In response to consultation with the road freight industry and its training representatives, the industry argued strongly for re-qualifying exams involving practical assessment of driving as well as instruction as the means to remain qualified.

Nuclear Material (Transportation)

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much nuclear material is typically transported in a nuclear transport vessel; and what assessment he has made of the impact on the marine environment in the event of an accident or attack causing all such material to leak into the sea. [84863]

Dr. Ladyman: All vessels carrying packaged irradiated nuclear fuel, plutonium and high-level radioactive wastes must be certified as complying with the stringent criteria of the International Code for such cargoes known as the INF Code before they are able to be used for such purposes.

It is not possible to quote "typical quantities" transported in a nuclear transport vessel as the quantity of material varies according to the business contract being served.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) published a report in July 2001 to examine the severity, probability and risk of accidents during the maritime transport of radioactive material. In this study the IAEA considered the shipment of radioactive materials including the shipment of irradiated fuel, plutonium, high-level vitrified wastes and fresh mixed oxide (MOX) fuel in a nuclear transport vessel. The study considered a number of issues related to accidents at sea, accident statistics, risk studies and emergency response. The study concluded that all the scientific information available in this area demonstrated that there were very low levels of radiological risk and environmental consequences from the sea transport of radioactive material.

Nuclear Waste Transportation

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which railway lines *(a)* in and *(b)* outside London are used for the transportation of nuclear waste. [80463]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 26 June 2006]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1419W.

Ports

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the processes and procedures are for co-ordination between the port health authorities throughout the UK and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. [84390]

Dr. Ladyman: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Association of Port Health Authorities, which

ensures that procedures are in place and implemented for the public health and safety of seafarers and passengers, and to prevent pollution from ships;

ensures the most effective use of resources and expertise, to provide a joined up approach;

promotes awareness of food safety and food hygiene and public health standards throughout the Maritime Industry; and

allows for the appropriate enforcement of all relevant legislation to ensure that effective systems of food hygiene are maintained aboard ships.

The Government keeps under review arrangements for co-ordination and co-operation between bodies with an interest in port health matters.

Rail Passengers (Overcrowding)

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will visit Castle Point to discuss the overcrowding on the c2c Fenchurch Street Line and the process for obtaining a new terminus rail station on Canvey Island to relieve that overcrowding. [78602]

Derek Twigg: There are no plans by the Department for extending the line to Canvey Island and a new terminus station on Canvey Island would not, in itself, reduce crowding on the route.

The Department would consider any fully-costed business case for proposals for new stations or developments to the national rail network.

c2c has been consulting on proposed December 2006 timetable changes which they say will lead to additional seats in the morning peak.

Reactor Fuel (Shipping)

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether *(a)* former roll-on-roll-off ferries and *(b)* other single-hulled, single-engine vessels have been used to transport mixed-oxide reactor fuel in British waters (i) since 1997 and (ii) in the last 30 years. [84865]

Dr. Ladyman: The transportation of mixed oxide reactor fuels is a commercial matter for the suppliers, carriers and owners of the material.

All vessels used to transport mixed-oxide reactor fuel must be certified as complying with the International Code for such cargoes known as the INF Code, before they are able to be used for such purposes.

The criteria needed to be met by the INF Code vessels are stringent and include comprehensive certification, robust damage stability, enhanced fire safety measures, strict management and training of crew and a competent and well tested shipboard emergency plan.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much mixed oxide reactor fuel has passed through British waters in each year since 1997; and from which countries it has come. [84867]

Dr. Ladyman: The amounts of mixed-oxide reactor fuels on board ships is a commercial matter for the suppliers, carriers and owners of the material.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his maritime pollution contingency plans include how to respond to an accident involving a vessel transporting nuclear fuel. [84868]

Dr. Ladyman: The National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations does indeed cover incidents involving a ship carrying radioactive materials.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes are planned to the way in which mixed oxide reactor fuel is transported in British waters. [84869]

Dr. Ladyman: The transport of mixed-oxide reactor fuel is in accordance with a comprehensive framework of international regulations and agreements which are reflected in national legislation to ensure that the levels of safety provided by the equipment and its operation meet certain stringent requirements. The UK will continue to meet its obligations to implement the latest edition of these international regulations and agreements.

As part of our continuing assessment of the radiological consequences of transporting radioactive material by sea, studies are carried approximately every 10 years. We will be commissioning the next study within the next three months. Should the findings of this study require changes to the international regulations or agreements, the UK Government will propose those changes by established processes, including consultation with industry and environmental stakeholders.

Speed Limits

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to allow a local highways authority to decide not to install a national speed limit sign at the end of a lower speed limit zone if *(a)* such a decision can be justified by the rural nature of the road and *(b)* the road concerned is a cul-de-sac. [84369]

Dr. Ladyman: Local highway authorities have the power to set speed limits at an appropriate level. All changes of speed limit are required by law to be clearly signed to allow drivers ample time to adjust their speed accordingly.

Drivers are required to know the speed limit in force at any given time and the Department would not wish to mislead them into thinking a lower speed limit was in force, irrespective of the circumstances. It is also important to retain national consistency.

Tonnage Tax Participants

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid by tonnage tax participants as payment in lieu of training in each of the last five years for which records are available; and how the money was spent. [84391]

Dr. Ladyman: It was agreed when the tonnage tax scheme was devised that the collection of payments in lieu of training (PILOT) and the distribution of moneys would be carried out independently of the Department. PILOT payments are made to the Maritime Training Trust (MTT), a body set up by the Chamber of Shipping and maritime trade unions, and the moneys received are allocated by the Maritime Educational Foundation (MEF), a charity established by the MTT to promote UK seafarer training. My officials have contacted the MTT/MEF, which will provide the requested information direct to the hon. Member.

Traffic Volume

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* total volume and *(b)* percentage change in traffic was for each year between 1997 and 2006; and what proportion of the change he estimates derived from each (i) income quintile and (ii) classification of residential neighbourhoods. [84444]

Dr. Ladyman: The levels of motor vehicle traffic and the percentage changes each year from 1997 to 2005 are given in the following table.

Motor vehicle traffic estimates, Great Britain, 1997 to 2005

Billion vehicle kilometres and percentage change

	All motor vehicles	*Percentage change from previous year*
1997	450.3	2.1
1998	458.5	1.8
1999	467.0	1.8
2000	467.1	0.0
2001	474.4	1.6
2002	486.5	2.5
2003	490.4	0.8
2004	498.6	1.7
2005	499.4	0.2

It is not possible to estimate the proportion of the change attributable to each income quintile or according to the classification of residential neighbourhoods.

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the value is of outstanding unpaid claims to the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in respect of problems MOT garages have experienced with the new MOT computer system. [82439]

Dr. Ladyman: On 30 June 2006, there are unpaid claims totalling £114,300 relating to problems with MOT Computerisation. VOSA is considering each case submitted to determine whether it is justified.

Vehicle Excise Duty

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people his Department calculated as being liable for payment of vehicle excise duty in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [83589]

Dr. Ladyman: Vehicle excise duty (VED) is levied on vehicles, not individuals. As vehicles can be owned by more than one person or by a company or organisation, figures for the number of people liable to pay VED are not available. Statistics showing the number of licensed vehicles for each year from 1995-2005 are available on the Department for Transport website at the following address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_transstats/documents/downloadable/dft_transstats_611686.xls#'Table 1'!A1

SCOTLAND

Departmental Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) if he will list the Government Bills sponsored by his Department that are still to be introduced during the 2005-06 session; [78841]

(2) if he will list the Government Bills sponsored by his Department that he has bid for in the next session of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [78842]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1431W, by my right hon. Friend, the Leader of the House.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the draft Bills produced by his Department since October 2005; state how many were examined or are planned to be examined by *(a)* a Departmental Select Committee or a combination of Select Committees and *(b)* a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [81648]

David Cairns: No draft Bills have been produced by the Scotland Office since October 2005. Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be indicated in the Queen's Speech.

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [84007]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend has not visited any Government office regions in England during the last 12 months in his capacity as Secretary of State for Scotland. However, both he and I undertake regular visits throughout Scotland.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Air Conditioning Systems

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the estimated average *(a)* energy use, *(b)* direct greenhouse gas emissions and *(c)* indirect greenhouse gas emissions were for air conditioning systems to cool domestic homes in the last year for which figures are available. [84069]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

No detailed information is available about the number of air conditioning units in domestic homes or their associated energy consumption.

However, the Government's market transformation programme (MTP) has collected estimates of the amount of energy consumed by air conditioning units in the UK that are subject to the Energy Information (Household Air Conditioners) No. 2 Regulations 2005 (that is, units which consume less than 12 kilowatts). The 2005 regulatory impact assessment for those regulations indicate that these appliances, which are used in both domestic and commercial premises, consume about 5.6 terawatt hours of electricity per year. This is equivalent to approximately 672,000 tonnes of carbon. The report is available on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/energylabelling-regsaircon/index.htm

No information is collected for indirect greenhouse gas emissions from these appliances.

Ambassadors for British Business

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the *(a)* status, *(b)* activities and *(c)* funding are of the Ambassadors for British Business; and if he will make a statement. [84277]

Mr. McCartney: The Ambassadors for British Business scheme has not existed for some time. However, UK trade and investment continues to involve senior business representatives in helping the success of UK business internationally and also in attracting quality foreign direct investment to the UK. These representatives make a valuable contribution that is much appreciated.

Consolidated Resource Accounts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) of 9 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1727W, on consolidated resource accounts, what the nature is of the cases referred to under parts *(b)* and *(d)* of the Special Payments losses. [84205]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Regarding the nature of the cases referred to under part *(b)*:

Three payments were made to ex-members of DTI staff whose employment was terminated on inefficiency grounds. The payments, amounting to £33,487, relate to increases in compensation payments made to individuals following their appeal to the civil service Appeals Board. The payments represent 0.01 per cent. of the total value of the Department's staff costs.

Regarding the nature of the cases referred to under part *(d)*:

Miscellaneous payments to DTI staff for damage to property, personal injury and miscalculations of entitlement amounting to £78,274 can be broken down as follows:

Description	£
An overpayment of pension benefits due to an error in the pension calculation of an ex-employee. When the error came to light the DTI had to re-imburse Cabinet Office as the original payment had been met from their vote.	24,000
A payment to an individual who retired on compulsory early retirement terms. The sum represents 3 months salary in lieu of notice.	18,000
Payments were made to a member of staff at Westfield House to cover compensation for personal injury and related legal fees.	15,000
A payment was made under the Disability Discrimination Act in an out of court settlement following a harassment complaint from a member of staff.	7,000
A payment was made to a former employee to settle a possible tribunal case, arising from alleged discrimination under the Disability Discrimination Act.	2,500
Payments made to cover damage to Government or Government-hired vehicles.	1,450
Minor payments, less than £1,000 each, were made for personal injury claims.	10,325
Total	78,275

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make it his policy to make copies of deposited papers available in the *(a)* Vote Office and *(b)* Printed Paper Office at the same time as copies are deposited in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [81240]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House (Mr. Straw) on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 729W.

Energy Use

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps the Government are taking to help companies who are heavy energy users to maintain competitiveness with European competitors. [84150]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government understands the tough conditions in which energy consumers are operating and is leaving no stone unturned, working closely with industry, to find solutions and reduce the impact. The Government fully appreciates that high

energy prices create problems for the competitiveness of industry, and takes very seriously the potential loss of jobs and investment.

Estimates suggest that in April 2006 industrial gas and electricity prices in the UK including taxes were above the EU median for all but the smallest consumers. However, historically prices to industrial users have been below the EU median, and right up to October 2005 prices were no higher than the EU median, except for the very largest energy consumers.

Our discussions with the Energy Intensive Users Group and others have helped us focus our efforts on maximising gas and electricity supplies, improving the operation of the market, encouraging demand side response and pursuing fair access to markets across Europe. Over the summer we are pursuing a detailed work plan with Ofgem, National Grid, industry and others to ensure we have examined all the options and that we are in the best possible position ahead of next winter. The new Business Energy Forum, co-chaired by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and Richard Lambert of the CBI, which met for the first time on 5 July, is monitoring this work and looking at other strategic energy issues impacting on business.

Other Ministers and I will continue to take every opportunity to raise the issue of implementation of energy market liberalisation across the EU in meetings with the Commission and our opposite numbers in other member state Governments. We welcome the Commission's decision to initiate infraction proceedings against 17 member states, and the series of dawn raids in six member states in pursuance of anti-trust action. These actions should lead to a change of behaviour across the EU.

Post Office Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if his Department will undertake a review of Post Office service provision in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [84650]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are currently considering options for the Post Office network beyond 2008. There has already been informal consultation with key stakeholders and we expect to consult more widely in due course.

Post Office Ltd (POL) recently produced a report on rural pilot activity involving innovative ways of delivering postal services. We are looking at the findings of the report and want others to have the chance to do the same. No further decisions on the rural network will be taken until we have had the time the fully consider the report and views of stakeholders.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Deputy Prime Minister

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 729W, on the Deputy Prime Minister, if he will seek to include the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in the remit of a Select Committee. [84870]

Mr. Straw: No.

Ministerial Responsibilities

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Leader of the House which members of the Cabinet do not have their ministerial responsibilities scrutinised by a Select Committee. [84924]

Mr. Straw: All members of the Cabinet are subject to scrutiny by Select Committees in respect of their ministerial responsibilities. Those whose main responsibilities do not relate to the Departments covered by Standing Order No 152 (Select Committees related to Government Departments) are the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Leader of the House of Commons, the Minister for the Cabinet Office, the Leader of the House of Lords and President of the Council, the Minister without Portfolio, and the Chief Whip in the House of Commons.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

2012 Olympics

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1687 to the then hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent, on the 2012 Olympics, whether he plans to locate a branch of the National Skills Academy working on skills development for the 2012 Olympics in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Blaenau Gwent. [83707]

Phil Hope: Education and skills are devolved policy areas. The Government's commitment to establish a network of sector-based National Skills Academies (NSAs) is a skills initiative designed to operate in England. Sector Skills Councils, however, have the development lead for NSAs and also hold a UK-wide remit, regulated in Wales by protocol with Education and Learning Wales. Employers there and in Scotland and Northern Ireland may well wish to see NSAs reach across the UK and their engagement with their Sector Skills Councils will determine their wider establishment. Construction Skills, the Sector Skills Council leading the development of the Construction Skills Academy is planning a series of workshops to be held in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to explore the potential for introducing NSA arrangements there. The NSA for Construction is currently in the business planning stage with an announcement concerning its opening expected in the autumn.

Biometric Information (Children)

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his Department's policy is with regard to *(a)* the (i) finger-printing and (ii) taking of (A) DNA and (B) other biometric information from children (1) under the age of 10 years, (2) between the ages of 10 and 16 years and (3) over 16 years but under 19 years without the consent of their parents or legal guardians and *(b)* the retention of that biometric information by Government organisations. [85046]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton (Mr. Gibb) on 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 504W.

Child Care, Cumbria

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what resources are being deployed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection to assess whether Cumbria county council is complying with national standards in the delivery of services for the care of children. [80689]

Beverley Hughes: This is a matter for the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). David Behan, CSCI's Chief Inspector, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from David Behan, dated 10 July 2006:

You recently asked a Parliamentary Question of the Secretary of State for Education and Skills. The question was:

"What resources are being deployed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection to assess whether Cumbria County Council is complying with national standards in the delivery of services for the care of children?"

That question has been referred to me for reply.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection has a team of local inspectors based at Penrith who are responsible for assessing residential and domiciliary care services for both adults and children in Cumbria. Inspectors assess services against the same standards regardless of whether those services are provided by the County Council or the private or voluntary sector.

In addition to this, there have been service inspections, which cover assessment and care management delivered by the social services authority (Cumbria CC) as well as direct care provision. Specific inspections for Children's Services were carried out most recently in 2003, with a follow up inspection carried out in 2004. A service inspection team is currently working with Ofsted on a Joint Area Review of all Children's Services in Cumbria. This will report in September.

Until last year Social Services in Cumbria were receiving monthly monitoring visits and additional support because of concerns over their performance. In the performance assessment published in December 2005 the council was awarded one star, up from zero stars the previous year. The 2005 judgements in relation to children's services were that Cumbria were serving some children well, with promising capacity to improve.

The budget available to the Penrith office in 2006/07 totals £937,000. Of this, staffing costs are £872,000. Cumbria County Council is the only council in the Penrith Office's jurisdiction. There is one Business Relationship Manager (BRM) and one Performance Information Manager (PIM) with responsibility for Cumbria County Council (as well as Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council). In addition to this, there are two Regional Managers and twelve dedicated Regulation Inspectors (two deal with children's resources and ten with adults) for Cumbria region.

A copy of this answer is being sent to DfES who will make arrangements with the Parliamentary authorities for the answer to be placed in the official record (Hansard).

Children's Centres

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children's centres have been set up in each year since the 2003 pre-Budget report. [84796]

Beverley Hughes: The following table provides a breakdown of the number of designated Sure Start children's centres at the end of each financial year from 31 March 2004 to 31 March 2006:

Date (by 31 March each year)	*New Sure Start children's centres*
2004	66
2005	161
2006	609
Total	836

The children's centre programme has now entered its second phase with a target to create a total of 2,500 children's centres by March 2008.

City Academies

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether city academies are required to comply with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [84228]

Jim Knight: Academies are not currently required to comply with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs may, under section 5 of the FOIA, extend the Act through regulations to other bodies not currently covered. However, I understand that the DCA is currently looking at the lessons learnt from the current implementation of the Act before looking to extend it further.

Further Education Colleges

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many courses were offered at further education colleges in *(a)* tarot card reading, *(b)* stand-up comedy and *(c)* Australian cake decorating in the past three years. [81713]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 3 July 2006]*: The nature of these courses means that many are not readily identifiable through the national qualifications framework or other formal qualification bodies. This means we are unable to accurately estimate the number of these courses. However, we are aware from providers' prospectuses of these type of courses being offered by some providers.

We would expect courses that are valued by learners to continue, but those who can, should contribute more to the cost of that learning. Public funding for courses for personal and community development has been 'protected'/ringfenced at £210 million per year for 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Foreign Language Courses

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many sixth form institutions in England offer two or more modern foreign language courses. [82754]

Jim Knight: Information is not collected on the subjects offered by sixth form institutions, however it is possible to provide figures on the number of institutions where at least one pupil has been entered for a particular subject.

2,329 sixth form institutions in England had entrants in two or more modern foreign language courses at GCE AS Level and GCE A Level in the academic year 2004/05.

This answer covers the following modern foreign languages: Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Modern Greek, Portuguese, Spanish, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Polish, Russian, Turkish, Urdu, and Persian.

Internet and Mobile Phones

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* Microsoft and *(b)* other IT companies on improving safe internet and mobile phone use in schools. [84644]

Phil Hope: The Department for Education and Skills supported the launch of the Microsoft led 'Getting To Know IT All' campaign. This focussed on internet and mobile safety and as part of the campaign produced an educational resource pack for secondary schools. The Department had no direct links with the campaign but discussions between officials and Microsoft would have taken place in the run up to its launch which included a ministerial presence.

Our agency (Becta) established an accreditation of Internet Services to Education as part of our wider strategy to address internet safety in education. This is open to commercial internet service providers (ISPs).

The Department and Becta, through membership on the Home Office Taskforce for Child Protection on the Internet, which includes representatives of the internet and mobile industry, meets regularly to discuss relevant and key issues related to internet and mobile safety and have together developed key codes of practice.

Learning and Skills Council

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking in conjunction with the Learning and Skills Council to retrain and develop its staff to fulfil the Agenda for Change. [79890]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is undertaking a range of activity at national and local level to help staff prepare for their new roles both in and outside the LSC. Mark Haysom, the Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council, has written to the hon. Member explaining more detailed arrangements for staff development and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 13 July 2006:

I write in response to your recent Parliamentary Question regarding the steps the LSC are taking to retrain and develop its staff to fulfil the agenda for change.

Staff have access to an almost unlimited amount of Ashridge Management Institute on-line learning. Learning and Development advisers are working with redeployees to help them identify their development needs, Right Coutts provide training and support around CV preparation, job search, interview skills etc.

At each grade in the organisation we are appointing a number of people who did not demonstrate the minimum level to be confirmed in a new role post. These individuals are appointed to the post with the support of a development programme of between 6 months and 12 months, This will include one to one coaching and also appropriate formal training to bring them up to the minimum competence requirements of the role. Following Band 3 appointments we will have a total of approximately 130+ staff following such development plans.

From Autumn onwards we will be launching a range of development initiatives addressing leadership, management skills, effective partnership working etc to support the establishment of the new organisation and ways of working.

I trust this information is helpful.

Mandarin

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students graduated with Mandarin as their first degree in each year between 1997 and 2005. [84531]

Bill Rammell: The available information shows the number of students who have graduated with a degree in Chinese, and is shown in the table. Separate figures for those who have obtained a qualification in Mandarin are not held centrally. The latest information from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) shows that the number of students applying to study Chinese at undergraduate level in 2006/07 has increased by nearly 60 per cent. to 788.

Number of students qualifying with a degree in Chinese—UK higher education institutions

Academic year	*Graduates*
1996/97	65
1997/98	55
1998/99	85
1999/2000	70
2000/01	100
2001/02	100
2002/03	165
2003/04	190
2004/05	200

Notes:
1. In 2002/03 the methodology used to allocate students to subjects was changed, which means that the figures for 2002/03 and later years are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Modern Apprenticeships

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people aged between 16 and 22 years have participated in a modern apprenticeship in each year since 2002; and at what cost. [84797]

Phil Hope: The apprenticeship programme continues to go from strength to strength with record numbers of young people participating and completion rates continuing to improve. Numbers of young people (aged 16-24) who have taken up an apprenticeship in England since 2002/03 are as follows:

	Apprenticeship	*Advanced apprenticeship*	*Total*
2002-03	24,336	18,618	42,954
2003-04	43,110	9,174	52,284
2004-05	45,125	8,912	54,037
2005-06 (to period 10)	47,531	18,979	66,510

Note:
Figures cannot be broken down into specific age groups but are for the whole of the apprenticeship cohort, from age 16 to 24

Apprenticeships in England are funded through the 'work based learning for young people' budget of the Learning and Skills Council. This budget covers apprenticeships, advanced apprenticeships, NVQ Learning and Entry to Employment. The following table details figures for work based learning for each year since 2002. All amounts are rounded to the nearest £1 million.

£ million

	Work based learning (youth, 16-18)	*Work based learning (adult, 19+)*	*Total*
2002-03	478	191	669
2003-04	565	213	778
2004-05	615	243	858
2005-06	606	269	875

Music Qualifications

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many pupils took examinations in music technology at *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A level in each of the last five years; [85068]

(2) how many *(a)* schools and *(b)* colleges teach music technology at (i) GCSE and (ii) A level; [85069]

(3) which examination boards set curricula and examinations in music technology. [85070]

Jim Knight: 65 further education colleges and 231 schools entered students in A Level music technology in the academic year 2004/05. Figures for the number of students entered for A Level music technology in each of the last five years are shown in the table as follows.

Pupils entered in A Level music technology

	Number
2000/01	1,033
2001/02	1,320
2002/03	1,754
2003/04	2,220
2004/05	2,367

There were no schools or further education colleges with entrants in GCSE music technology in any of the last five years.

The examination boards which offer music technology qualifications currently on the National Qualifications Framework are:

		Music technology qualifications
ABC	Level 3	Diploma in Sound Design and Music Technology
EDEXCEL	Advanced	GCE in Music Technology
EDEXCEL	Advanced subsidiary GCE in music technology	
EDEXCEL	Level 3	BTEC National Award in Music Technology
EDEXCEL	Level 3	BTEC National Certificate in Music Technology
EDEXCEL	Level 3	BTEC National Diploma in Music Technology
EDEXCEL	Level 5	BTEC Professional Diploma in Creative Music Technology
NCFE	Level 2	Certificate in Music Technology
NCFE	Intermediate	Certificate in Music Technology (Mix DJ Skills)

Teachers

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many applicants there were on average for each *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teacher vacancy in (i) London and (ii) England in each of the past five years. [85067]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the rate of teenage pregnancy was in *(a)* England and *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [84657]

Beverley Hughes: The following table provides under-18 conception rate data for England and East Riding for each year since the teenage pregnancy strategy began. Between 1998 and 2004, the under-18 conception rate in England has fallen by 11.1 per cent. East Riding has experienced a fall of 9.1 per cent. over the same period.

	England under-18 conception rate	*East Riding under-18 conception rate*
1998	46.6	34.7
1999	44.8	30.0

	England under-18 conception rate	East Riding under-18 conception rate
2000	43.6	30.8
2001	42.5	29.9
2002	42.6	29.7
2003	42.1	29.1
2004	41.5	31.5

Note:
Conceptions per 1,000 females aged 15-17

Transport Allowances

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost was to his Department of transport allowances in the last year for which figures are available. [81909]

Alan Johnson: Details of travel expenditure incurred by the Department over the last financial year are set out as follows:

2005/06: £6,197,029.01

The expenditure does not include costs for domestic and foreign travel that may be charged to a programme account, expenditure incurred as a result of commission on foreign exchange or some miscellaneous travel expenses incurred by individual travellers during the course of the visit. These cannot be easily extracted within disproportionate cost.

Since 1999 the Government have published, on an annual basis, the total costs of all ministerial overseas travel and a list of all visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500. This information is available in the Library. Information for the financial year 2004-05 was published on 21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 158WS. Information for the financial year 2005-06 is in the process of being collated and will be published shortly.

All travel under taken by DfES Ministers and civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Ministerial Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code".

Working Together

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 797W, on Working Together, if he will list the respondents who *(a)* disagreed or strongly disagreed that the Government should attempt to set out a clearer policy for professionals including the health service and youth workers on when to share information with social services and the police to protect sexually active children from harm and abuse and *(b)* disagreed that there was a case for information always being shared in some circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [75633]

Beverley Hughes: Nine respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed (and 90 agreed or strongly agreed) that the Government should attempt to set out a clearer policy for professionals including the health service and youth workers on when to share information with social services and the police to protect sexually active children from harm and abuse. Seven of those responded on behalf of or identified themselves as part of organisations, and those organisations are set out as follows. Two of those who responded to this question did so as individuals and did not identify themselves as part of an organisation. Their details have not been included because of Data Protection Act considerations.

South Staffs Healthcare NHS Trust
Portsmouth City council
The British Medical Association
The National Youth Agency and Youth Access
Solihull Area Child Protection Committee
Wiltshire county council
Get Connected Helpline

23 respondents disagreed (and 191 agreed) that there was a case for information always being shared in some circumstances. Of these, 20 responded on behalf of or identified themselves as part of organisations, and those organisations are set out as follows; three individuals also responded to this question.

City and Hackney primary care trust
Professional Association of Teachers
Northamptonshire Area Child Protection Committee
NHS
Lincolnshire Tackling Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board
Sheffield Area Child Protection Committee/Local Safeguarding Children Board/Children and Young People's Services
London Metropolitan
Reproductive Health Matters
British Association for Sexual Health and HIV
(African Women's Welfare Association) The Lost African Child Project
Family Planning Association
Doncaster Local Safeguarding Board
Oxfordshire Mental Healthcare NHS Trust
Greenwich Social Services
Education Leeds
The Children's Society
Foster Care Associates
Get Connected Helpline
NHS Community Provider and Mental Health Trust
British Association of Social Workers

Effective information sharing is at the heart of good practice to safeguard children. The new "Working Together to Safeguard Children" provides the clear guidance on when and how to share information about underage sexual activity that Sir Michael Bichard's report recommended and which practitioners from all agencies have told us they want.

CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

Election Ballot Papers

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what assessment she has made of the merits of requiring voters to sign for receipt of their ballot paper. [84537]

Bridget Prentice: Signing for the receipt of ballot papers at polling stations is an additional security measure that will help to prevent and detect incidences of electoral fraud. It will aid the police with any investigation they may have to undertake post election.

This measure was piloted at the May 4 2006 local elections, and the Electoral Commission are due to publish an evaluation report shortly.

Elections (Commonwealth Countries)

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which Commonwealth countries allow all Commonwealth citizens to vote in their general elections. [83844]

Bridget Prentice: This information is not held centrally. In respect of the UK, the Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that all Commonwealth citizens who are lawfully resident here are entitled to vote in parliamentary and local elections. Decisions about the voting rights of Commonwealth, including British, citizens resident in other Commonwealth countries are for the individual countries concerned.

Electoral Register

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what steps she plans to take to maximise data-sharing in drawing up the electoral register; [84539]

(2) if she will place a duty on electoral registration officers to use all relevant available databases to compile the electoral register. [84540]

Bridget Prentice: The recent Electoral Administration Act 2006 requires electoral registration officers when drawing up the electoral register to make full use of their powers to use those records which they are permitted to access. They are currently able to inspect and take copies of any records kept by their own council, and to inspect and take copies of records kept by any registrar of births and deaths.

My Department is also currently exploring whether there are other records not covered by existing powers, to which it might be appropriate to allow an electoral registration officer access.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the number of eligible voters not included on the electoral register; [84541]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of eligible voters who are not registered. [84550]

Bridget Prentice: I have not made an estimate. However, the Electoral Commission in its research report 'Understanding electoral registration' published in September 2005 found that in the region of 3.5 million people across England and Wales who were eligible to be registered were missing from the register in 2000.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what targets she plans to set for electoral registration officers to improve their electoral registers. [84549]

Bridget Prentice: I do not plan to set targets. However, we have made provision in the Electoral Administration Act for performance standards to be established. In future, the Electoral Commission will set standards for electoral administrators (including electoral registration officers) and require them to provide the Commission with returns and reports on their level of performance against the standards that have been set.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what estimate she has made of registration levels among black African voters. [84551]

Bridget Prentice: I have not made an estimate. However, the Electoral Commission in its research report "Understanding electoral registration" published in September 2005 found that 37 per cent. of black Africans who were otherwise eligible were not registered.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what research she has undertaken of voting registration in different types of housing tenure. [84553]

Bridget Prentice: I have not undertaken any such research. However, the Electoral Commission in its research report "Understanding electoral registration" published in September 2005 found that 3 per cent. of people who own their property outright are not registered, while 27 per cent. of people who rent from a private landlord or letting agency are not registered.

Environmental Standards

Chris Huhne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs whether her Department *(a)* is committed to the achievement of environmental management to ISO 14001 standard and *(b)* has been externally certified as in compliance with that standard; and if she will make a statement. [81180]

Bridget Prentice: My Department is fully committed to the achievement of EMS's to ISO 14001 standard. My Department is currently piloting two EMS's at our largest HQ building and at our largest Court complex, both are due to be certified (externally) later this year.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs which matches *(a)* the Secretary of State and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contribution from third party organisations. [83596]

Bridget Prentice: None.

Malignant Mesothelioma

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs what steps she has taken to facilitate compensation claims for malignant mesothelioma. [84566]

Bridget Prentice: The Government intend to bring forward an amendment to the Compensation Bill to provide that in mesothelioma cases, negligent persons should be jointly and severally liable, so that the claimant can recover full compensation from any relevant person.

New Electors

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will ensure that new electors are sent information about exercising their right to vote. [84584]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 provides for pre-polling information to be sent to all electors, informing them about their right to vote at any upcoming elections.

The Act will also give electoral administrators a power to encourage participation in the electoral process. This could include, for example, campaigns to inform young electors about their right to vote.

Personal Injuries (Compensation)

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when the maximum levels of compensation in personal injuries cases were last reviewed; and if she will make a statement. [84522]

Bridget Prentice: No maximum levels of compensation are prescribed for personal injury cases in general, and the amount of damages to be awarded in individual cases will depend upon the circumstances of that case. The level of general damages for pain and suffering was considered by the Court of Appeal in the case of Heil v. Rankin in 2000. The Judicial Studies Board publishes guidelines for the judiciary on the assessment of general damages based on decided cases following Heil v. Rankin. These do not cover any damages that may be awarded for other elements of the claim, such as loss of earnings.

Polling Stations (Guidance)

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs if she will provide guidance in polling stations in languages other than English. [84535]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 will give Returning Officers a power to make prescribed election documents, including guidance in polling stations, available in languages other than English.

Postal Votes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she will make it an offence to make a false application for a postal vote. [84536]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduces a new offence of falsely applying for a postal vote. A person found guilty of this offence could be sentenced to a maximum of two years in prison, or face a fine, or both.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Constitutional Affairs when she will introduce a marked register of postal votes received. [84538]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 provides for a marked register of returned postal votes for future local and national elections. Our intention is that the secondary legislation setting out the detailed arrangements will be implemented in time for elections in 2007.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Carbon Neutrality

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether his *(a)* official residence, *(b)* official car and *(c)* official trips to foreign countries are carbon neutral. [83229]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Since 1 April this year, all flights taken by central Government Ministers and civil servants on official business are being carbon off-set under a scheme being operated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. For information relating to the environmental performance of my official car, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on Thursday 6 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1299W. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidance 'Travel by Ministers' and the Government's sustainable transport policy.

Admiralty House forms an integral part of the Cabinet Office estate and is included in work currently being undertaken in partnership with the Carbon Trust to consider the improvement of energy management practices, identify likely areas for potential energy savings and provide the Cabinet Office with a systematic approach to managing the risks and opportunities associated with climate change.

Engagements

Mr. Amess: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which countries he plans to visit *(a)* before the end of 2006 and *(b)* in the first half of 2007; and if he will make a statement. [82562]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Since January this year I have visited a number of countries including Finland, the United States, Canada and China. I shall continue to undertake a range of international visits on behalf of my right hon. Friend, the Prime Minister.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister which matches he attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in his ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83623]

The Deputy Prime Minister: None.

Ministerial Visits

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister on what date he decided to stay with Philip Anschutz at his Colorado ranch during his trip to the US in July 2005. [84175]

The Deputy Prime Minister: During the time the arrangements for the trip were being made.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what briefings were given to the civil servants in his party during his visit to the US in July 2005 relating to *(a)* Mr. Philip Anschutz and *(b)* his business. [84259]

The Deputy Prime Minister: None. Neither I nor the civil servants had any such briefings or private meetings during the trip.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what *(a)* agendas and *(b)* minutes were produced relating to his meetings with Philip Anschutz at his Colorado ranch in July 2005. [84260]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I did not have any meetings with Philip Anschutz during that trip. Officials were present during all informal conversations during my stay there.

Principal Private Secretary

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister who the Principal Private Secretary is for his new office. [83224]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My Principal Private Secretary has not changed.

Special Advisers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister who his special advisers are; what the salary grade of each is; and what the expertise is of each. [83223]

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 788-89W, on his ministerial office and staff, how many special advisers are employed in his private office, broken down by pay band; and what the expected annual cost of these advisers is for 2006-07. [85060]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall costs of special advisers and the number in each pay band. Information for the current financial year will be published in the normal way.

PRIME MINISTER

Chequers (Entertainment)

Mr. Francois: To ask the Prime Minister which guests have been entertained officially at Chequers since 25 June 2005. [83504]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 652-53W.

Deputy Prime Minister

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister on which occasions the Deputy Prime Minister has been acting Prime Minister in each year since 1997; what the dates were between which he so acted on each occasion; and for what reason in each case. [83231]

The Prime Minister: The Deputy Prime Minister and First Secretary of State deputises for me as required across the range of my responsibilities at home and abroad.

Dorneywood

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Prime Minister who is occupying Dorneywood; and what plans he has to offer it to another Minister. [83233]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 825W.

E-mail

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Prime Minister whether he personally uses an e-mail account in the course of his official duties. [83016]

The Prime Minister: Yes.

Engagements

Kate Hoey: To ask the Prime Minister when he next plans to visit Northern Ireland. [84173]

The Prime Minister: For security reasons, my future engagements are announced as and when appropriate.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister which matches he attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in his ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83622]

The Prime Minister: None.

Honours Lists

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what the procedures are for preparing honours lists; whom he consults prior to advising Her Majesty the Queen on the honours list; what guidance is published about nominating a person to receive an honour; if he will place in the Library a copy of such guidance; and if he will make a statement. [83232]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 23 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 34WS.

The procedures leading to the birthday and new year lists, and guidance for nominating potential recipients of honours, are set out on the Cabinet Office website (www.honours.gov.uk). The guidance and nomination forms are available in the Library of the House.

Ministerial Visits

Anne Main: To ask the Prime Minister on what date he last visited St. Albans on official business. [82811]

The Prime Minister: I last visited St. Albans on official business on 15 November 2000.

Prime Minister's Question Time

Anne Main: To ask the Prime Minister whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials contact Labour Members who have been successful in the shuffle for Prime Minister's Question Time to ascertain the nature of their intended supplementary questions. [82889]

The Prime Minister: No.

Special Advisers

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister which special advisers appointed since 1997 who have since left are *(a)* employed elsewhere within Government, *(b)* employed on contract to the Government and *(c)* employed within organisations which lobby the Government; and what mechanisms exist for monitoring their compliance with regulations pertaining to a cooling-off period with respect to working on relevant portfolios in the private sector. [84257]

The Prime Minister: "The Code of Conduct for Special Advisers" makes clear that the Business Appointment Rules, as set out in the "Civil Service Management Code", apply to special advisers for the first two years after leaving office. Applications which are referred to the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments will be accounted for in the Committee's annual report. Information for 2005-06 will be provided shortly. The detailed information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

US-UK Extradition Treaty

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister on what occasions and in what manner he has raised with the President of the United States the fact that the United States has not ratified the US-UK extradition treaty. [84998]

The Prime Minister: It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact. [84197]

Dr. Howells: The Afghanistan Compact, agreed at the London Conference on Afghanistan in January, established the Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board as the mechanism to oversee progress in its implementation. The Board consists of 28 members and is co-chaired by the UN and the Islamic Government of Afghanistan.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the findings were of the International Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan which took place between 26 and 28 June; and if he will make a statement. [84199]

Dr. Howells: The International Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan reconfirmed the importance of the Paris Pact process in further strengthening border control and law enforcement co-operation between countries affected by the Afghan drugs trade. The conclusions highlighted the need for greater international support for counter narcotics work in Afghanistan; firm action to control the diversion of precursor chemicals; increased efforts to tackle drugs related money laundering and the importance of tackling demand. Conference participants also recognised the importance of increasing the exchange of intelligence between regional partners, including through the deployment of law enforcement experts to the new Central Asia Regional Information and Co-ordination Centre, due to be established in Kazakhstan.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made with the National Drug Strategy for Afghanistan agreed at the London conference; and if she will make a statement. [83244]

Dr. Howells: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made today on Afghanistan: Counter Narcotics. This includes detail on progress made to date as well as the allocation of UK funding in support of the National Drug Control Strategy.

Arms Controls

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made on increasing the transparency and effectiveness of the UK's arms controls. [84491]

Dr. Howells: The Government remain committed to ensuring that the United Kingdom's export control system is as rigorous and effective as any in the world. This commitment is clearly reflected in the Export Control Act (2002), which was the first major legislative development in this area since 1939. We are continuing to take up the challenge of implementing these comprehensive new controls, some in areas which bring in activities not previously subject to control. On greater transparency, we have introduced quarterly reports (which are available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1089131553823, and provide detailed information on our export licensing decisions. The 2005 annual report on the UK's Strategic Export Controls will also be published in a new format later this month. These initiatives illustrate our commitment to maintain, and expand, the high standard of transparency and accountability in the area of export controls that we established with the launch of our first annual report in 1997.

Arms Trade Treaty

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made on establishing a new international treaty on the arms trade. [84492]

Dr. Howells: The Government are fully committed to securing an international treaty on the trade in all conventional arms. Both my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary have recently reiterated the UK's commitment to securing agreement to a UN based process at the United Nations General Assembly later this year. With a range of partners we intend to bring forward a resolution at the UN First Committee to this end. In advance of this we are continuing to build further support for the initiative.

British Satellite News

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* terms of reference, *(b)* codes of practice and *(c)* editorial guidance govern the relationship between British Satellite News and her Department. [85062]

Mr. Hoon: The contract to supply British Satellite News (BSN) was awarded following an open tender. A number of respected news organisations submitted bids for the contract. Contract requirements specifically called for the service to be "credible, accurate, newsworthy and made to the highest standards of professional journalism". BSN has editorial independence. The decision on what to broadcast rests with its Chief Editor. Full details of the service to be provided are specified in the attached "Statement of Service Requirements". This document will be placed in the Library of the House and I will arrange for a copy of the document to be sent to the hon. Member.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her estimate is of the cost of British Satellite News in each of the past six years. [85063]

Mr. Hoon: The British Satellite News (BSN) service is awarded after a public tender. The current contract started in 2005 and amounts to £1.5 million per year. Payments to BSN amounted to:

£2.2 million per year from financial years (FY) 2000-01 to 2002-03

£1.2 million in FY 2003-04 and 2004-05

£1.5 million in FY 2005-06.

Child Labour

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate she has made of the use of child labour in *(a)* China, *(b)* Bangladesh, *(c)* India, *(d)* Pakistan and *(e)* Zambia. [84569]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold its own data on levels of child labour around the world. We draw on the expertise of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and other relevant bodies for such information. On 4 May 2006, the ILO published a global report on child labour "The End of Child Labour: Within Reach" available on the ILO website at: www.ilo.org/dyn/declaris/DECLARATIONWEB.INDEXPAGE.

ILO information for child labour levels in the countries specified includes the following figures:

China: there is little hard statistical information on child labour trends, but the ILO's report assesses that child labour levels there are declining.

Bangladesh: 4.7 million children working in 2002-03—13.4 per cent. of all children aged five-14.

India: the latest estimate we have of the level of child labour is 12.6 million. This figure is not from the ILO but taken from the last census carried out by the Registrar General of India in 2001.

Pakistan: 3.3 million children were economically active in 1996—8.3 per cent. of all children ages 5-14.

Zambia: 595,000 child workers, of whom 58 per cent. were 14 or younger (no date given).

China

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment her Department has made of the merits of establishing representative missions in the People's Republic of China. [84702]

Mr. McCartney: The United Kingdom currently has diplomatic representation in five Chinese cities to ensure the effective conduct of UK-China relations: in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chongqing and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The Government keep the UK's diplomatic representation, including in China, under regular review.

Departmental Resource Accounts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 298W, on departmental resource accounts, what the cost was of writing off the stockpile of out-of-date visa vignettes; and from which budget line the funds were found. [82054]

Dr. Howells: The cost associated with writing off the stockpile of out-of-date visa vignettes in 2004-05 was £1.325 million. After UKvisas accepted £424,000 in compensation from the manufacturers for a proportion of the vignettes which were faulty, the net write-off was £901,000. This write-off was borne by UKvisas' stationery budget which is funded by visa application fees.

Departmental Staff

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the criteria are by which non-civil servants can be appointed to diplomatic postings; and if she will make a statement. [84243]

Mr. Hoon: Non-civil servants are eligible for appointment to Diplomatic Service or Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts when these are publicly advertised; and at the discretion of the Secretary of State under the Diplomatic Service Order in Council.

Ethical Foreign Policy

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on progress the Government are making in following an ethical foreign policy. [84489]

Mr. McCartney: The promotion of human rights, good governance and democracy is one of the foundations of British foreign policy, forming part of the Strategic International Priorities, published as a Command Paper (Cm 6762) in March this year. Respect for these rights and values underpins the global security, stability and prosperity on which the UK's own well-being relies.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office produces an annual report on human rights. This report provides an overview of the main challenges to human rights around the world and explains the Government's activities, policies and progress made to address those challenges. The last such report was published on 21 July 2005 as a Command Paper (Cm 6606) and laid before Parliament. A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House. We aim to publish the next report in October 2006.

European Communities (Fraud)

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* foreign nationals have been convicted of fraud involving European Communities funds since May 1997. [84256]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold a record of UK and foreign nationals convicted of fraud involving European Communities funds since May 1997.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of the European Commission have been *(a)* investigated for and *(b)* convicted of fraud involving European Communities funds since May 1997. [84278]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold a record of European Commission officials investigated for and convicted of fraud involving European Communities funds since May 1997.

Former Yugoslavia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what operations are taking place to bring the former Bosnian Serb leaders Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic to justice. [84242]

Mr. Hoon: The Government strongly supports the work of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and full co-operation with the ICTY is a condition of progress towards membership of the EU for Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. The EU and NATO military missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina are also mandated to support ICTY's work. It would not be sensible to comment on operational matters.

Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to her answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 352-53W, to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague), on human rights, what the Government's position is on the establishing of a commission of inquiry to investigate possible human rights violations that transcend national borders. [84142]

Dr. Howells: As we have found no evidence of detainees being rendered through UK territory or airspace where there were substantial grounds to believe there was a real risk of torture, we do not see the case for such an inquiry. My right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Jack Straw) set out in his Written Ministerial Statement of 20 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS, the results of the extensive review of official records back to May 1997. We have also fully co-operated with international inquiries on this matter; the Government's replies to the Council of Europe Secretary General's requests for information are available in the Library of the House.

Israel/Palestine

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the likelihood of extended Israeli military action in the West Bank following the military incursions into Gaza which commenced on 27 June 2006; and what representations she is making on the issue. [82163]

Dr. Howells: We are not aware of any plans for extended military action in the West Bank by Israel. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary spoke to Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 6 July and made clear her concern that military action was not extended into the West Bank. Our embassy in Tel Aviv and officials in London continue to engage with Israel on the issue.

We continue to urge both parties to act with restraint and end the current violence, which only makes the prospect of a negotiated, peaceful resolution more distant.

We call for the immediate and unconditional release of Corporal Shalit, and for the Palestinian Authority to prevent all acts of terrorism against Israel. We urge the Israeli military to do everything in its power to avoid civilian casualties, and abide by international law. All military action should abide by the principle of proportionality.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information she has received regarding the possible use by Israel of military aircraft containing head-up display units made in the UK during airstrikes into Gaza since the start of May. [84845]

Dr. Howells: We have no reports that UK supplied equipment has been deployed during the recent air strikes in Gaza. We continue to monitor developments in the region closely.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1158-9W, on Israel, whether any information has come to light that military equipment or components supplied by the UK have been used in a manner inconsistent with the consolidated criteria during the military incursions by Israel into Gaza; what methods are used for such monitoring; what proactive steps the British Embassy in Tel Aviv has taken in relation to monitoring since 27 June; and if she will make a statement. [84846]

Dr. Howells: We have no reports that UK supplied equipment is being deployed by Israel in Gaza in a manner which is inconsistent with the consolidated criteria.

Relevant information from the media, civil society, our diplomatic missions and other relevant sources all form part of our monitoring of the situation in the region. Any information that UK-supplied military equipment may have been used in a manner inconsistent with our consolidated criteria is always taken fully into account when assessing any future export licence applications.

Middle East

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which countries in the *(a)* Middle East and *(b)* Gulf region the UK engages in annual bilateral dialogue on security issues; and if she will make a statement. [84202]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not yet engage in annual bilateral dialogues on security issues with Gulf or Middle East countries. We participate in multilateral meetings including the International Institute of Strategic Studies Gulf Dialogue, attended by Cabinet level delegations in 2004 and 2005.

The Ministry of Defence engages in regular defence staff talks with the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Jordan, Egypt and Israel. The talks cover a number of issues including regional security.

Nepal

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the reports by the *(a)* United States ambassador to Nepal and *(b)* United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that the Maoist rebels are breaking the ceasefire with the Government. [82658]

Dr. Howells: During the current ceasefire the Maoists have continued to carry out acts of extortion, abductions and killings as reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

These acts of violence are a clear breach of the Code of Conduct to which the governing Seven Party Alliance and Maoists agreed to govern the ceasefire, and prepare the way for free and fair elections to a Constituent Assembly.

We believe that a third party, such as the United Nations, is needed to monitor the implementation of the Code of Conduct and to support the work of the Nepalese ceasefire monitoring committee—whose terms of reference have been agreed by both the Maoists and the Government.

Non-EU Foreign Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her estimate is of the number of applications from non-EU foreign students for entry to the United Kingdom to study on a non-degree course in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [83736]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas made assessments in March 2006 of the lowest likely demand, the highest likely demand and a best estimate of the level of demand in 2006-07, based on the provisional data for the previous financial year. We do not make separate forecasts for degree and non-degree students or for EU and non-EU students.

Using a provisional figure of 281,494 student applications in 2005-06, our low forecast estimates no growth in demand and our assessment of the highest likely demand would be an increase of 10 per cent. resulting in a total of 309,643 student visa applications this financial year. Our best prediction would be a 5 per cent. increase or 295,569 applications for student visas. We currently do not have a forecast for student demand for 2007-08.

We remain committed to supporting my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Initiative on International Students to encourage increasing numbers of students from other countries to study in the United Kingdom and will be using marketing to encourage genuine students to apply for visas.

Overseas Territories

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution is being made by each governor to talks on the constitutional development of the UK's overseas territories. [84149]

Mr. Hoon: The governor of each overseas territory, as Her Majesty the Queen's representative in the territory, has been providing advice in those territories where constitutional reviews are or have been taking place with a view to promoting the successful conclusion of these talks.

Somalia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the UK has had with the new Islamist leaders of Somalia; and whether there are plans to send UN peacekeepers to the region. [84238]

Mr. McCartney: We have received copies of letters sent by the Islamic Courts Union to the international community and officials have met representatives of the Islamic Courts Union informally. There are no plans to send UN peacekeepers to the region, but the African Union and Intergovernmental Authority on Development have drawn up plans for a Peace Support Operation in Somalia.

Sudan

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the National Redemption Front in Darfur. [84155]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the National Redemption Front (NRF) since it was formed in Asmara on 30 June 2006. However, Ministers and officials have met leaders of the NRF on various occasions in the past, including at the Darfur peace talks in Abuja.

I am disappointed by the NRF's rejection of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA). The Government believe the DPA is a good deal for the people of Darfur and we fully support it. I call on all sides to abide by the agreement and to implement it urgently.

Trade Sanctions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to which countries the Government have applied trade sanctions since May 1997. [84221]

Dr. Howells: Since May 1997, sanctions with an element of restriction on trade, including the trade in arms, have been applied by the Government in relation to Afghanistan, Angola (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola), Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burma, China, Cote d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia/Serbia, Iran, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, Rwanda (including Burundi, the DRC, Tanzania and Uganda in certain circumstances where arms are destined for Rwanda), Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.

The UK also operates a number of destination specific control regimes which apply to certain exports of defence equipment and/or certain dual-use goods. The full list of current sanctions regimes and countries subject to destination specific control regimes can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: www.fco.gov.uk/sanctions.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries have been discussed as candidates for trade sanctions in international fora since May 1997; and what the Government's position was in each case. [84274]

Dr. Howells: Details of all the countries which have been discussed as candidates for trade sanctions in international fora since May 1997 and the Government's position in each case could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

UK Agencies

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 672W, on UK agencies, to which *(a)* European Community and *(b)* UK agencies she refers; and what the mission statements are of the former. [84206]

Mr. Hoon: As the information requested is lengthy, I will arrange for it to be placed in the Library of the House and will also arrange for a copy to be sent directly to the hon. Member.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has she made of the impact of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. [84471]

Mr. McCartney: Whilst the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the most widely ratified of all the core human rights conventions, implementation remains varied. It is essential that states parties have the necessary legal framework in place to be able to implement the convention effectively.

The UK continues to promote further signature, ratification and implementation of the CRC and its optional protocols, both through bilateral contacts and through multilateral channels such as the EU's dialogues with other countries. We also continue to support the work of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in this regard. This includes OHCHR's work to support and make as effective as possible the treaty monitoring body that examines states' compliance with the CRC.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has made to the United Nations on encouraging more developing countries to sign up to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. [84472]

Mr. McCartney: The UK continues to promote further signature and ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and its optional protocols. We fully support the efforts of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and of her Office, to encourage states to sign, ratify and implement the UNCRC and its optional protocols. The UNCRC is the most widely ratified of all the core human rights conventions. Somalia is the only developing state that has not yet ratified the convention itself.

US-UK Diplomatic Relations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions HM Ambassador to the USA has written to members of the Senate making representations that the Senate ratify the US-UK extradition treaty. [84996]

Mr. McCartney: Our Ambassador in Washington has raised the Extradition Treaty with members of the Senate on several occasions, including in writing.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK diplomats based in Washington DC have specific responsibility for relations with Congress; and if she will make a statement. [84997]

Mr. McCartney: Several officials in our Embassy in Washington deal with Congress on a regular basis.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions her Department has raised with the US ambassador in London *(a)* in writing and *(b)* at a formal meeting the fact that the US Senate has not ratified the US-UK extradition treaty; and if she will make a statement. [84999]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised the Extradition Treaty with the US ambassador last month, and raised the issue during her visit to the US this month, including with Senator Lugar, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions members of the UK Mission to the USA have formally raised with members of the US Senate the fact that the Senate has not ratified the US-UK extradition treaty with whom; and if she will make a statement. [85000]

Mr. McCartney: Staff from our embassy in Washington have raised the matter with members of the Senate and Administration on numerous occasions.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Scheme

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled staff in his Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82235]

Mrs. McGuire: Up to March 2003, any DWP employee requiring equipment and adaptation support would have received the necessary support, and costs would have been attributed to the national Access to Work budget. Jobcentre Plus Access to Work did not collect the numbers of departmental disabled staff accessing adaptations and equipment support.

Currently any DWP employee requiring equipment and adaptation support receives the necessary support but costs are now attributed to individual local budgets. Prior to the introduction of our new Resource Management System we are collecting clerical statistical data on numbers of reasonable adjustments undertaken each quarter. The available information is shown in the following table.

Reasonable adjustments undertaken

Quarter ending	*Number*
August 2005	492
December 2005	545
March 2006	321

Carpets International Pension Scheme

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether members of the Carpets International pension scheme are eligible for assistance through the financial assistance scheme. [83667]

James Purnell: The Carpets International pension scheme is a successfully qualified pension scheme for the financial assistance scheme. All members of this scheme, who were within 15 years of their scheme's

normal retirement age, or above, on 14 May 2004, will be considered for eligibility for assistance through the financial assistance scheme.

The trustees have applied for initial payments and we are currently awaiting member data to enable us to start paying eligible members.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that members of the Carpets International pension scheme receive their full pension entitlements. [84397]

James Purnell: The Carpets International pension scheme has successfully qualified for the Financial Assistance Scheme. The trustees have applied for initial payments and we are currently awaiting member data to enable us to start paying eligible members.

While the Financial Assistance Scheme does not provide eligible members with their full pension entitlement, it can provide significant assistance to members of qualifying pension schemes. On 25 May 2006, as part of the white paper, "Security in Retirement: towards a new pension system", the Government announced that they will extend eligibility for the Financial Assistance Scheme to members of qualifying pension schemes who were within 15 years of their scheme's normal retirement age on 14 May 2004.

Those within seven years of their scheme's normal retirement age on 14 May 2004 will benefit from the Financial Assistance Scheme topping up their pensions to around 80 per cent. of their expected core pension. Those between seven and 15 years from their scheme's normal retirement age who can more reasonably be expected to supplement their retirement income will be considered for a top-up to around 65 per cent. of their expected pension if they are between seven and 11 years from scheme pension age, and 50 per cent. between 12 and 15 years.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days training were provided to staff at the Child Support Agency in each year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [77968]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Hilary Reynolds:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is out of the country, I am replying on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many days training were provided to staff at the Child Support Agency in each year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement.

The Child Support Agency has provided a range of training during the last five years for which figures are available covering technical, management, generic skills and information technology. The specific details are broken down as follows:

Financial year	*Training days*	*Number of people trained*
2001-02	108,515	n/a
2002-03	133,199	13,143
2003-04	78,629	11,366
2004-05	67,687	11,376
2005-06	59,103	4,995

The decrease in training provided in 2005-06 was caused by a number of factors including awaiting the agreement of the Operational Implementation Plan, which has led to a new training programme for managers and other employees of the Child Support Agency. We have also seen a move towards blended learning and the use of e-learning with less emphasis on classroom training.

Following the announcement of the Operational Improvement Plan a full and comprehensive training programme has been developed. This includes a full training programme for Team Leaders, focusing on technical training, management skills and client outcomes. This will enable team leaders to effectively coach and mentor people leading to increased productivity and better client outcomes. In addition, we are currently developing training to support the movement of people to compliance work, as specified in the Operational Improvement Plan, so enabling the Agency to deliver the associate business benefits.

More detailed plans are still being finalised but the training will be for both new entrants and to support existing employees who may take on a different role on implementation of the new organisational design.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what deadline was imposed for meetings between officials on the Child Support Agency redesign team and individuals or organisations from outside his Department. [84350]

Mr. Plaskitt: The consultation period for Sir David Henshaw's redesign ended on 19 May 2006.

Following this deadline, Sir David and his team have tried to meet with individuals and organisations wherever possible.

Departmental Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list in date order the *(a)* Green and *(b)* White papers produced by his Department since October 2005. [81655]

Mrs. [illegible]: 'Green' and 'White' papers are not defined [illegible] 12 papers were published by the Department [illegible] Work and Pensions within the Command Papers series since October 2005. These are detailed in the following table:

Command number	*Title*	*Publication date*
6669	The Social Security (Work Focused Interviews) Amendment Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/2727)	10 October 2005
6666	International Labour Conference	12 October 2005

Command number	Title	Publication date
6673	Opportunity For All-7th Annual Report	17 October 2005
6645	Vinyl Chloride Monomer-Related Diseases	17 November 2005
6715	Autumn Performance Report	15 December 2005
6730	A New Deal For Welfare: Empowering People To Work	24 January 2006
6732	Report By Government Actuary On Drafts Of The Social Security Benefits Uprating Order 2006 And The Social Security (Contributions) (Re-Rating And National Insurance Funds Payments) Order 2006	26 January 2006
6758	Occupational And Personal Pension Schemes: Review Of Certain Contracting-Out Terms	15 March 2006
6829	Departmental Report	11 May 2006
6841	Security In Retirement Towards A New Pension System	25 May 2006
6859	A New Deal For Welfare: Empowering People To Work. Consultation Report	19 June 2006
6861	Third Report Of The Work And Pensions Select Committee Session 2005-06 On Incapacity Benefits And Pathways To Work	19 June 2006

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83615]

Mrs. McGuire: Neither the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions nor any of his Ministers attended any matches at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their ministerial capacity.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a pension scheme needs to be closed before payments can be made under the financial assistance scheme. [83250]

James Purnell: No, we can make discretionary initial financial assistance scheme payments before a qualifying pension scheme's wind up is completed. The pension scheme's trustees need to apply for initial payments in writing. In most cases information on the full scale of an individual's loss is not available until a scheme is close to completing wind up. Until such information is available we are unable to assess a qualifying member's exact level of assistance—their 'annual' payment.

However, and particularly as completing wind up can take a number of years, initial payments enable us to start paying some money at a lower rate, to qualifying members or their survivors who become entitled to assistance before their scheme has completed winding up.

Incapacity Benefit

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many young people claimed incapacity benefit in West Lancashire in each year since 1997. [83544]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is in the following table:

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants, in the Lancashire West parliamentary constituency, by age: each November 1997 to 2005

	Under 20 years of age	20-24 years of age
1997	100	270
1998	100	170
1999	100	200
2000	80	200
2001	80	190
2002	70	190
2003	80	170
2004	80	180
2005	70	180

Notes:
1. The figures for 1997 and 1998 have been produced using the five per cent. data and have been rated up proportionally using the Great Britain WPLS 100 per cent. totals.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. "Claimant" figures include all incapacity benefit (IB) and severe disablement allowance, including IB credits only cases.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate, five per cent. samples from 1997 to 1998 and Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data thereafter.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on his target to reduce the number of people on incapacity benefit by one million by 2016. [84933]

Mrs. McGuire: We have received a number of representations on this subject, including parliamentary questions from hon. Members and responses received during the Green Paper consultation period. The Green Paper sets out our aspiration to see one million fewer people on incapacity benefits, over the course of a decade, through the combined efforts of the Government, employers, local authorities and health professionals.

We have said that we will set out, by the end of the year, the basis by which the aspiration of one million fewer people on incapacity benefits will be measured and the progress we will need to make over the next Spending Review period.

Mesothelioma

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have died from mesothelioma in each health authority in England in each year since 1997. [82654]

Mrs. McGuire: Data on mesothelioma deaths are not readily available by health authority. I have placed in the Library a table with data that represent mesothelioma deaths for local and unitary authorities in England for the years 1997 to 2003, the latest year for which data are currently available.

Mr. Bill McGraf

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether Mr. Bill McGraf, now deceased, a constituent of the right hon. Member for Birkenhead who lived in Well Lane Flats, Birkenhead, was in receipt of carer's allowance. [84752]

Mrs. McGuire: The administration of carer's allowance is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. As details about individual cases are confidential, he will contact you privately about the matter.

Letter from Vivien Hopkins, dated 13 July 2006:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the late Mr McGrath, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is currently unavailable, I am responding on his behalf.

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 964W, on ministerial visits (overnight stays), how he ensures the *(a)* cost effectiveness and *(b)* appropriateness of overnight stays by (i) Ministers, (ii) civil servants and (iii) special advisers. [84454]

Mrs. McGuire: Under the terms of the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, when travelling on official business Ministers are expected to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

The same principles apply to civil servants and special advisers. Civil servants will adhere to the civil service code, and other departmental guides, ensuring value for money.

Parliamentary Ombudsman

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list those occasions when the recommendations of a report from the parliamentary ombudsman were *(a)* rejected and *(b)* partly rejected by his Department since 1997. [76266]

James Purnell: On only one occasion since 1997 has the Department, its Executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies rejected the recommendations of a report from the parliamentary ombudsman. This occurred in the case of her report "Trusting in the pensions promise" published in March this year.

Pathways Areas (Blind/Partially Sighted People)

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many blind and partially sighted people have been assisted into work in Pathways areas in each year since their introduction. [68313]

Mrs. McGuire: Many customers categorised as 'blind or having low vision' would not be expected to participate in the mandatory Pathways process under current exemption rules. However, 11 customers categorised as being 'blind or having low vision' have been helped into work by Pathways to Work.

The data on medical condition for Pathways to Work participants is incomplete. The reason for this is that it is drawn from incapacity benefit data that appears in the National Benefits Database. This impacts on the completeness of Pathways medical condition data in two ways;

1. the National Benefits Database lags behind other Pathways Evaluation Database sources by some three to four months, and;

2. the incapacity Benefit data is based on a six-weekly snapshot, which means that some short-term claims of less than six weeks never appear. For this reason it is important that these figures should only be taken as an indication of Pathways activity for people who are blind or have low vision.

Notes:

1. Figures cannot be broken down annually as totals would be less than 10 leading to a potential breach of data protection guidelines.

2. Data is to October 2005.

Source:

Pathways to Work Evaluation Database.

Pension Credit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents in each electoral ward in Yeovil constituency receive pension credit. [83387]

James Purnell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1600W.

Pension Forecasts

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the annual cost of issuing pension forecasts. [80401]

James Purnell: The cost of administering and issuing pension forecasts during the year to March 2005 has been estimated at £15.3 million. This figure is an approximate assessment only.

The Department is currently refining its unit cost information in order to provide more robust and detailed financial analysis of the processing activities for which it is responsible. We are introducing a new resource management system this year and it will deliver more robust estimates in the future.

Pensioners (Carers Allowance)

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will grant pensioners who act as carers at home an allowance in addition to the state pension; and if he will make a statement. [84434]

James Purnell: Depending on their circumstances, all pensioners may be entitled to extra help from social security benefits on top of their state pension.

We have already changed the rules so that carers aged 65 or over can claim carer's allowance. State pension and carer's allowance are both income maintenance benefits. They are not payable at the same time because this would involve duplicate provision from public funds. However, where state pension is payable at less than the rate of carer's allowance, an amount of carer's allowance can be paid to make up the difference.

Lower income pensioners may receive pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit in addition to their state pension. As long as someone has an underlying entitlement to carer's allowance, whether it is overlapped by state pension in full or in part, they may receive up to £26.35 a week extra from these benefits. More than 181,000 carers who receive pension credit are gaining from this provision.

There are no current plans to introduce any additional allowance in respect of pensioners who are also carers, or to change the policy on overlapping benefits in respect of carer's allowance and state pension.

Roxby Pension Scheme

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that members of the Roxby pension scheme receive their full pension entitlement. [72612]

James Purnell: The Roxby pension scheme has been determined as a qualifying scheme for the financial assistance scheme. The trustees have applied for initial payments and we are currently awaiting member data to enable us to start making initial payments to eligible members.

While the financial assistance scheme does not provide eligible members with their full pension entitlement, it can provide significant assistance to members of qualifying pension schemes. On 25 May 2006 as part of the White Paper, "Security in Retirement: towards a new pension system", the Government announced that it will extend eligibility for the financial assistance scheme to members of qualifying pension schemes who were within 15 years of their scheme's normal retirement age on 14 May 2004.

Those within seven years of their scheme's normal retirement age on 14 May 2004 will benefit from the financial assistance scheme topping up their pensions to around 80 per cent. of their expected core pension. Those between seven and 15 years from their scheme's normal retirement age, who can more reasonably be expected to supplement their retirement income, will be considered for a top-up to around 65 per cent. of their expected pension if they are between seven and 11 years from scheme pension age, and 50 per cent. between 12 and 15 years.

State Pension

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the annual cost to 2012 of restoring the earnings link for the basic state pension. [83072]

James Purnell: Our objective is to re-link the uprating of the basic state pension to earnings from 2012 or by the end of the next Parliament at the latest. A statement on the precise date will be made at the beginning of the next Parliament. The information requested is in the following table.

	Gross cost	*Net cost*
2007-08	1.0	0.6
2008-09	1.9	1.2
2009-10	2.9	1.8
2010-11	4.0	2.4
2011-12	5.1	3.1
2012-13	6.2	3.8

Notes:

1. All figures are: based on earnings uprating from April 2007; in 2006-07 prices; in £ billion; rounded to the nearest £100 million; and for all UK and overseas pensioners; this is consistent with the presentation in the White Paper.
2. The net figures include the savings made from reduced income-related benefit expenditure and assume the guarantee element of pension credit is uprated in line with earnings; it does not include any increase in income tax revenues. The income-related benefit offsets are consistent with those in the White Paper.
3. These figures do not include any of the other policy changes included in the White Paper such as improved coverage of the basic state pension.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his estimate is of the cost of raising to a full pension the pension entitlement of all women with over 30 years' but fewer than 39 years' contributions. [85243]

James Purnell: The information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Welfare

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list his Department's *(a)* advisory bodies and *(b)* committees concerned with animal health and welfare; and if he will make a statement. [67179]

Joan Ryan: The Home Office has one advisory body concerned with animal health and welfare, the Animal Procedures Committee. The role of the Animal Procedures Committee is to advise the Home Secretary on matters concerned with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and his functions under it. In doing so, the Committee is required to have regard to the legitimate requirements of science and industry and to the protection of animals against avoidable suffering and unnecessary use in scientific procedures. The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has lead responsibility for other aspects of animal health and welfare.

Antisocial Behaviour

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions under the Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 there have been for *(a)* noise, *(b)* graffiti and fly-posting and *(c)* waste and litter in (i) each local authority and (ii) each police authority, broken down by basic command unit, in each region of England and Wales in each year since the introduction of the powers. [83765]

Mr. McNulty: Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected offences related to antisocial behaviour are provided in the table A.

Noise is often one of the symptoms of other antisocial behaviour and anecdotal evidence suggests that a variety of other tools, such as warnings, ASBOs, ABCs, parenting contracts and demotion of tenancy are used to tackle perpetrators' antisocial behaviour rather than a noise prosecution. It is not possible to ascertain the number of individual graffiti and fly-posting prosecutions because graffiti is recorded as criminal damage and fly-posting is recorded as an illegal display of advertisements. The penalty notice for disorder scheme was brought into effect in all police forces in England and Wales during 2004. Under the scheme the police are able to issue persons committing specified minor offences with a fixed penalty notice, including the offence of littering, which was added to the scheme on one November 2004.

No admission of guilt is required and payment of the penalty discharges all liability for the offence. Data showing the number of penalty notices for disorder issued in 2004 for the offence of littering broken down by police force area, as well as provisional data for 2005, is provided in table B. Data on prosecutions for 2005 will be available in the autumn .

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected offences related to antisocial behaviour, by police force area, England and Wales, 2003 and 2004[1]

	Contravening conditions of a waste management licence[2]		*Depositing litter*[3]		*Noise exceeds permitted level after service of notice and other summary offences*[4]	
Police force area	*2003*	*2004*	*2003*	*2004*	*2003*	*2004*
Avon and Somerset	2	1	5	4	—	—
Bedfordshire	6	3	2	4	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	5	1	—	—
Cheshire	4	2	2	4	—	—
Cleveland	4	3	8	4	—	—
Cumbria	5	8	32	39	—	—
Derbyshire	3	7	1	5	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	3	2	9	25	—	—
Dorset	1	—	2	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	4	5	—	—
Essex	6	2	9	28		1
Gloucestershire	2	—	1	3	—	—
Greater Manchester	11	15	17	129	—	—
Hampshire	2	3	18	15		2
Hertfordshire	14	15	6	16	—	—
Humberside	4	5	4	3	—	—
Kent	3	4	6	12	—	—
Lancashire	5	4	11	13	—	—
Leicestershire	—	2	18	20	—	—
Lincolnshire	1	1	1	2	—	—
Merseyside	2	1	6	59	—	—
Metropolitan Police	54	122	107	174	—	—
Norfolk	—	1	5	4	—	—
North Yorkshire	4	2	5	9	—	—
Northamptonshire	2	—	2	1	—	—
Northumbria	—	1	69	90	—	—
Nottinghamshire	9	13	7	10	—	—
South Yorkshire	4	5	26	43	—	—
Staffordshire	—	1	5	10	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	5	2	—	—
Surrey	8	4	2	3	—	—
Sussex	1	3	2	2	—	—
Thames Valley	6	6	5	1	—	—
Warwickshire	3	2	2	2	—	—
West Mercia	12	9	10	14	—	—
West Midlands	8	16	21	20	—	—
West Yorkshire	10	40	10	49	—	—

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected offences related to antisocial behaviour, by police force area, England and Wales, 2003 and 2004[1]

Police force area	Contravening conditions of a waste management licence[2]		Depositing litter[3]		Noise exceeds permitted level after service of notice and other summary offences[4]	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
Wiltshire	3	8	4	1	—	—
Dyfed-Powys	6	11	5	2	—	—
Gwent	5	8	26	34	—	—
North Wales	18	18	3	7	—	—
South Wales	49	41	63	39	—	—
England and Wales	281	389	551	908	—	3

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Offence under Environmental Protection Act 1990Sec.33(6)
[3] Offence under Environmental Protection Act 1990 S.87
[4] Offence under Noise Act 1996

Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Child Prostitutes

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people operating child prostitutes have been *(a)* charged, *(b)* convicted and *(c)* deported in each of the last five years. [75979]

Mr. Coaker: The number of defendants proceeded against in magistrates in England and Wales under Sections 25, 26 and 28 of the 1956 Sexual Offences Act and Sections 10,14 ,48 and 49 of the 2003 Sexual Offences Act are as follows: The sudden rise in convictions for 2004, is explained by the increase in cases being prosecuted under the new Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on 1 May, 2004.

	Proceeded against	Found guilty
2000	0	0
2001	2	1
2002	3	0
2003	0	0
2004	55	15

Note:
No figures are available as to the nationality or immigration status of the defendants.

Colombia

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what duties are being carried out by officers of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in Colombia; [84280]

(2) how many *(a)* UK police officers and *(b)* officers from the Serious and Organised Crime Agency are based in Colombia; and what plans he has to change the number of officers in Colombia; [84281]

(3) with which *(a)* law enforcement and *(b)* police agencies officers of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency will work in Colombia. [84282]

Mr. McNulty: I cannot comment on the operational deployment of police officers or SOCA staff.

Correspondence

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to provide a substantive response to the letter from the hon. Member for Sunderland, South of 24 March 2006 regarding Mr. Leonard Monteba Kasongo (CTS 11017/6). [82973]

Mr. Byrne: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State wrote to my hon. Friend on 24 April 2006 and 6 June 2006. It is expected that a substantive response to these representations will be provided by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate within the next few weeks.

Departmental Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of his Department; what commitment he has made to reducing such emissions; and if he will make a statement. [81057]

Mr. Byrne: The most recent estimate of the carbon emissions of the Home Office was the figure reported within the Sustainable Development in Government Report published by the Sustainable Development Commission on 16 December 2005. During the period 2004-05, the Home Office achieved an 11 per cent. reduction in total energy per m^2 since the baseline year. The Department is committed to meet its targets under the framework including those recently announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

Deportations

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any convicted person suspected of being a member of the 'Yardies' has been released from detention without deportation. [67922]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 May 2006]:* It is not our policy to discuss specific details of any individual cases in the public domain.

Detection Rates

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what police detection rates have been of crimes committed by *(a)* adults, *(b)* young offenders and *(c)* juveniles, in each of the last nine years for which figures are available, broken down by offence. [83339]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally since the recorded crime statistics do not contain information about the offender.

Diversity Champion

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1035W, on the diversity champion, if he will break down the £900,000 planned expenditure by main budget heading; and if he will make a statement. [73267]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 May 2006]:* Of the £900,000 planned expenditure, £620,000 covers staff costs and £280,000 covers non-pay running costs. This includes training and development for Home Office staff to meet our statutory obligations under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 and forthcoming equality legislation, the publication costs for our equality schemes and the running costs of the Race and Diversity Action Team.

Driving Offences (Mobile Phones)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions have been mounted against those accused of using a hand-held mobile telephone while driving in each year the law has been in operation, broken down by police authority; and how many of those prosecutions were successful. [83264]

Mr. McNulty: Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform for the years 2003-04 (latest available) is given in the table. 2005 data will be available early in 2007.

Proceedings and findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-04

Number of offences

	2003		2004	
Police force area	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	19	19
Bedfordshire	1	1	5	5
Cambridgeshire	—	—	7	6
Cheshire	—	—	2	1
Cleveland	—	—	4	3
Cumbria	—	—	24	24
Derbyshire	—	—	17	16
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	19	17
Dorset	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	1	1
Essex	—	—	28	25
Gloucestershire	—	—	1	1
Greater Manchester	—	—	73	65
Hampshire	—	—	18	15
Hertfordshire	—	—	6	6
Humberside	—	—	4	4
Kent	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	—	—	17	16
Leicestershire	—	—	12	9
Lincolnshire	—	—	9	5
London, City of	—	—	7	5
Merseyside	—	—	22	20
Metropolitan police	—	—	203	124
Norfolk	—	—	20	15
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	32	29
North Yorkshire	—	—	18	18
Nottinghamshire	—	—	8	7
South Yorkshire	—	—	12	12
Staffordshire	—	—	11	10
Suffolk	—	—	7	4
Surrey	—	—	9	7
Sussex	—	—	1	1
Thames Valley	—	—	24	21
Warwickshire	—	—	7	7
West Mercia	—	—	17	15
West Midlands	—	—	61	52
West Yorkshire	—	—	11	9
Wiltshire	—	—	21	19

Proceedings and findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-04

Number of offences

	2003		2004	
Police force area	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total proceedings*	*Total findings of guilt*
Dyfed Powys	—	—	13	13
Gwent	—	—	—	—
North Wales	—	—	3	3
South Wales	—	—	16	12
England and Wales	1	1	789	641

[1] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3). Introduced 1 December 2003.
Source:
Court Proceedings Database.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions there have been for using a handheld mobile phone while driving since the offence was introduced. [82711]

Mr. McNulty: Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform for the years 2003-04 (latest available) is given in the table. 2005 data will be available early in 2007.

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1] England and Wales, 2003-04

Number of offences

2003	1
2004	789

[1]Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110(1), 110 (2) and 110 (3). Introduced 1 December 2003.
Source:
Court Proceedings Database.

Drunk and Disorderly Fines

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many £80 fines for being drunk and disorderly were collected in each of the last 12 months. [79170]

Mr. McNulty: Provisional data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform shows that in 2005, 36,309 Penalty Notices for Disorder were issued for being drunk and disorderly in England and Wales. In 20,463 of these cases the penalty was paid, with a further 14,161 unpaid tickets registered as fines for collection or enforcement by the courts. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Feltham Young Offender Institution

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish a report of the Prison Service's investigations into the receipt by the Governor of Feltham Young Offender Institution of business class ticket upgrades from British Airways. [84404]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No investigation has been commissioned. The Governor's upgrade to Business Class for an outward flight to Australia was unsolicited and did not require declaration.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish a report of the Prison Service's investigations into the Governor of Feltham Young Offender Institution's conduct towards a fellow officer of governor grade. [84405]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not Prison Service Policy to publish any internal investigation or inquiry report. Such reports are confidential, covered by the data Protection Act 1998.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the security lapses that led to the recent escape attempt from Feltham Young Offender Institution; and if he will make a statement. [84406]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Governor of Feltham commissioned a disciplinary Investigation into the attempted escape. The final report has just been received back, and the Governor is currently considering what action to take, but will be accepting a number of recommendations including holding a disciplinary hearing.

Fixed Penalty Notices

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty notices were issued for *(a)* consumption of alcohol and *(b)* selling alcohol to under-age people in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire and (vi) Norfolk in each year since the penalty force for the disorder scheme came into use. [75389]

Mr. Coaker: The offences of sale to, and consumption of alcohol by, under 18s were added to the penalty notice for disorder scheme on one November 2004. Data from the penalty notices for disorder database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of penalty notices issued for *(a)* consumption of alcohol by, and *(b)* selling alcohol to, under-age people in the requested police force areas in November and December 2004, as well as provisional data for 2005, are provided in the following table.

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued in 2004 and provisional data for 2005 for sale and consumption of alcohol by under 18s in selected police force areas[1]

Police force area	DA07—sale of alcohol to a person under 18		DB09—consumption of alcohol by person under 18 on licensed premises	
	2004 (November to December)	2005 (provisional)	2004 (November to December)	2005 (provisional)
Bedfordshire	—	2	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	11	—	1
Essex	7	117	—	1
Hertfordshire	—	3	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	15	—	—

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

GovNet Expo 2006

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost is to his Department of supporting GovNet Expo 2006. [79222]

Mr. Byrne: The Department is not directly supporting the GovNet Expo 2006. However we have taken up an exhibitors stand at the event to publicise our work on encouraging the involvement of the third sector in delivering services to the public. The cost of the stand is £8,225.

Hunting

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to police forces maintaining public order at hunt meetings was *(a)* before and *(b)* since the Hunting Act 2004 was introduced; and if he will make a statement. [73327]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what training has been provided to police on the enforcement of the Hunting Act 2004. [84109]

Mr. McNulty: The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), has issued specific guidance to forces and provided a training package covering strategic and tactical considerations in relation to the enforcement of the Hunting Act 2004. Furthermore, the initial police learning and development programme (IPLDP) provides all forces in England and Wales with the flexibility to tailor their individual training packages for new police officers to meet the needs of the community that they serve. Legislation that is especially relevant to the policing of a particular community will be incorporated within the delivery of the programme in that area, thus paving the way for student officers to develop a more detailed understanding of local issues at an early stage in their careers.

Industrial Espionage

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* foreign nationals and *(b)* British nationals have been prosecuted for industrial espionage in each year since 1997. [80246]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally, as there is no specific offence that relates to industrial espionage.

Intelligence Databases

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 720W, on intelligence databases, on what dates the procedures listed came into force; and if he will make a statement. [83817]

Mr. McNulty: Since 1995, local police forces have held the responsibility for creating and updating data on PNC. Since that date, those forces have also been responsible, for putting in place arrangements with their local non police prosecuting agencies to receive data on people those agencies are seeking to prosecute. The Criminal Records Bureau commenced providing criminal records disclosures in March 2002. The Police National Database is to be introduced in 2009-10.

Motorcycle Theft

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorbikes have been reported as stolen in each London borough in each of the last five years. [82819]

Mr. McNulty: In the recorded crime statistics, thefts of a motorbike cannot be separately identified from other vehicle thefts. Some statistics for motorbike thefts were published in the Bike Theft Index 2005. A copy of this document is available at:

http://www.secureyourmotor.gov.uk/downloads/biketheftlores.pdf

Home Office Findings 269 entitled 'The extent of motorcycle theft' gives national statistics for 2001-03 and is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/r269.pdf

People Trafficking

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his Answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1840-1W, on people trafficking, what discussions are being held with countries other than G8 and EU member states on combating human trafficking. [81328]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 3 July 2006]:* There have been a number of discussions on human trafficking countries outside of the G8 and EU member states. The Home Office, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department for International Development are involved in capacity building projects, the sharing of good practice and awareness raising campaigns on trafficking in a variety of source and transit countries. The countries involved are Romania, Moldova, Ukraine, the Greater Mekong region (parts of Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam) and West Africa (including Benin, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ghana, Niger and Togo). The UK has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on human trafficking with Nigeria.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what support will be provided under the Government's Action Plan for Tackling Human Trafficking for *(a)* programmes providing protection for trafficked persons who are repatriated and *(b)* to ensure that individual victims are not re-trafficked after deportation. [76674]

Mr. Coaker: A three month public consultation exercise on the proposed UK Action Plan was launched on 5 January 2006. The consultation addressed the issue of repatriating victims of trafficking and ensuring victims are not re-trafficked. The summary of responses was published on 21 June. The responses will be considered in the course of developing the UK Action Plan on human trafficking which we aim to publish at the end of the year.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures are in place to identify, rescue and protect child victims of trafficking in England and Wales. [78812]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 June 2006]:* We have introduced a number of measures to identify, rescue and protect the victims of child trafficking in England and Wales. Guidance issued to Immigration Officers provides advice on how to identify any child entering the UK who may be at risk, whether they are travelling alone or with adults, and what action to take.

The Government are currently working towards developing the "Paladin" model whereby joint working between Immigration, Police and local authority social services ensures best practice is applied in identifying children at risk. Furthermore, a change to Immigration Rules on 12 February 2006, enables Immigration Officers to carry out more robust checks on the identity of children passing through ports of entry. For example, the names of all non EU accompanied children will be recorded and, for visa nationals, the visas will carry details such as the child's photograph, whether the child should be accompanied or unaccompanied and, if accompanied, the person with whom they should be travelling.

The visa application form will also cover details of the parent/guardian, accompanying adults and sponsors of the child. Specially trained teams of Immigration Officers have also been established at 22 ports to deal with cases of unaccompanied children, and arrangements for round-the-clock referral to police and local authority children's services where this is necessary.

These arrangements will support the development of even closer working arrangements between Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND), the police and local authority children services departments. Additionally, the Immigration Service is becoming more involved in the work of the newly established Local Safeguarding Children's Boards in local areas covering major ports of entry.

The Home Office National Asylum Support Service (NASS) currently reimburses local authorities who receive unaccompanied asylum seeking children into their care with a total of £140 million per annum. Partnership plans to provide safer arrangements for children who have been trafficked are being incorporated into a Home Office/DFES joint review of how local authorities accommodate children from abroad. The review will aim to deliver improvements by ensuring unaccompanied asylum seeking children are placed in local authority areas where specialist services exist to deal with their specific needs.

The review is also designed to increase specialisation, end inconsistencies in treatment and enable the retention and development of expertise.

We have also commissioned the Child Exploitation Online Protection Centre (CEOP) to carry out an analysis of intelligence data to identify potential numbers of children who may have been trafficked. The results of this exercise will lead to further in depth analysis in order to refine the Government's response to tackling human trafficking.

Police

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his written answer of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1845W, on police, what form the policy review of the police injury award system will take; and what the timescale of the review will be. [84077]

Mr. McNulty: The review will be led by Home Office officials reporting to the Police Minister. The review will include a public consultation exercise, to which the police staff associations, police forces and authorities will be able to comment. I will consult the Police Negotiating Board on any recommendations arising from the review which require changes to regulations. Officials are in discussion with the staff associations about the timing of the review.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to increase the number of community-based police with full enforcement powers in Wales. [83731]

Mr. McNulty: At the end of September 2005 Wales had 7,575 police officers (983 more than in March 1997). The deployment of police officers to community based policing and to other specialist police units is an

operational matter for each Chief Constable in Wales. All police officers have the powers of the office of Constable. We aim to introduce Neighbourhood Policing in every community in England and Wales by April 2007. Communities will see increased patrolling, have better local information, and see a greater focus on confidence and reassurance.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what arrangements are in place for removing the records of retiring police officers from the National DNA Database. [82551]

Mr. McNulty: Since 1 August 2002, police regulations require all new police recruits to provide a DNA sample for the Police Elimination Database (PED). This is in order to identify and eliminate any DNA profiles found at a crime scene which may have been inadvertently deposited there by an investigating police officer. Police officers who were in service prior to that date were asked to provide a sample on a voluntary basis. Police forces are responsible for notifying the custodian of the PED when officers retire or leave the police service in order that his/her DNA profile may be removed from the database. Police personnel who provided a sample for the PED on a voluntary basis can request removal of their profiles from the PED at any time without giving any reason.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer question 70884, tabled by the hon. Member for Islwyn on 10 May 2006, on funding to support the merger of police forces in Wales. [84798]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to my hon. Friend on 7 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1672W.

Prisoners (Licensed Releases)

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) in respect of how many offenders out of prison on licence the probation service has no information on their location; [74593]

(2) for how many offenders out of prison on licence the probation service has no information on their location, broken down by category of offence; [79099]

(3) for how many of the prisoners free on licence following sentences for sex offences his Department does not have addresses. [79480]

John Reid: Information is not collected or collated centrally on the detailed basis requested. Detailed information relating individual offenders under supervision is held locally by their supervising probation officer. All offenders released on licence, including sex offenders are subject to six standard licence conditions: three of which require them to 'keep in touch with your supervising officer', 'permanently to reside at an address approved by your supervising officer' and 'notify him or her in advance of any proposed change of address or proposed stay (even for one night) away from that approved address'. In the event that any such licence conditions are breached, the offender is liable to be recalled to prison upon the recommendation of the probation officer in order to protect the public. Once the licence is revoked and the offender recalled, the police are notified, in order to ensure a swift return to custody. In addition, any offender subject to sex offender registration requirements is required to notify to the police a home address within three days of leaving prison, and to notify any subsequent change of address within three days of the change thereafter while still subject to registration. Failure to supply that information, or supplying false information, is an offence punishable by up to five years imprisonment. Registration requirements were strengthened recently by the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

Prisons

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to promote family contact in women's prisons; and what recent assessment he has made of their effectiveness. [84408]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Strategy for Family and Parental Support in Women's Prisons published in October 2005 provides comprehensive guidance to establishments and partner agencies on the elements of family support that should be provided in women's prisons, resources permitting. Local arrangements will take account of the strategy and will be subject to review by governors/directors and inspection by Her Majesty's inspectorate of prisons. No assessment has yet been undertaken centrally.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prisoners *(a)* were admitted to and *(b)* have been released from HMP Wellingborough in each of the last five years; [68918]

(2) how many prisoners who are foreign nationals *(a)* were admitted to and *(b)* have been released from HMP Wellingborough in each of the last five years; [68919]

(3) how many prisoners were released from HMP Wellingborough in each of the last 12 months; [68924]

(4) when the next foreign national is scheduled to be released from HMP Wellingborough; [68923]

(5) when the last foreign national prisoner was released from HMP Wellingborough. [68921]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answers 8 May 2006]:* Information is held centrally on the number of initial receptions into the prison estate, on remand or following a custodial sentence. We do not hold information centrally on subsequent movements around the prison estate. In its capacity as a training prison, Wellingborough would not normally receive initial receptions from the courts (on remand or under sentence). We therefore do not have the requested information for Wellingborough. Comprehensive information on discharges is not available and information on release dates of individual prisoners is not issued publicly.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1212W, on Leyhill open prison, how many of those prisoners originally convicted of murder who escaped and were subsequently captured have been *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of escape from lawful custody; and what sentence was delivered in each case. [84104]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 11 July 2006]:* The information requested is not held centrally and may be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Probation Boards

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish the risk assessment undertaken on the proposed reorganisation of probation boards and their services. [67301]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not our practice to publish internal management documents of this kind. The prospect of disclosure could inhibit the unrestrained and unprejudiced assessment of the risks attached to the programme concerned and thus jeopardise successful delivery.

Public Order

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* exclusion orders, *(b)* curfews and *(c)* parenting orders have been issued by Yeovil police in the last 12 months. [82150]

Mr. McNulty: Figures reported to the Home Office on exclusion and curfew orders in the South Somerset petty sessional area (which includes Yeovil) are small and their accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Although care is taken in collating and analysing the returns used to compile such figures, the data are of necessity subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

We have started a programme of work in the Home Office looking at the quality of existing data on court sentencing and how this might be improved. Parenting Orders are issued by courts. The Youth Justice Board collects the number of Parenting Orders related to youth offending or antisocial behaviour broken down by youth offending team area. It is currently reviewing these figures for the period 2004-05 and 2005-06. I will write to the hon. Member when the reviewed figures are available.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* prosecuted for crimes committed during the protests in London last February against cartoons which were published in Denmark. [83124]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested on arrests is not available centrally.

Road Safety

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many motorists have received penalties for exceeding the speed limit in areas covered by average speed cameras in the past 12 months. [82311]

Mr. McNulty: Information on penalties for speeding offences detected by cameras do not distinguish between the different types of cameras used.

Road Traffic Offences (Victims)

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime will apply to *(a)* those injured and *(b)* families of those who die as a result of a road crash caused by someone committing a road traffic offence. [83715]

Mr. McNulty: The Code of Practice for Victims of Crime covers all victims of crimes recorded under National Crime Recording Standards. In the case of road traffic offences this includes causing death by dangerous driving, causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink or drugs, and dangerous driving. In addition to this, where a person has died as a result of a road collision and the police are investigating whether an offence under Section three of the Road Traffic Act 1988 (careless and inconsiderate driving) has been committed, the family will be entitled to services under the Code.

Telephone Advice Lines

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many telephone advice lines his Department and its non-departmental public bodies support; how many telephone advisers each employs; and how much funding is provided to each by *(a)* his Department and its non-departmental public bodies, *(b)* other Government departments, *(c)* the private sector and *(d)* the voluntary sector. [66587]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Violent Crime (Humberside)

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many violent crime offences were recorded in the Humberside police authority area in each year between 1992 and 1997; and if he will make a statement. [84574]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is given in the table.

Violent crimes recorded by the police in Humberside

	Number of offences
1992	6142
1993	6279
1994	6296
1995	7265
1996	7586
1997	7758

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2088W, on abortion, if she will place in the Library comments made by her Department on the draft of the evidence-based guideline prior to its publication; and if she will make a statement. [81177]

Caroline Flint: The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) evidence-based guideline, 'The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion (2004)', states that a summary table of comments received and actions taken is available on request from the RCOG.

Accident and Emergency

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated in the accident and emergency department at *(a)* the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton and *(b)* Worthing Hospital in each of the last three years. [83416]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The information requested is not available centrally on an individual hospital basis. The table shows the number of first attendances, follow-up attendances and total attendances at accident and emergency departments and minor injuries units for national health service organisations for Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust and Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust for the periods shown.

	Brighton and Sussex University Hospital NHS Trust	Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust
2005-06		
First attendances	116,687	59,330
Follow up attendances	7,699	2,696
Total attendances	124,386	62,026
2004-05		
First attendances	113,102	58,387
Follow up attendances	7,361	2,946
Total attendances	120,463	61,333
2003-04		
First attendances	105,316	54,648
Follow up attendances	7,379	2,194
Total attendances	112,695	56,842

Source:
Hospital activity statistics, Department of Health

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were taken via ambulance to the accident and emergency department at *(a)* the Royal Sussex county hospital in Brighton and *(b)* Worthing hospital in each of the last three years. [83417]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Adult Hearing Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she plans to publish a national action plan for adult hearing services; who is responsible for drawing up the action plan; what representations she has received from interested parties on an action plan; and whether interested parties will be asked for their views for the purposes of informing the action plan. [84015]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Work is under way at official level and a plan will be published in due course following ministerial approval. Representations have been received from various stakeholders including parliamentarians and there has been a great deal of correspondence on the topic. The Department is keen that the plan should have the support of stakeholders and therefore will be endeavouring to involve them in its development.

Alimta

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the Government's policy is on the use of the drug Alimta; [82652]

(2) which health authorities in England prescribe the drug Alimta. [82653]

Andy Burnham: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is currently conducting an appraisal of Alimta for the treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma. Alimta is licensed for this indication and there are currently no national restrictions on the prescribing of this drug.

In 2005, Alimta was prescribed in secondary care in 22 out of 28 strategic health authorities (SHAs). Details of the SHAs in which the drug has been prescribed cannot be provided due to contractual restrictions on how data on drugs issued in hospitals can be used. The information available to the Department may not capture prescribing as part of a clinical trial. Alimta has never been prescribed in primary care in England.

Alzheimer's Disease

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timescale is for the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence investigation into anti-cholinesterate drugs used to treat Alzheimer's disease. [83272]

Andy Burnham: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has received appeals against its final appraisal determination on these drugs. These appeals will be heard on 13 and 14 July. Subsequent timescales depend on the outcome of the appeals. Details of the appeals process are available in NICE's "Guide to the Technology Appraisal Process" which is available on its website at www.nice.org.uk. Until NICE issues its final guidance following appeals, the existing 2001 guidance continues to apply.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has had discussions with other European health Ministers about treatment for people with Alzheimer's disease. [83722]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department have not had any discussions with other European health Ministers about treatment for people with Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the proposed withdrawal of Ebixa on the treatment of people in the later stages of Alzheimer's disease, with particular reference to the effect on behavioural symptoms. [84000]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No such assessment has been made. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has not yet issued its final guidance to the national health service on the use of Aricept, Exelon, Reminyl and Ebixa in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recommendations on the prescription of drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease on *(a)* people with dementia, *(b)* carers of people with dementia and *(c)* families of people with dementia. [84001]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not yet issued final guidance to the national health service on the use of drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Until it does so NICE's original guidance issued in 2001 continues to apply.

Mr. Binley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact on families' ability to look after mentally ill relatives of the recent National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's decision on drugs for the treatment of dementia. [84381]

Andy Burnham: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has not issued final guidance regarding its review of anti-cholinesterase inhibitors for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease. NICE has received appeals against its final appraisal determination on these drugs, which will be heard on 13 and 14 July 2006. Until NICE issues its final guidance following appeals, the existing 2001 guidance continues to apply.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her strategy is for ensuring access to drug treatments for people in the *(a)* early and *(b)* later stages of Alzheimer's disease. [84436]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for clinicians to decide in any particular case, the appropriate drug treatment, if any, for patients in the early or later stages of Alzheimer's disease, in the light of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance.

Audiology

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what was *(a)* the average waiting time for a hearing aid and *(b)* the audiology budget for each primary care trust covering Portsmouth in each of the last three years; and what each is (i) for 2006-07 and (ii) for the next two years; and if she will make a statement. [81153]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts to ensure their local population benefits from modernised hearing aid services.

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her response of 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1789W to my hon. Friend to the hon. Member for Chorley (Mr. Hoyle), on audiology, within what average period new patients in *(a)* the Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley primary care trust (PCT) area and *(b)* each other PCT area in the new south east coast strategic health authority area have been fitted with digital hearing aids since they became available in each PCT. [84427]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times from GP referral to fitting of digital hearing aids are for *(a)* new patients and *(b)* existing patients with an analogue hearing aid in the North Somerset primary care trust area. [84682]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to collect waiting time data for hearing aid services. [84140]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect waiting time data for audiology services. However, since January 2006 we have been collecting waiting time and activity data for 15 diagnostic tests or procedures, including pure tone audiometry. This data has been shared with the national health service, for performance management purposes since 2 June 2006. This data will be published on 12 July 2006.

Autism

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assistance the Department provides to parents whose children are diagnosed with autism. [82815]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In April 2001, the Department awarded a three-year grant to the National Autistic Society for their parenting skills project "help!". This developed a training programme for parents of children of any age who have recently received a diagnosis of an autistic spectrum disorder. It provides essential, timely information and practical strategies to help parents understand and manage their child's condition and give them the knowledge and confidence to plan for their future.

Parents who are carers of children with autism are entitled to an assessment of their needs by local councils. Under the carers grant, worth £185 million in 2006-07, councils can provide carers with direct services, breaks and direct payments for carers' services, according to their assessed level of need.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will commission research into early diagnosis of autism through analysis of the placenta. [83246]

Andy Burnham: No. The Department funds research to support policy and to provide the evidence needed to underpin quality improvement and service development in the national health service. The main agency through which the Government supports medical and clinical research is the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department of Trade and Industry via the Office of Science and Innovation.

The MRC always welcomes high quality applications for support into any aspect of human health and these are judged in open competition with other demands on funding.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Department spent conducting research into autism in each of the last five years. [83818]

Andy Burnham: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1092.

Breast Cancer

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether central funding is available for new hormonal treatments for early breast cancer as set out in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Appraisal Consultation Document. [82528]

Andy Burnham: There is no specific central funding available for these treatments.

Provision is made within national health service allocations for the estimated impact on the NHS of published guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Carers

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the time taken by local authorities in assessing the needs of those caring for disabled relatives; and what support her Department gives to local authorities to make such assessments. [84645]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 gives carers the right to a carer's assessment. It is for councils to ensure that assessments are carried out in a timely manner to ensure that carers do not wait unnecessarily for a needs assessment or services.

Choose and Book Service

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the *(a)* robustness, *(b)* ease of use and *(c)* reliability of the choose and book system. [75308]

Andy Burnham: To ensure robustness, the performance of the choose and book system was tested before implementation and is re-tested as changes are made. The test results have all been within agreed service levels.

The service was designed to be as user friendly as possible. Ease of use is regularly assessed in partnership with regional user groups as well as national groups such as the national clinical reference panel and the design steering group. Potential improvements are identified by these groups with changes delivered in subsequent releases of the software. Local benchmarking suggests that choose and book has excellent usability when the local configuration is correct.

Over the last 12 months, choose and book has been available to general practitioners more than 99 per cent. of the time and agreed service levels are being met.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the effects of the implementation of choose and book; [77060]

(2) what assessment she has made of the impact of choose and book on general practitioners surgeries; and if she will make a statement. [77061]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As at 3 July 2006, 568,611 patients had been referred through choose and book, with the referral information available electronically to commissioners and providers. The Department receives regular feedback on the effects of the system through a range of channels, which suggests that patients who

receive the service welcome it. As with the implementation of any such system, change is required of those who administer it but we do not expect the choose and book service to increase the overall workload for general practitioner practices.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date the choose and book system was expected to have achieved 100 per cent. roll-out when it was first announced; what targets have been issued since then; whether those targets have been met; and what percentage roll-out had been achieved on the last date for which figures are available. [75131]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The aim of the national health service improvement plan in 2004 was for 100 per cent., e-booking by the end of December 2005. This became unachievable due to subsequent developments in the technical requirements of the service and the greater implementation challenge that these represented. We now expect to reach a choose and book utilisation level of 90 per cent., of general practitioner referrals by the end of March 2007. As at 2 July 2006, utilisation stood at 20.4 per cent.

All eligible acute providers in England are now live and are accepting bookings through choose and book. Bookings are made through either an integrated patient admission system or indirectly bookable services functionality.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which general practitioner practices *(a)* have started then ceased to use the choose and book computer system to make appointments and *(b)* have decreased their use of the choose and book system in each week measured over the last six months; and if she will make a statement. [76382]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As at 25 June, 2,201 general practitioner (GP) practices had started to use the choose and book service in 2006. We have defined started to use as the GP practice making a minimum of twenty bookings. Of these practices, eight had not used the choose and book service to make a booking in the last thirty days. The central support team are working in areas of low utilisation to help improve the take up of choose and book.

Clostridium Difficile

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many (a) males and (b) females in (i) Southend-on-Sea, (ii) Essex and (iii) England and Wales were infected with clostridium difficile infections in each of the last three years, broken down by age. [81279]

Andy Burnham: Data for Southend on Sea and Essex are not available. However, data from the voluntary reporting scheme run by the Health Protection Agency for Eastern England and England and Wales are shown in the following table.

		2003	*2004*	*2005*[1]	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*[1]	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*[1]
<1 year										
	Female	26	23	14	5	16	11	99	79	77
	Male	12	16	14	16	7	8	74	67	66
	Unknown	—	2	15	—	—	6	1	3	71
1-4 years										
	Female	10	18	11	3	11	3	61	74	57
	Male	30	19	1	3	4	—	104	76	3
	Unknown	1	1	10	—	—	2	2	3	38
5-9 years										
	Female	9	6	2	—	1	1	26	23	21
	Male	10	7	6	2	1	3	34	26	34
10-14 years										
	Female	8	3	9	1	—	4	35	27	43
	Male	2	7	1	2	1	—	29	28	1
15-44 years										
	Female	119	143	115	41	60	50	832	968	1,099
	Male	108	114	92	24	36	21	692	806	871
	Unknown	—	2	2	—	1	1	7	8	11
45-64 years										
	Female	278	311	333	101	111	127	1,896	2,168	2,420
	Male	270	272	321	92	136	101	1,837	2,120	2,417
	Unknown	1	2	6	—	—	—	13	14	21
65-74 years										
	Female	435	579	568	159	196	159	2,869	3,763	4,087
	Male	413	539	590	142	189	175	2,777	3,613	4,203
	Unknown	1	8	12	—	—	—	25	32	44

		2003	2004	2005[1]	2003	2004	2005[1]	2003	2004	2005[1]
75+ years										
	Female	2,167	2,655	2,891	635	805	770	13,290	16,493	19,069
	Male	1,253	1,589	1,823	352	528	485	7,744	9,634	11,269
	Unknown	9	21	44	3	1	2	79	107	145
Unknown										
	Female	37	19	14	3	6	5	345	159	116
	Male	27	15	8	3	—	—	262	78	69
	Unknown	6	3	5	—	4	5	68	30	249
Grand total		58,231	6,377	6,907	1,587	2,114	1,939	33,201	40,399	46,501

[1]The data for 2005 are provisional and all data are subject to change due to late reporting.

Notes:

1. The data on cases reported in babies (less than one year) should be treated with caution. They may not represent infections because asymptomatic carriage is common in babies.
2. The data were extracted on Tuesday 27 June 2006.

Community Hospitals

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her statement on community hospitals on 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 816-32, with particular reference to the presumption against taking decisions in response to short-term budgetary pressures, if she will ask the West Midlands strategic health authority to ensure that proposals from the South Worcester primary care trust to close palliative care beds at Evesham community hospitals are withdrawn. [83914]

Caroline Flint: The configuration of local health care services in a particular area requires local decision-making. Primary care trusts are best placed to make those decisions in consultation with local people and their strategic health authorities (SHAs).

SHAs should assure themselves that proposals for changes to community hospitals are consistent with the long-term strategy of the White Paper, "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services".

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which community hospitals have had *(a)* some and *(b)* all of their beds closed on the instructions of their primary care trusts. [85175]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not centrally collected.

Complaints Services (West Lancashire)

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements her Department has made to ensure that *(a)* patients in West Lancashire will have access to an independent complaints and advocacy service when the current contract with the Citizens Advice Bureau finishes and *(b)* that there will be a smooth transfer from the current provider to the new service. [83449]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In late 2005 and early 2006, the Department awarded contracts to three organisations who have been delivering a new and improved independent complaints advocacy service (ICAS) from 1 April 2006.

Contracts have been awarded for each Government region. The new service provider in West Lancashire is The Carers Federation Ltd. who have been delivering ICAS under contract to the Department since 1 September 2003, bringing a wealth of experience and expertise in general and specialist advocacy service delivery.

All providers, including Citizens Advice, have worked together in order to ensure a smooth transition for clients; their aim was to provide as seamless a transition process as possible.

Detailed transition plans had been drawn up, the implementation of which is being monitored by the Department. In addition, the ICAS transition co-ordinator is continuing to work with all service providers during the first six months of the contract, to support the initial set up and transition phases.

Continuing Care

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether individuals previously in receipt of NHS continuing care will continue to receive their care fully funded if the new National Framework for Continuing Care deems them to be ineligible for it. [84013]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national framework will not change the existing legal basis for the provision of national health service continuing healthcare. The purpose of the national framework is to ensure fairness and consistency by implementing a single set of principles on eligibility and assessment for NHS funding across England. Fully funded NHS continuing healthcare will continue to be provided for all those individuals whose primary need is a health need, and unless individuals' needs have changed there is no reason to expect them to lose their entitlement to NHS continuing healthcare.

Correspondence

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to the letters of 23 May and 15 June on the configuration and composition of

primary care trusts in Cheshire from the hon. Member for Macclesfield. [83523]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A reply was sent on 6 July.

Cosmetic Procedures

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what cosmetic procedures are available free of charge on the NHS; and if she will make a statement. [83450]

Andy Burnham: Surgery and other procedures for purely cosmetic purposes are not available on the national health service, but certain cosmetic procedures may be available to secure physical or psychological health, for example to correct defects arising from diseases and conditions such as trauma or cancer, to correct congenital defects or to restore function, including the necessary correction of any previous cosmetic operations. In these cases, care is offered based on individual clinical need determined by clinicians and in line with locally agreed priorities for care.

Dentistry

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to ensure that dental appliances originating from foreign suppliers are subject to the same standards as those manufactured in the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [82552]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones) on 20 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1799W.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to monitor the quantity and quality of single-tooth dentures imported from countries outside the European Union. [84382]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 July 2006]:* The Medical Devices Regulations 2002, for which the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) acts as the regulatory authority on behalf of the Secretary of State, does not regulate the quantity of dentures imported from countries outside the European Union. They do, though, contain requirements for the safety and fitness for purpose of custom-made dental appliances which all manufacturers, wherever they are based, should ensure are met before placing their dentures on the United Kingdom market. Where the manufacturer is based outside the European Community they are also required under the regulations to appoint an authorised representative to register on their behalf with the member state competent authority where they have their registered place of business. MHRA conducts an annual programme of inspections of custom made appliance manufacturers and authorised representatives based in the UK, selected at random.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the effect of the replacement of crowns by single-tooth dentures on long-term dental health; [84383]

(2) what change there has been in the number of *(a)* single-tooth dentures and *(b)* single-tooth crowns provided since the introduction of the new dental contract. [84385]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 July 2006]:* It is for individual dentists working under general dental services contracts or personal dental services agreements to use their clinical judgment to determine the type and quality of any dental appliance required. The Department does not collect routine information on the quantity or type of dental appliances supplied but will be assessing, in conjunction with the implementation review group, the impact of the new contractual arrangements on this and other aspects of the services provided to national health service patients.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what change there was in the number of *(a)* single tooth dentures and *(b)* single-tooth crowns provided during the dental contract pilot schemes between 2004 and 2006. [84384]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 July 2006]:* The table shows the number of single tooth dentures, including incomplete dentures, single tooth crowns, and temporary and incomplete crowns, in personal dental services (PDS) pilots between 2004 and 2005.

Specific PDS treatments in England as at 31 March for each year

Year ending	*Single tooth dentures*	*Single tooth crown claims*
March 2004	1,244	6,488
March 2005	5,403	36,396
March 2006	19,379	127,767

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority

The number of PDS dentists increased considerably over the same period

Year ending	*PDS dentists*
March 2004	917
March 2005	3,665
March 2006	6,219

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority

Departmental Finance Directors

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* name, *(b)* professional and academic qualifications and *(c)* relevant experience are of the finance director of her Department. [80086]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Richard Douglas is the Department director general of finance and investment.

He was appointed in May 2001. This is his third spell with the Department following a secondment from the NAO between 1990 and 1992 and three years as deputy director of finance from 1996. Immediately prior to his return to the Department he was finance director for national savings.

He is a graduate of Hull university and he started his career in public sector finance with the National Audit Office where he qualified as an accountant (CIPFA) in 1983.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list in date order *(a)* Green and *(b)* White Papers produced by her Department since October 2005. [81305]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Since October 2005, the Department has published the White Paper, "Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services" in January 2006.

No Green Papers have been published by the Department during this period.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what draft Bills have been produced by her Department since October 2005; how many were *(a)* examined and *(b)* are planned to be examined by (i) a Departmental Select Committee and (ii) a Joint Committee; what draft Bills are still to be produced by her Department; when each is expected to be published; how many clauses each has; and if she will make a statement. [81306]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No draft Bills have been produced by the Department since October 2005. Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be indicated in the Queen's Speech.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what surveys her Department has carried out on patient attitudes to choice in the NHS since 1997; and if she will publish the results. [80682]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Surveys commissioned by the Department since 1997 on patient attitudes to choice in the national health service are shown in the following table. Other surveys on patient choice exist but were commissioned by other organisations.

Title of document	*Date*	*Survey carried out by*	*Results available from*
Choices in Mental Health Care, Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health Briefing Paper No. 31	January 2006	Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health and the King's Fund	To be published summer 2006.
Our Choices in Mental Health	June 2005	Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP)	To be published summer 2006.
Understanding Patients' Choices at the Point of Referral	December 2005	Rand Europe with City University and the King's Fund	www.rand.org/pubs/technical reports/TR359/ Working paper available from: www.kingsfund.org.uk/health topics/patient choice 2.html
What will people choose when choice goes live?	October 2005	MORI	www.mori.com
NHS Maternity Services Quantitative Research	October 2005	TNS System Three	www.dh.gov.uk
GP Choice	2005	MORI	This survey was commissioned as part of the development of the public consultation 'Your Health Your Care, Your Say' and was not intended for publication
Patients' Experience of Choosing Where to Undergo Surgical Treatment	July 2005	London Patient Choice Project, evaluated by Picker Institute Europe	www.pickereurope.org www.dh.gov.uk
Evaluation of the London Patient Choice Project (LPCP)	January 2005	Rand Europe, King's Fund and City University	www.dh.gov.uk
Implications of offering 'Patient Choice' for routine adult surgical referrals	March 2004	Dr. Foster and the University of Nottingham	www.dh.gov.uk
LPCP: Patient's Experience of Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) Choice	2003	London Patient Choice Project, evaluated by Picker Institute Europe	www.pickereurope.org
Building on the Best: Choice, Responsiveness and Equity	November 2003	MORI	www.dh.gov.uk

Deposited Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the Deposited Papers placed in the Library by her Department since 2000; and when each was published. [81309]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not keep a central record.

Diabetes

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the most recent rate of registered diabetes was in *(a)* Stoke-on-Trent, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* England. [80598]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The figures are not available in the format requested. The most recent data available on people registered as having diabetes are from the quarter four local delivery plan returns (LDPR) for 2005-06. The total numbers of patients with diabetes on practice-based registers for Stoke-on-Trent, the West Midlands and England, are shown in the following table.

Organisation/ primary care trust (PCT)	*Number of people with diabetes as recorded on practice-based registers*	*General practitioner (GP) registered population*	*Rate per 100,000 population*
Stoke on Trent			
Newcastle Under Lyme PCT	4,193	101,119	4,147
North Stoke PCT	5,659	123,684	4,575
South Stoke PCT	5,881	132,460	4,440
West Midlands			
Shropshire and Staffordshire	58,443	1,473,728	3,699
Birmingham and The Black Country	103,680	2,301,208	4,505
West Midlands South	56,146	1,552,427	3,617
England	1,884,712	49,878,931	3,779

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions her Department has had with Diabetes UK about the impact on patients of proposed price reductions set out in the consultation "arrangements for the provision of dressings and chemical reagents to primary care"; [82338]

(2) what discussions her Department has had with the in vitro diagnostics industry on the impact of proposed price changes to chemical reagents on their ability to continue to provide patient services and hardware free of charge; [82336]

(3) when her Department will publish in full the responses received to the Government consultation on the arrangements for the provision of dressings, incontinence appliances, stoma appliances, chemical reagents and other appliances to primary and secondary care; [82335]

(4) pursuant to the Government consultation arrangements for the provision of dressings and chemical reagents to primary care, what criteria were used to determine the figure of 15 per cent. for the proposed price reduction for chemical reagents; and if she will make a statement; [82333]

(5) what discussions have taken place between the diabetes policy team and the commercial directorate in her Department on her Department's consultations on *(a)* arrangements for the provision of dressings, incontinence appliances, stoma appliances, chemical reagents and other appliances to primary and secondary care, and *(b)* arrangements for the provision of dressings and chemical reagents to primary care; and if she will make a statement; [82332]

(6) what factors were taken into account when setting the length of the consultation period for her Department's consultation on arrangements for the provision of dressings and chemical reagents to primary care; and if she will make a statement; [82331]

(7) what steps she is taking to ensure that the availability of blood-glucose testing products and support services to diabetes patients will not be affected by proposed changes in the Government consultation arrangements for the provision of dressings and chemical reagents to primary care. [82339]

Andy Burnham: The Department has been reviewing the arrangements for the provision of chemical reagents (blood glucose testing strips), dressings, incontinence appliances and stoma appliances to primary and secondary care since October 2005.

In the intervening period, two consultations papers have been published that sought views from interested parties on proposed changes to the arrangements. Interested parties includes patients, the national health service and manufacturers and suppliers. These parties were informed that the Department was seeking their comments on the proposed changes. Responses were received to both consultations from Diabetes UK and from the in-vitro diagnostic industry, both individually and through their trade body, BIVDA.

The first consultation—"arrangements for the provision of chemical reagents, dressings, incontinence appliances and stoma appliances to primary and secondary care"—was open for 90 days and the second—"arrangements for the provision of dressings and chemical reagents to primary care"—for 30 days.

The shorter period for the second consultation was judged to be warranted as it was part of an ongoing process that had begun with the first consultation in October 2005.

The second consultation stated that the Department believes that current reimbursement prices for some dressings and reagents may not represent value-for-money for either the NHS or taxpayers. Therefore, it proposed that a reduction in the reimbursement price through Part IX of the drug tariff should be made on some dressings and some reagents and sought views on this.

The proposed reduction in the reimbursement price on some reagents was 15 per cent. In arriving at this, the Department believes that one of the clearest indications of value-for-money is the difference between reimbursement prices in primary care, and the prices at which these products are available in secondary care. The Department believes that a comparison between the sectors is appropriate, subject to a number of adjustments to reflect factors unique to each sector.

These factors include differences in the underlying costs associated with supply of products to primary and secondary care. Packaging specifications, pack sizes, logistics costs and margins across the supply chain, amongst other things, have an affect on price, and were taken into account in the analysis.

The Department also took into account the claims that were made about the provision of 'free' testing meters in primary care when comparing pricing between the two sectors.

Overall, there is a difference of up to 35 per cent. between reimbursement prices in primary care and prices paid in secondary care. The size of difference cannot be reasonably explained by the factors outlined above.

The Department's diabetes policy team—which includes Dr Sue Roberts, national clinical director for diabetes—has been kept informed throughout the process.

Until such time as the review has been completed, the Department is not in a position to comment on plans to ensure the availability of blood glucose testing strips.

Regarding the publication of responses in full to the consultations on the "arrangements for the provision of chemical reagents, dressings, incontinence appliances and stoma appliances to primary and secondary care", the Department considers that it is reasonable to withhold publication until a future date, pending the outcome of on-going discussions and further consultations on future arrangements.

Disclosure of the responses to the first consultation would be likely to influence or inhibit those responding to the further consultations and prevent the Department from obtaining fair and representative views from stakeholders.

The Department considers that the public interest in disclosing the responses is outweighed by the public interest in withholding them. This is because although there is an inherent public interest in openness and accountability in Government, there is a greater public interest in ensuring that the Department's consultation process is effective and that the Department negotiates new arrangements that deliver fair prices for the NHS and reasonable returns for suppliers.

Drug Costs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on national health service drugs in each of the last three years; what the percentage change was in each year; and by how much remuneration to prescribing pharmacists has changed in the last three years. [83431]

Andy Burnham: Expenditure on national health service drugs in each of the last three years, with percentage growth, is shown in table one.

	Net ingredient cost (£ million)	*Percentage growth*
2002	6,846.656	—
2003	7,510.134	9.69
2004	8,079.567	7.58
2005	7,936.564	-1.77

These figures are from the prescription cost analysis (PCA) system, supplied by the prescription pricing division of the NHS Business Services Authority (formerly known as the Prescriptions Pricing Authority). Fees paid to pharmacists from central non-discretionary funds for the dispensing of prescriptions and provision of pharmaceutical services in each of the last three years, with percentage growth, are shown in table two.

	Fees paid (£ million)	*Percentage growth*
2002-03	800.842	—
2003-04	837.436	4.57
2004-05	861.460	2.87
2005-06	986.586	14.52

Note:
Figures are resource costs. 2005-06 figures are unaudited.

Drug Misuse Strategies

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people, and at what grades, are employed in her Department to work on drug misuse strategies, in addition to those employed by the National Treatment Agency. [83925]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the table in whole time equivalents (WTE) for the senior civil service and the Department's integrated pay scales. There are currently 2.9 WTE working on drug treatment, plus 1.6 working on prevention of drug and alcohol misuse by young people.

	Whole-time equivalents
Drug treatment	
Senior civil service	0.58
IP4 upper	0.8
IP4 standard	1.0
IP3 standard	0
IP2	0.5
Total	2.9
Young people—drug and alcohol prevention	
Senior civil service	0.02
IP4 upper	0.1
IP4 standard	0

	Whole-time equivalents
IP3 standard	1.0
IP2	0.5
Total	1.6

Note:
IP—integrated payband where IP1 is the minimum pay range.

Drug-related Conditions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many drug-related conditions were treated *(a)* in total and *(b)* in the accident and emergency department at (i) the Royal Sussex county hospital in Brighton and (ii) Worthing hospital in each of the last three years. [83415]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the saving from the Department's decision not to renew the bulk contract for the Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin. [82918]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 23 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1743W.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost of *(a)* administrating and *(b)* buying allocations for each NHS hospital included in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme was in its first year of operation. [82738]

Andy Burnham: Figures on the total cost of administrating and buying allocations for each national health service hospital included in the EU emission trading scheme in its first year of operation are not held centrally.

Fibromyalgia

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what information is *(a)* published by her Department and *(b)* available via NHS Direct on fibromyalgia; when the last update was made to the information available; and when the last update to such information was undertaken; [84494]

(2) whether she has discussed treatment and care for people with fibromyalgia with UK based fibromyalgia support charities. [84500]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ministers have not held any recent discussions with fibromyalgia support charities on the treatment and care of people with this condition.

NHS Direct publishes health information in a variety of media, including the NHS Direct online website and the NHS Direct interactive digital television service (NHS Direct interactive). Through these services, people have access to information on a range of conditions and illnesses, including fibromyalgia. Information provided by NHS Direct is reviewed and updated on a regular basis and individual web pages contain details of when the information was last updated.

Additionally, PRODIGY guidance, which is available on its website at www.prodigy.nhs.uk, offers advice on the management of a range of conditions and symptoms, including fibromyalgia, that are commonly seen in primary care. The guidance is advisory and has been developed to assist healthcare professionals, together with patients, in making decisions about the management of the patient's health. Guidance contained on the website is reviewed on a regular basis.

Fires

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many fires there were in the NHS Estate in each year since 1995; and what the cost was in each year. [83054]

Andy Burnham: These figures have been extracted from the information contained in the fire database held by the Department. National health service trusts are required to report all outbreaks of fire to which the fire and rescue service attend. The figures below represent those incidents reported to the Department during the period 1994-95 to 2004-05, and therefore may not be representative of the actual number of incidents attended by the fire services. NHS foundation trusts are not mandated to provide information in relation to fire incidents.

Table 1 represents the total number of fire incidents reported to the Department between 1994-95 and 2004-05 which are held in the database.

Table 1—Number of reported fires during period

	Number of fires
1994-95	606
1995-96	1,017
1996-97	1,038
1997-98	1,136
1998-99	912
1999-2000	1,125
2000-01	1,045
2001-02	948
2002-03	809
2003-04	832
2004-05	1,194

A total of 10,662 fires were reported to the Department during this period.

Table 2 shows the maximum cost identified to the Department resulting from the reported fire incidents during the period held in the database.

Table 2—Maximum cost of reported fire incidents

	Maximum cost (£)
1994-95	100,000
1995-96	66,000
1996-97	350,000
1997-98	1,000,000
1998-99	1,000,000

Table 2—Maximum cost of reported fire incidents

	Maximum cost (£)
1999-2000	120,000
2000-01	150,000
2001-02	300,000
2002-03	10,000,000
2003-04	500,000
2004-05	1,000,000

The total maximum cost of the reported fires in the period is £14,586,000.

Food Supplements Directive

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of the food supplements directive on the UK food supplements industry; and if she will make a statement; [84283]

(2) what recent meetings she has held with *(a)* the UK food supplements industry, *(b)* the European Commission and *(c)* the Prime Minister on the food supplements directive; and if she will make a statement. [84284]

Caroline Flint: A regulatory impact assessment was carried out in relation to the food supplements directive in 2003, which evaluated the impact on the United Kingdom food supplements industry.

The public health Minister held a series of meetings with the UK food supplements industry in March 2006 to discuss the issue of food supplements, and has recently met with the representatives from No. 10, Cabinet Office and the Food Standards Agency to discuss this issue.

Foster Review

Mr. Ronnie Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to initiate a formal consultation on the merits of changes to the regulation of non-medical healthcare professionals proposed in the Foster Review. [82298]

Andy Burnham: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given to the hon. Member for Wyre Forest (Dr. Taylor) on 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 694W.

Foundation Trusts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what powers foundation trust governors have to refer issues to the trust's membership; and what status responses of those members have in relation to board policy; [R] [83273]

(2) what requirement there is on a board of a foundation trust to consult *(a)* members and *(b)* governors on major changes in service delivery. [83274]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: NHS foundation trusts (NHSFTs) have a duty to encourage local people to become members and are accountable to their membership base via the board of governors. Membership must be representative of the communities served by NHSFTs.

Governors are responsible for representing the interests of the community in the management of the organisation and for sharing information about key decisions with members and receiving their views on specific issues. The constitution of each NHSFT details the practice and procedure of governors. While operational management decisions remain the responsibility of the board of directors, governors are able to influence decisions about priorities and the development and delivery of services made by directors who must consult and take the views of governors on board in forward planning.

Framing Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her practice is regarding meeting, discussing and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [81307]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department always seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy-making process; both informal and formal.

A recent example was the consultation leading up to the White Paper 'Our health, our care, our say', which involved a wide range of face-to-face events, including four regional consultation events and a national citizens' summit for 1,000 people in Birmingham on 29 October 2005. There were 150 local consultation events organised by voluntary and statutory organisations, attended by over 8,000 people. Face-to-face debates were backed-up by over 33,000 completed questionnaires and a major usage and attitudes survey.

The Department holds regular meetings with representatives of the principal stakeholder groups for our policy areas and with relevant experts. Organisations and individuals can also contribute to the Department's formal consultations which abide by the code of conduct on consultation. Known stakeholders are alerted to the fact that a formal consultation is taking place. As required by the code, the Department then gives feedback on the responses received and on how the consultation process influenced the policy decision.

General Practitioners

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners per head of population there are in Yeovil constituency. [83810]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available in the format requested. However, the information on how many general practitioners there are per head of population in South Somerset primary care trust (PCT) area is shown in the following table.

South Somerset PCT

	Number
All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1]	107
All practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population	70.4

[1] General medical practitioners, excluding retainers and registrars, includes contracted general practitioners, general medical services others and personal medical services others. 2004 population figures from the 2001 Office for National Statistics (ONS) resident estimates have been used for 2005 organisation calculations, as population figures for 2005 at organisation level are not yet available.

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics. 2001 ONS population censos.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost is of the additional pension liability associated with the new GP contract; and if she will make a statement. [69616]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government Actuary's Department has valued the total liabilities of the NHS Pension Scheme as at 31 March 2005 to be £127.9 billion. They are in the process of preparing a detailed actuarial valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2004 which will be published later this year. It will include analysis of the factors leading to any change in valuation.

Genetically-modified Organisms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research she has commissioned into the impact of genetically modified organisms on human health. [83275]

Caroline Flint: As the United Kingdom Competent Authority for the EC Regulation 1829/2003 on genetically modified (GM) food and feed, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) supports a research programme to underpin the safety assessment of GM foods, and its role in ensuring food safety and consumer choice. Research funded by the FSA is reviewed to ensure that any emerging issues are identified and research is commissioned where appropriate.

Harwich Hospital

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the delayed opening of the new hospital in Harwich. [82894]

Andy Burnham: The national health service East of England reports that the delay is attributable to remedial flooring works taking place. However, Tendring Primary Care Trust expects the phased move into the new Fryatt hospital and Mayflower medical centre to be completed by the end of August this year.

Head Injuries

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals in Lancashire offer specialist services for the rehabilitation of patients with severe head injuries. [82747]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are two units within Lancashire providing specialist rehabilitation services to patients with severe head injuries. These are the Preston neuro-rehabilitation centre, part of Lancashire Teaching Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust, and the Rakehead unit in Burnley, part of the East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust.

Health Circular 2002/004

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to enforce the provisions of health circular 2002/004; and if she will make a statement. [84177]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Directions, contained in annex D of the health service circular 2002/004, place the same statutory funding requirements on national health service bodies for the risk-sharing scheme as applies to positive guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence.

Ensuring compliance is the responsibility of strategic health authorities. Failure risks an adverse report to the Secretary of State from the independent Healthcare Commission.

Health Service Provision (Auditing)

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the implementation of *(a)* Practice Based Commissioning, *(b)* Payment by Results and *(c)* patient choice will be audited. [79672]

Andy Burnham: External audit of the implementation, by national health service bodies other than foundation trusts, of health policy is the responsibility of the Audit Commission and the National Audit Office. Foundation trust auditors are appointed by the governors of the trust. All follow professional standards based on the international standards on auditing issued by the Auditing Practices Board. In addition, NHS bodies have internal audit services.

Health Services (Barnet)

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are on NHS waiting lists in Barnet *(a)* for elective surgery and *(b)* for out-patient appointments; what the (i) average and (ii) longest wait was in each case in 2005-06; what the equivalent figures were on 1 May 1997; and if she will make a statement. [84438]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected in the format requested. However, the table shows data for in-patient and out-patients waits, including average waiting times for Barnet Primary Care Trust (PCT) in March 2006 and its predecessor, Barnet health authority (HA) in June 1997.

The table shows that the longest wait for in-patient treatment in June 1997 was over 24 months compared to five to six months in March 2006. The table also shows that the longest wait for out-patient treatment in March 2006 was 13 to 17 weeks compared to over 26 weeks in June 1997.

In-patient waits by timeband—Barnet PCT and Barnet HA, June 1997 and March 2006

Year/Quarter/Org Code		Number
2005-06—Q4		
5A9	*Barnet PCT*	
	00 to <01 months	1,245
	01 to <02 months	1,175
	02 to <03 months	760
	03 to <04 months	568
	04 to <05 months	509
	05 to <06 months	232
	06 to <07 months	0
	07 to <08 months	0
	08 to <09 months	0
	09 to <10 months	0
	10 to <11 months	0
1997-98—Q1		
QAQ	*Barnet HA*	
	0<3 months	3,425
	3-5 months	1,773
	6-8 months	967
	9-11 months	592
	12-14 months	277
	15-17 months	120
	18-20 months	26
	21-23 months	10
	24+ months	8
	Total waiting list	7,198
	Median wait (weeks)	14.3

Year/Quarter/Org Code		Number
2005-06—Q4		
5A9	*Barnet PCT*	
	11 to <12 months	0
	12+ months	0
	Total waiting list	4,489
	Median wait (weeks)	8.0
QAQ	*Barnet HA*	
	11 to <12 months	—
	12+ months	—
	Total waiting list	—
	Median wait (weeks)	—

In-patient waits by timeband—Barnet PCT and Barnet HA, June 1997 and March 2006

Year/Quarter/Org Code		Number
2005-06—Q4		
5A9	*Barnet PCT*	
	Not seen 0<4 weeks	4,967
	Not seen 4<8 weeks	3,556
	Not seen 8<13 weeks	1,225
	Not seen 13<17 weeks	1
	Not seen 17<21 weeks	0
	Not seen 21+ weeks	0
	Total list	9,749
	Median wait (weeks)	6.7
1997-98—Q4		
QAQ	*Barnet HA*	
	Not seen 13<26 weeks	1,224
	Not seen 26+ weeks	388
	Total list	n/a
	Median wait (weeks)	5.6

Healthcare Workforce

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to reform the regulation of the *(a)* medical and *(b)* non-medical healthcare workforce in England. [83695]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 694W to the hon. Member for Wyre Forest (Dr. Taylor).

Healthcare-acquired Infections

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many MRSA bloodstream infections were recorded at *(a)* the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton and *(b)* Worthing Hospital in each of the last three years. [83413]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* The information is not available in the format requested. However, the table shows the number of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) reports for Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals National Health Service Trust and Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust for the periods shown.

Number of reported blood stream infections (bacteraemia)

	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	*Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust*
April 2002-March 2003	74	15
April 2003-March 2004	107	22
April 2004-March 2005	129	34

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Hospital Closures

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date it was announced that the Severalls hospital at Colchester would close; and on what date it ceased to be occupied by patients. [83219]

Andy Burnham: The decision to close Severalls hospitals was made in approximately 1994, with the physical closure at the end of March 1997.

However, it should be noted that there was not a full closure of the hospital site, merely the core ayslum buildings. At the point of closure, clients were moved to newly developed mental health facilities in Colchester, Clacton and Chelmsford. The hospital building also housed a number of acute wards and those patients were transferred to other accommodation in Essex Rivers Healthcare National Health Service Trust.

Since 1997 services have continued to be provided from the periphery of the Severalls site, namely:

Low secure unit;

Psychiatric intensive care unit;

Long-stay rehabilitation;

Office and community bases;

Pathology laboratory; and

Anglia Ruskin university—nurse education unit.

A learning disabilities day unit has also been developed more recently on the site.

Import Licence Applications

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many parallel import licence *(a)* applications and *(b)* variations were received by the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency in each of the last 12 months; how many outstanding licence applications and variations were waiting to be processed by the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency in each month; and if she will make a statement. [82350]

Andy Burnham: Parallel import licence applications and variations received by the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in the 12 months July 2005 to June 2006 are shown in the following table:

Received	*Applications*	*Variations*
2005		
July	60	25
August	177	68
September	922	549
October	499	821
November	181	730
December	192	717
2006		
January	425	600
February	1,080	348
March	518	353
April	103	570
May	237	513
June	304	499

Figures for the monthly outstanding licence applications and variations waiting to be processed for the previous 12 months are not available. Pending applications are all applications that have been received by the MHRA but have not completed the licensing process. These applications are at various stages of the licensing process with the responsibility for the next step being either with the MHRA or the applicant. For the pending applications the MHRA has responsibility for approximately 48 per cent. of the licence applications and 33 per cent. of the variations. The remaining applications require an action from the applicants.

The pending application figures for July 2005 and June 2006 are:

Pending	*Applications*	*Variations*
July 2005	3,290	5,093
June 2006	5,140	6,118

The current MHRA performance in the processing of parallel import applications is not satisfactory. The large number of pending applications has been a result of increased volume of applications being received on a year on year basis as well as some severe operational problem with the new information management system introduced in August 2005.

Many system improvements affecting both the function and the speed of new information system have now been implemented and staff are more familiar with the use and new ways of working with the system. Since January 2006 the electronic portal has been available to companies for electronic submission of applications. This has major benefits as electronic submission via this system cuts down on initial administrative processing at the MHRA and facilitates more immediate and reliable exchange of correspondence on applications.

Further implemented measures such as increasing the number of assessors and out-of-hours bonus exercise for assessors are resulting in increased throughput of work. The MHRA is paying very close attention to the MHRA's performance and they are monitoring weekly so as to evaluate the effect of strategies that are in place to improve the level of service.

Independent Sector Treatment

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations she has received on services provided by independent sector treatment centres in the last 12 months. [70109]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Influenza Vaccine

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many production facilities in the UK are capable

of producing influenza vaccine; and what their capacity is. [83369]

Caroline Flint: Novartis Vaccines is the only commercial manufacturer of flu vaccine in the United Kingdom. Capacity depends on growth of vaccine strain. This information is commercially confidential.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what level of supply of influenza vaccine doses has been secured for the winter of 2006-07; from which manufacturers this supply has been secured; and if she will make a statement. [83977]

Caroline Flint: General practitioners purchase their own supply of flu vaccine from the supplier of their choice. For 2006-07, the Department has advised manufacturers that total orders of flu vaccine to the United Kingdom are likely to be about 15 million doses. Manufacturers will know after the end of July how much vaccine will be available.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to add people with severe mental illness to the list of people automatically offered seasonal influenza vaccines. [81977]

Caroline Flint: Vaccination and immunisation (JCVI) flu sub-group reviewed all available evidence on whether patients with schizophrenia and bi-polar affective disorder are at an increased risk from influenza and should be offered vaccination.

At the last meeting, the sub-group concluded that there is no evidence at present to support a role for influenza vaccination.

Intermediate Care Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many intermediate care beds there have been in the NHS in each year since 2000; and what plans she has to monitor the number of intermediate care beds situated in community or cottage hospitals. [84460]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Data on the number of intermediate care beds, the number of places in non-residential intermediate care schemes and the number of people using intermediate care are collected and are shown in the table. There are no plans to expand the data collection.

	Number of places in non-residential IC schemes	*Number of intermediate care beds*	*Number of people using intermediate care*
1999-2000	7,149	4,242	132,447
2000-01	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2001-02	13,878	7,021	246,034
2002-03	19,078	7,493	284,365
2003-04	17,339	8,697	333,821
2004-05	20,558	8,928	362,664
2005-06	20,637	9,007	393,362

[1] Information not collected

Notes:

LDPR lines 8105, 8157 and 8305.

Independent Sector Treatment Programme

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many procedures each independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) was contracted to provide in wave one of the ISTC programme; and how many procedures were delivered, *(a)* broken down by ISTC and *(b)* in total. [80792]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Wave 1 ISTC schemes

Scheme	*Facilities*	*Total number of procedures*[1]	*Total number of diagnostic tests*[1]	*Procedures*[2] *to 30 April 2006*	*Diagnostics to 30 April 2006*	*Primary care to 30 April 2006*
Ophthalmic Chain (OC123)	Mobile units	44,737	—	21,339	—	—
East Cornwall	Bodmin NHS treatment centre	26,767	—	746	—	—
East Lincolnshire	Boston NHS treatment centre	7,263	2,000	1,082	—	—
West Lincolnshire	Gainsborough NHS treatment centre	6,365	—	859	—	—
North Oxford	Horton NHS treatment centre	11,197	—	—	—	—
NEYNL	Clifton Park NHS treatment centre	9,964	—	611	—	—
Southampton	Capio New Hall NHS treatment centre	11,468	—	1,363	—	—
Northumberland	Cobalt NHS treatment centre	10,080	—	1,576	—	—
TV3500	Blakelands NHS treatment centre	17,417	—	1,324	—	—
	Horton NHS treatment centre	—	—	—	—	—
	Capio Reading NHS treatment centre	—	—	—	—	—
Kidderminster	Kidderminster NHS treatment centre	9,000	—	2,047	—	—

Wave 1 ISTC schemes

Scheme	*Facilities*	*Total number of procedures*[1]	*Total number of diagnostic tests*[1]	*Procedures*[2] *to 30 April 2006*	*Diagnostics to 30 April 2006*	*Primary care to 30 April 2006*
Cheshire and Merseyside	Cheshire and Merseyside NHS treatment centre	24,817	—	—	—	—
Nottingham	Queen's medical centre Nottingham	110,683	—	—	—	—
Maidstone Surgi Centre	Maidstone hospital	55,589	48,993	—	—	—
Outer North East London	King George hospital	55,615	—	—	—	—
Brighton	Sussex Orthopaedics NHS treatment centre	26,451	—	1,043	—	—
Wycombe	Mid and South Buckingham diagnostic centre	—	74,880	—	5,811	—
Medway	Will Adams NHS treatment centre	19,770	—	551	—	—
Portsmouth	St. Mary's NHS treatment centre	34,155	48,450	602	1,617	11,679
Havant	TBC	—	78,600	—	—	—
Bradford	Eccleshill NHS treatment centre	27,416	73,750	3,381	17,723	—
Burton	Midlands NHS treatment centre	64,814	—	—	—	—
Trent and South Yorkshire	Barlborough NHS treatment centre	22,000	—	3,995	—	—
Daventry	Birkdale clinic	5,155	—	5,157	—	—
Shepton Mallet	Shepton Mallet NHS treatment centre	56,242	—	6,010	—	—
Greater Manchester	Greater Manchester surgical centre	44,863	—	5,253	—	—
Plymouth	Peninsula NHS treatment centre	16,512	—	3,021	—	—
Total		718,340	326,673	59,960	25,151	11,679

[1] Current expected total volume over the contract period. Independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) contracts stipulate the expected casemix and volume of healthcare to be completed during the five year period of the contract. Actual volumes may change depending on the casemixes that are referred.

[2] Procedures completed also include procedures carried out at any interim facilities.

Note:

Figures are for agreed Wave 1 ISTC contracts and exclude centrally procured contracts such as Gsupp, MRI, CWiCs etc.

Judicial Review

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what occasions an *(a)* individual and *(b)* organisation has applied for a judicial review of decisions of her Department in each year since 1997; and what the outcome was of each case where proceedings have been completed. [80484]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Maternity Provision

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means the implementation by each NHS trust in England of the target that by 2009 all women will have choice over where and how to have their baby will be assessed; and what action will be taken against NHS trusts that fail to meet this target. [83682]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department is developing a maternity services delivery plan to offer a framework and guidance to support implementation of the Government's maternity commitment.

It is for local primary care trusts to determine how services are structured and commissioned to meet the needs of the local population. We will be developing tools to support and monitor delivery of the Government commitment.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent risk analysis she has undertaken of maternity episodes that start in an independent midwife-led unit and are then moved to a consultant-led obstetric unit; and if she will make a statement; [83262]

(2) if she will make a statement on the latest National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence report on maternity care, with particular reference to risk levels in independent midwife-led units. [83263]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: None. It is for local national health service maternity care providers and primary care trusts to ensure that midwife-led care is provided within a framework that enables easy and early transfer of

women and babies who unexpectedly require specialist care. As with other options, the outcomes of these types of care should be regularly audited.

The Department welcomes the publication of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) draft guidelines on intrapartum care. These guidelines are currently subject to consultation and we will comment on them in accordance with the normal protocol. I am confident that NICE will consider all the comments that are made by the Department in response to its consultation.

Medical Staff (Pay Increases)

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage pay rise in *(a)* cash and *(b)* real terms has been awarded to (i) doctors, (ii) dentists and (iii) nurses in each year since 1997. [63112]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the pay uplifts awarded to nurses and to hospital doctors and dentists in cash and real terms since 1997.

	Nurses		*Hospital doctors and dentists*		
	Cash terms (percentage)	*Real terms[1] (percentage)*		*Cash terms (percentage)*	*Real terms[1] (percentage)*
1997-98	3.3 staged[2]	0.3		3.4 staged[3]	0.4
1998-99	3.8 staged[4]	1.2		4.2 plus 0.35 for pensions staged[4]	1.6
1999-2000	4.7 plus uprating of some allowances	2.7		3.5 plus £500 on consultants' scale maximum	1.5
2000-01	3.4 plus uprating of some allowances and changes to grade D incremental scale	2.1		3.3	2.0
2001-02	3.7 plus average 2 for F-I grades by consolidation of discretionary points	1.2		3.9	1.4
2002-03	3.6 plus increase in allowances and changes to some pay scales	0.4		3.6 plus increases in pay scale maxima for senior house officers, staff grades and associate specialists	0.4
2003-04	3.225	0.6		3.225 plus changes to pay scale for staff grades and associate specialists	0.6
2004-05	3.225	1.0	Consultants on 2003 contract	3.225	1.0
			Consultants on pre-2003 contract	2.5	0.3
			Doctors in training	2.7	0.5
			Staff grades and associate specialists	2.7 plus changes to incremental and discretionary scales	0.5
2005-06	3.225	1.1	Consultants on 2003 contract	3.225	1.1
			Consultants on pre-2003 contract	3.0	0.9
			Doctors in training	3.0	0.9
			Staff grades and associate specialists	3.225	1.1

	Nurses		Hospital doctors and dentists		
	Cash terms (percentage)	Real terms[1] (percentage)		Cash terms (percentage)	Real terms[1] (percentage)
2006-07	2.5	0.1	Consultants on 2003 contract	2.2 staged[5]	-0.2
			Consultants on pre-2003 contract	2.2 staged[5]	-0.2
			Doctors in training	2.2	-0.2
			Staff grades and associate specialists	2.4	0.0

[1] Using gross domestic product deflator as at 29 March 2006
[2] Staged: 2.8 per cent. from 1 April 1997 balance from 1 December 1997
[3] Staged: 2 per cent. from 1 April 1997 balance from 1 December 1997
[4] Staged: 2 per cent. from 1 April 1998 balance from 1 December 1998
[5] Staged: 1 per cent. from 1 April 2006 balance from 1 November 2006

Mental Health Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* professional and *(b)* non-professional child and adolescent mental health staff are in post in each primary care trust area; and how many were in post in each relevant health area per 100,000 population in each of the previous 10 years. [79410]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held at primary care trust level and it is not possible to separate all of the information requested because of the way the non-medical work force census is collected.

However, the following data have been placed in the Library:

National health service hospital and community health services: non-medical staff in England by each specified area of work by strategic health authority (SHA) area as at 30 September each specified year;

Hospital and community health services: medical staff working within the child and adolescent psychiatry specialty by SHA; and

NHS staff in England by each specified mental health staff group per 100,000 population as at 30 September each specified year.

Multiple Sclerosis (Yeovil)

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in Yeovil constituency in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [83390]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available.

National Insurance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been to the NHS of the annual one per cent. increase in national insurance contributions in each relevant year. [65543]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Employer's national insurance increased by one per cent, in 2003-04. This has cost the national health service an estimated £190 million in 2003-04 and £210 million in 2004-05.

The NHS has benefited from the one per cent., increase in terms of available resources many times over compared to these costs. Allocations to health authorities in 2002-03 were £41.5 billion in 2004-05. Allocations to primary care trusts had increased to £49.3 billion.

NHS Contracts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect of the new NHS contracts and pay deals on *(a)* encouraging qualified doctors and nurses (i) to stay in and (ii) to return to the NHS and *(b)* attempts to create a more flexible workforce with greater scope for team working and fewer barriers between different staff groups. [79649]

Ms Rosie Winterton: For qualified doctors, there has been a fall in the three-month vacancy rate for medical and dental consultants: from 4.7 per cent. in 2003 compared to 4.4 per cent. in 2004 and 3.3 per cent. in 2005. For nurses, there has been a fall in the vacancy rate from 2.9 per cent. in 2003 compared to 2.6 per cent. in 2004 and 1.9 per cent. in 2005.

NHS employers are gathering a variety of evidence that demonstrates how national health service organisations are using the new pay systems to deliver a more flexible workforce. Some of this is already accessible on the NHS employers website. This will also feed into the integrated service improvement programme, led by strategic health authorities.

NHS Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of their budgets each *(a)* NHS trust, *(b)* health authority, *(c)* primary care trust and *(d)* strategic health authority spent on administration in each year since 1997-98. [66002]

Andy Burnham: Administration expenditure may vary considerably between organisations owing to the variability of the individual items which are included. In particular, health authorities included adjustments to their capital charges, which may produce negative expenditure in some cases. Administration expenditure is not therefore comparable directly between years and between organisations. However the available information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the aggregate year end financial position of *(a)* all primary care trusts and *(b)* all NHS trusts has been in each year since 2002. [78014]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows the net year end financial position by primary care trusts (PCTs), national health service trusts and strategic health authorities (SHAs) for years 2002-03 to 2004-05, and the provisional outturn for 2005-06.

£000

	Final outturn 2002-03	*Final outturn 2003-04*	*Final outturn 2004-05*	*Provisional outturn 2005-06*
PCTs	92,784	3,869	-272,392	-475,650
NHS trusts[1]	-93,529	-137,607	-321,702	-560,484
SHA	96,392	206,270	372,736	524,044
Total	95,647	72,532	-221,358	-512,090

[1] Excludes foundation trusts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment the Government have made of the effect of NHS deficits on joint working with local authorities. [78302]

Andy Burnham: The Department allocates funding to local authorities for adult social care without reference to the financial position of the national health service.

NHS and local authority social services have a duty to work in partnership to provide services which meet the health and social care needs of their local population. The NHS has a legal responsibility to provide healthcare and nursing care which social services cannot provide.

It is essential that the NHS and social services work together locally, in collaboration with other partners, and with individuals and their representatives, to deliver services in a joined-up way, tailored (wherever possible) to the needs of the individual. For example, local area agreements have proved valuable in improving the efficiency and targeting of resources, developing new ways of working and agreeing a joint approach with a range of local partners to address local issues.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will assess the financial effects on primary care trusts of the obligation to contribute portions of their budget for 2006-07 to a risk pool. [82066]

Andy Burnham: The new strategic health authorities (SHAs) will take the lead locally in developing and implementing a service and financial strategy for managing the financial position within their locality. This will include creating local reserves to deal with local problems.

It is for SHAs locally to determine the level of contribution to reserves and the application of those reserves. The level determined will reflect local financial circumstances, but the underlying principle will be fairness. Money will not be lost to those communities, because funding will be returned to primary care trusts normally over the allocations cycle.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 273W, on NHS finance, (1) what the 2005-06 month 12 forecast year-end financial position was for each of the 28 previous strategic health authority (SHA) areas in total, inclusive of all constituent trusts; and what percentage of the cumulative turnover in the SHA area this represents in each case; [83931]

(2) what the 2004-05 audited year-end financial position was of each of the previous 28 strategic health authority (SHA) areas in total, inclusive of all constituent trusts; and what percentage of the cumulative SHA-area turnover this represents in each case. [84014]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is provided in the tables.

Table 1: 2004-05 audited year-end financial position for the 28 strategic health authorities (SHAs) and the surplus/deficit as a percentage of the cumulative SHA turnover

Name	*Final turnover (£000)*	*Final surplus/(deficits) (£000)*	*Surplus/deficits as a percentage of turnover*
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	2,510,547	(7,865)	(0.3)
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	1,747,876	(61,020)	(3.5)
Birmingham and The Black Country SHA	2,958,369	13,974	0.5
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	3,189,327	6,058	0.2
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	1,532,417	559	0.0
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	2,412,040	10,701	0.4
Dorset and Somerset SHA	1,380,346	6,370	0.5
Essex SHA	1,775,515	(13,982)	(0.8)
Greater Manchester SHA	3,435,822	30,035	0.9

Table 1: 2004-05 audited year-end financial position for the 28 strategic health authorities (SHAs) and the surplus/deficit as a percentage of the cumulative SHA turnover

Name	Final turnover (£000)	Final surplus/(deficits) (£000)	Surplus/deficits as a percentage of turnover
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	2,029,024	(39,539)	(1.9)
Kent and Medway SHA	1,797,559	(2,220)	(0.1)
Leicestershire, Northants and Rutland SHA	1,643,459	(1,562)	(0.1)
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	2,484,186	(69,467)	(2.8)
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire SHA	1,849,196	(8,439)	(0.5)
North Central London SHA	1,919,261	3,065	0.2
North East London SHA	2,203,934	7,457	0.3
North West London SHA	2,612,531	(72,112)	(2.8)
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	1,882,044	21,015	1.1
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	1,651,090	(22,724)	(1.4)
South East London SHA	2,270,265	(510)	(0.0)
South West London SHA	1,677,911	(20,085)	(1.2)
South West Peninsula SHA	1,906,104	(11,474)	(0.6)
South Yorkshire SHA	1,813,618	16,133	0.9
Surrey and Sussex SHA	3,027,235	(33,177)	(1.1)
Thames Valley SHA	2,291,031	(5,936)	(0.3)
Trent SHA	3,077,009	16,350	0.5
West Midlands South SHA	1,709,401	(9,836)	(0.6)
West Yorkshire SHA	2,714,636	26,873	1.0

Table 2: 2005-06 provisional outturn position for the 28 SHAs and the surplus/deficit position as a percentage of the cumulative SHA turnover

Name	Final turnover (£000)	Final surplus/(deficits) (£000)	Surplus/deficits as a percentage of turnover
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	2,727,990	(41,514)	(1.5)
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	1,830,995	(107,873)	(5.9)
Birmingham and The Black Country SHA	3,274,274	19,056	0.6
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	3,482,704	(16,582)	(0.5)
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	1,681,017	8	0.0
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	2,583,471	34,100	1.3
Dorset and Somerset SHA	1,506,773	10,953	0.7
Essex SHA	1,934,727	(6,024)	(0.3)
Greater Manchester SHA	3,760,596	40,136	1.1
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	2,194,508	(24,970)	(1.1)
Kent and Medway SHA	1,946,904	(4,195)	(0.2)
Leicestershire, Northants and Rutland SHA	1,799,477	(27,892)	(1.6)
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	2,669,045	(100,405)	(3.8)
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire SHA	2,021,208	(39,650)	(2.0)
North Central London SHA	2,050,552	6,863	0.3
North East London SHA	2,427,316	1,444	0.1
North West London SHA	2,728,757	(83,826)	(3.1)
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	2,055,500	19,695	1.0
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	1,789,877	(36,481)	(2.0)
South East London SHA	2,435,308	(48,376)	(2.0)
South West London SHA	1,772,740	(44,499)	(2.5)
South West Peninsula SHA	2,118,810	(18,303)	(0.9)
South Yorkshire SHA	1,980,107	36,664	1.9
Surrey and Sussex SHA	3,213,556	(85,007)	(2.6)
Thames Valley SHA	2,411,780	(32,834)	(1.4)
Trent SHA	3,372,327	16,665	0.5
West Midlands South SHA	1,893,734	(18,620)	(1.0)
West Yorkshire SHA	2,976,363	39,378	1.3

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the impact of NHS trust deficits on *(a)* rural and *(b)* non-rural areas; and if she will make a statement. [84625]

Andy Burnham: Our analysis of the 2005-06 financial positions of national health service organisations has shown that there is no strong relationship between financial performance and any single factor, including the extent to which areas are urban or rural.

A full report on 2005-06 NHS financial performance is available in the Library.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has made an assessment of the differences in NHS trust deficits between English and Welsh local health boards. [80936]

Andy Burnham: We have analysed the financial position of the national health service in England, and the results of that analysis is available in both Library and on the Department's website. NHS deficits in Welsh trusts are a matter for the Welsh Assembly.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision she makes for the rurality of NHS trusts when allocating funding. [80945]

Andy Burnham: Funding is allocated to primary care trusts on the basis of the relative needs of their populations. A weighted capitation formula is used to determine each primary care trusts target share of available resources. The weighted capitation formula is continuously overseen by the advisory committee on resource allocation (ACRA). This is an independent body, which has national health service management, general practitioner and academic members.

The formula that informed allocations up to 2007-08 takes account of access to services in rural areas, and the cost of providing emergency ambulance services. The ACRA work programme for the allocations for 2008-09 and beyond includes further consideration of rurality issues.

NHS Pension Scheme Penserver Development

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the timetable was for the NHS Pension Scheme Penserver development prior to July 2005; [79644]

(2) how the requirements of the NHS pension scheme changed during the roll-out of the Penserver development; and if she will make a statement; [79645]

Ms Rosie Winterton: During the Penserver development programme the NHS Employers Organisation entered into consultation with national health service trade unions over the modernisation of the NHS Pension Scheme. The managers of the NHS Pension Scheme administration identified this as a significant change programme and commissioned a technical solutions health check. The main recommendation from this review was that further phases of Penserver development should be combined with the overall change programme for pension scheme modernisation.

Penserver phase one was introduced in July 2003 and Penserver phase two in October 2005, as a result.

NHS Performance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her oral statement of 7 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 264, on NHS performance, what assessment her Department has made of the extent to which the budget available to the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust reflects the health needs of the local population; what assessment she has made of the reasons for its deficit; and who is responsible for tackling the deficit. [81959]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department makes revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) but not to national health service trusts. PCTs commission services from trusts, which are the providers.

In the past, a provider's income was determined by historical cost and the negotiating ability of local managers. Payment by results is a fairer and more transparent method of rewarding providers.

Under payment by results, the income of the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust is determined by the amount of activity which takes place, paid for at the rates specified in the national tariff, and adjusted by the market forces factor. For activity which is outside the scope of the national tariff, prices are agreed locally.

It is for the NHS South West to make any such assessment, and take the necessary action in co-operation with the local NHS. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health was advised by KPMG as part of the initial assessment for turnaround in February 2006 that Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust was a category one organisation, and would thus require immediate support to deliver a turnaround.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1948W, on NHS performance, what adjustments she has made to the resource limits of primary care trusts and strategic health authorities under section 97 of the National Health Service Act 1977, as amended, broken down by NHS organisation. [83920]

Andy Burnham: To date there have been no adjustments made in the 2006-07 financial year relating to the transfer of surpluses between primary care trusts and strategic health authority (SHA) reserves. The total planned transfers from primary care trusts to SHA reserves for 2006-07 have yet to be finalised.

NHS Professionals

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS Professionals is registered with the Commission for Social Care Inspection. [84708]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 July 2006]*: NHS Professionals is not required to register with the Commission for Social Care Inspection.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the market share of NHS Professionals. [84709]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 July 2006]*: The National Audit Office estimates that NHS Professionals' penetration of the acute trust nursing market was 27 per cent., in May 2006.

NHS Repairs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will set a target to eliminate the NHS estate repair backlog by April 2011. [83056]

Andy Burnham: There are no plans to set a target to eliminate the national health service estate repair backlog as this work is the responsibility of each NHS body who make decisions locally based on their estate investment planning programme.

Non-medical Workforce Census

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which types of staff work in the community services subgroup of the NHS non-medical workforce census, published on 24 April 2006. [74065]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested concerns community matron, district nurses, health visitors, school nursing service nurses and other qualified community service nurses. In addition there are other nurses working in the community: practice nurses, community psychiatric nurses and community learning disability nurses. The total of these community nurses in September 2005 was 105,753 compared with 77,249 in 1997.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff in England the community services and school nursing areas of work by level as at 30 September 2005

Headcount

	Total community services	*Community services*	*School nursing*
Total qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	63,257	60,370	2,887
Nurse consultant	127	127	0
Modern matron	271	267	4
Manager	1,392	1,369	23
Registered nurse—children.	333	333	0
Health visitor	12,818	12,818	0
District nurses	12,067	12,067	0
School nurses who hold a post registration school nursing qualification	943	0	943
Other first level	33,159	31,385	1,774
Other second level	2,147	2,004	143

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census 2005

Nut Allergies

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are being taken to tackle the causes of *(a)* nut allergy and *(b)* other allergies. [84266]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The underlying causes responsible for people being allergic to various substances are unknown, although it is thought genetics and environmental factors may play a part.

On 12 May 2006, the Medical Research Council (MRC) announced £2.3 million funding over three years to the MRC asthma United Kingdom centre in allergic mechanisms of asthma. The main aim of this research is to advance the understanding of allergic mechanisms in order to inform the development of new treatments.

Nutrient Profiling Model

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has accepted the Food Standards Agency's recommendation that its nutrient profiling model should be the basis of any further regulation of television advertising to children for health purposes. [82567]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 2104W.

Obesity

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* children and *(b)* adults in (i) Yeovil constituency, (ii) Somerset and (iii) the South West are (A) obese and (B) overweight when measured by body mass index according to the Government's most recent health survey figures. [82144]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The main source of data on the prevalence of obesity and overweight among children and adults is the Health Survey for England (HSE). Data are not available in the format requested. Tables 1

to 4 set out the most recent data on the prevalence of obesity and overweight in children and adults.

Table 1 presents the data on overweight and obesity among adults in Somerset and Dorset (the strategic health authority (SHA) which contains Yeovil). The sample size of the HSE does not allow figures to be produced below SHA level, nor does it allow an SHA breakdown for children. Body mass index (BMI) is a common method of evaluating individual people to see if they are overweight or obese. A BMI between 25 to 30 is overweight and over 30 is referred to as obese.

Table 1: Prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults aged 16 and over in Somerset and Dorset SHA (three-year average), 2000-02

	Percentage
Men	
Overweight	47.1
Obese	19.7
Women	
Overweight	35.4
Obese	21.3
All adults	
Overweight	40.8
Obese	20.5
Base (unweighted)	
Men	313
Women	365
All adults	678

Source:
Health Survey for England: Health and Lifestyle indicators for SHAs 1994 to 2002, Department of Health.

Table 2 shows the proportion of adults who were overweight and obese in South West Government office region (GOR) in 2003.

Table 2: Prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults aged 16 and over in South West GOR by gender, 2003

	Percentage
Men	
Overweight	68.4
Obese	22.8
Women	
Overweight	55.8
Obese	21.1
All adults	
Overweight	62.0
Obese	21.9
Bases (unweighted)	
Men	601
Women	712
Bases (weighted)	
Men	663
Women	683

Source:
Health Survey for England 2003. Department of Health.

Tables 3 and 4 show the most recent available data on the prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults and children in England in 2004.

Table 3: Prevalence of obesity and overweight among adults aged 16 and over by gender, England 2004

	Percentage
Men	
Overweight	43.9
Obese	22.7
Women	
Overweight	33.9
Obese	23.2
Bases (weighted)	
Men	39,244
Women	39,803

Note:
Figures for all adults are not provided as dataset is not available to do the statistical analysis.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2004. The Information Centre for health and social care.

Table 4: Prevalence of obesity and overweight among children aged two to 15 by gender, England 2004

	Percentage
Boys	
Overweight	13.9
Obese	19.2
Girls	
Overweight	16.6
Obese	18.5
Bases (weighted)	
Boys	8,833
Girls	8,228

Note:
Figures for all adults are not provided as dataset is not available to do the statistical analysis.
Source:
Health Survey for England 2004—updating of trend tables to include 2004 data. The Information Centre for health and social care.

Osteoporosis

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new DXA bone density scanners were purchased by strategic health authorities in financial year 2005-06; how many patients were referred to the private sector for bone density scans in that year; what steps have been taken to ensure recurrent funding for running costs for DXA scanners; and if she will make a statement. [81624]

Andy Burnham: The data requested in relation to the number of new dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA) bone density scanner purchased by strategic health authorities and the number of patients referred to the private sector for bone density scans, are not collected by the Department.

By December 2008, the patient pathway should be 18 weeks inclusive of out-patients, diagnostics, and in-patients waits. National health service organisations are developing local plans to achieve this pathway within the funding allocated to them. Primary care trusts (PCTs) were informed of their revenue allocations up to 2007-08 on 9 February 2005. The 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations represent £135 billion investment in the NHS, £64 billion to PCTs in 2006-07 and £70 billion in 2007-08. The Department has no plans to make additional recurrent funding available to PCTs to cover the running costs of DXA scanners.

Overseas Patients

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many overseas patients were treated in East Lancashire hospitals in each year since 2000; what the total cost of treatment given was; and how much *(a)* has been written off and *(b)* remains unpaid. [82937]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on the number of overseas patients treated, the total cost of treatment and how much remains underpaid is not held centrally.

The table shows income from overseas patients and bad debts and claims for overseas visitors which has been abandoned. Figures relate to the East Lancashire Hospitals National Health Service Trust and its predecessor organisations.

£

NHS Trust	*Income from overseas patients—non reciprocal*	*Bad debts and claims abandoned—overseas visitors*
2000-01		
Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	n/a	1,000
Burnley Health Care	n/a	2,000
2001-02		
Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	n/a	3,000
Burnley Health Care	n/a	0
2002-03		
Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	n/a	0
Burnley Health Care	n/a	8,000
2003-04		
East Lancashire Hospitals	20,000	10,000
2004-05		
East Lancashire Hospitals	35,000	3,000

Source: Audited summarisation schedules of the named NHS trusts

Papilloma Virus Vaccine

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her letter to the director of Jo's Trust on 1 June 2006, what the evidential basis was for her statement that the two vaccines for human papilloma virus were not expected to be licensed until at least 2007. [81619]

Caroline Flint: Research has suggested that human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccines may provide real benefit. The Department is currently seeking expert advice on the efficiency, safety and benefits that these new vaccines may offer.

Officials have met with manufacturers of the HPV vaccines to discuss research results and time scales for the development and likely licensure of the vaccines. A joint committee on vaccination and immunisation subgroup met in May 2006 to review all the available information on HPV vaccines and will hold further meetings during 2006.

Patient Transport

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the extent to which *(a)* notices about the hospital travel costs scheme are displayed in all patient areas and *(b)* information about the scheme is included in all appointment or admission letters, in accordance with departmental guidance. [80503]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not made an assessment of the extent to which notices about the hospital travel costs scheme (HTCS) are displayed in all patient areas and information about the scheme is included in all appointment or admission letters, in accordance with departmental guidance. It is for individual trusts to decide how best practice guidance is implemented locally.

As part of the "Our health, our care, our say" White Paper commitment to expand the HTCS to include

referrals by health care professionals, we will be consulting on other issues such as alternative ways to raise awareness of the HTCS.

Primary Care Trust Referrals

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice she has issued to primary care trusts on their use of Referral Management Systems and Tier 2 Clinical Assessment and Treatment Systems; and what effect this has had on the number of referrals into secondary care, with particular reference to skin problems. [81315]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Current advice is contained in a letter to primary care trust chief executives in July 2005. Referrals to community-based clinical assessment services, and other such centres, should happen only where it adds genuine clinical value for patients. A copy of the letter is available in the Library.

Information about the effects of the use of such services on referrals to secondary care is not held centrally.

Pensions (NHS Personnel)

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures the Department has put in place to assist pension transferability of public pensions for NHS personnel. [79767]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All public service schemes pay cash equivalent transfer values to other pension schemes in respect of accrued rights in compliance with pensions law. Under the 'Fair Deal for Staff Pensions: Procurement of Bulk Transfer Arrangements and Related Issues' guidance published by HM Treasury in June 2004, there is a requirement to transfer pension rights when employments are transferred to the private sector under public private partnerships/public finance initiatives and subsequent transfers for former public servants. Under arrangements agreed between a number of mainly public sector pension schemes to facilitate transfers, known as the public sector transfer club and administered by the civil service pensions division of the Cabinet Office, public service scheme members can also transfer accrued pension rights by way of the public sector transfer club.

Pharmacy Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that pharmacists are consulted by local NHS organisations on proposed service redesigns. [84019]

Andy Burnham: It is for local organisations to decide who the appropriate people are to consult with on service redesign. All parties with an interest should be given a proper opportunity to make their views known.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from interested parties on failure of primary care trusts to commission additional and enhanced services from pharmacies under the community pharmacy contract. [84022]

Andy Burnham: We receive regular inquiries from patients, business and others interested in the provision of pharmaceutical services under the new contractual framework. It is for primary care trusts to determine, according to local needs and available funds, whether or not they commission enhanced services from community pharmacies. The next statistical bulletin for 2005-06 on general pharmaceutical services in England and Wales will contain information on the extent to which primary care trusts have commissioned these services. It is due to be published later this year.

Ports

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the provision for port health is at each of the major UK ports; why funding for port health is not ring-fenced; and if she will make a statement. [84389]

Caroline Flint: The main statutory responsibility for implementing the Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations 1979, the Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1979, and the Public Health (International Trains) Regulations 1994, often referred to as the port health regulations, rests with local authorities, including some that are specifically constituted as port health authorities.

Funding for port health is included in revenue support grant (RSG). The RSG is an unhypothecated block grant and as such local authorities can use it for any purpose. The amount provided for a particular service is not separately identifiable. This is consistent with the Government's view that local authorities are best placed to take account of local circumstances in setting their priorities for spending. The Department does not collect information on the arrangements made by each local authority with port health responsibilities, consistent with its policy of minimising burdens on local authorities.

The medical staff needed to implement the regulations are provided or commissioned for local authorities by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) or in some cases the local primary care trust. Following a review of arrangements at ports, airports and international train stations completed in March 2006, the HPA has agreed to take the overall operational lead in ensuring that there is appropriate (human) health input into arrangements for port health.

The paragraphs above cover the position in England. Responsibility for port health in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland rests with the National Assembly for Wales, Scottish Ministers, and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland respectively.

The existing port health regulations reflect the requirements of the International Health Regulations 1969. New International Health Regulations were

adopted by the World Health Assembly in 2005 and are due to come into force generally in June 2007. They are the means by which the World Health Organization aims to prevent and control the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with the public health risks and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade. The Government is working closely with the Association of Port Health Authorities, the HPA, the National Assembly for Wales, the Scottish Executive, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland and other interested parties to consider how the International Health Regulations 2007 should be implemented in the United Kingdom.

Post Office Contracts

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which services *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies hold contracts with the Post Office; and what the (i) start and (ii) termination date is of each contract. [81540]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department contracts with the Post Office for the distribution of the European Health Insurance Card application packs. This contract started on 1 September 2005 and runs to 31 March 2007.

Post Office Network Services

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its associated public bodies (i) make available and (ii) have made available in the last five years through the Post Office network; through how many outlets the service is or was made available; and how many relevant transactions were undertaken in each case in the most recent year for which figures are available. [79199]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Services which have been provided by the Post Office on the Department's behalf in the past five years are shown in the following table.

	2001-02	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
Service	*Number of outlets*	*Number of outlets*	*Number of outlets*	*Numbers issued*	*Number of outlets*	*Numbers issued*	*Number of outlets*
Issue of E111s	All	All	All	7.3 million	All	8.9 million service ceased on 1 September 2005	All
Distribution of European health insurance card application packs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6 million application packs service started on 1 September 2006	All
Prescription pre-payment certificate application forms	All	All ceased October2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Prescription charge refunds	All	All	All	140,706	All	Ceased 31 March 2005	n/a
Display help with health costs publicity material	400 main post offices and some sub post offices	400 main post offices and some sub post offices	400 main post offices and some sub post offices	n/a	400 main post offices and some sub post offices	Ceased 31 March 2005	n/a
Welfare food scheme milk tokens	All	All	All	750,000 people in receipt of tokens ceased 30 September2004	All	n/a	n/a

Premature Deaths

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made by the National Patient Safety Agency in carrying out a national confidential inquiry into premature deaths among people with learning disabilities; and if she will make a statement. [83396]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The National Patient Safety Agency has now completed their scoping study and we are working with them to look at the business case for a full confidential inquiry. The Department will consider the final business case in due course.

Public Health Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 333W, on public health screening programmes, which of the programmes listed are both fully operational and cover the whole of England. [84661]

Caroline Flint: Screening programmes for the following conditions are both fully operational and cover the whole of England: congenital hypothyroidism, cervical cancer, breast cancer and newborn hearing. The remaining programmes on the list are being developed to ensure a high quality screening service is available across England when fully implemented.

Residential and Nursing Homes

Jane Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what fees, including nursing care allowances and fees paid on a graduated basis, were paid to all providers of care in *(a)* nursing, *(b)* nursing elderly mentally infirm (EMI), *(c)* residential and *(d)* residential EMI homes in the metropolitan boroughs

of (i) Liverpool, (ii) Sefton, (iii) St. Helens and (iv) Wirral in 2005-06; [81168]

(2) how many places were provided for *(a)* nursing, *(b)* nursing elderly mentally infirm (EMI), *(c)* residential and *(d)* residential EMI care by the metropolitan boroughs of (i) Liverpool, (ii) Sefton, (iii) St. Helens and (iv) Wirral in 2005-06; [81169]

(3) how many people over 65 years waited for *(a)* a place in (i) nursing, (ii) nursing elderly mentally infirm (EMI), (iii) residential, (iv) residential EMI care and *(b)* domiciliary care services in the borough of (i) Liverpool, (ii) Sefton, (iii) St. Helens and (iv) Wirral in 2005-06. [81170]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I understand from the chair of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the information on places in nursing and care homes is not available in the precise form requested. CSCI collects statistics in respect of places for people who are elderly mentally infirm (EMI) under the two registration categories of older people with dementia (DE) and older people with mental disorder (MD).

As such, CSCI's statistics for these client groups for the metropolitan boroughs of Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens and Wirral for the year 2005-06 are shown in the table.

	Total registered places	*Total registered EMI places in DE and MD categories*
Liverpool		
Care homes with nursing	2,242	819
Residential care homes	1,237	224
Sefton		
Care homes with nursing	1,708	293
Residential care homes	2,012	234
St. Helens		
Care homes with nursing	548	216
Residential care homes	664	243
Wirral		
Care homes with nursing	1,918	563
Residential care homes	1,898	276

Information on the number of people awaiting delivery of a care package for which eligibility is established or the numbers of people currently having their needs and eligibility assessed is not available.

Information on the level of fees negotiated locally between councils and other purchasers of care services is not available centrally.

Section 64 Grants

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value of section 64 grants was in each year since 2004-05; and how much each *(a)* organisation and *(b)* project received in each year. [84428]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The amounts available for the section 64 general scheme of grants in the three years from 2004-05 are shown in the table.

Year of award	*Value of award (£ million)*
2004-05	17.80
2005-06	17.90
2006-07	17.20

Information on amounts awarded to organisations for the three years commencing 2004-05 is available on the Department's website at www.dh.gov.uk/section64

Speech and Language Therapy

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to improve the delivery of speech and language therapy for young people. [84691]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities, local authorities and other local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, tackling health inequalities and modernising services. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of speech and language therapy.

We have increased the number of speech and language therapists employed in the national health service by 34.6 per cent., since 1997, and the numbers of people in training for this profession by 62 per cent., since 1999 to 2000.

Tattoos

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost to NHS trusts of removing tattoos in 2005-06; and if she will make a statement. [83463]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected centrally.

Thrombosis

John Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the Healthcare Commission on including thrombosis as a measurable indicator in annual hospital checks; and if she will make a statement. [81888]

Andy Burnham: The Government response to the House of Commons Health Committee Report on the prevention of venous thromboembolism (VTE) in hospitalised patients was presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Health in July 2005. The

response included a commitment to set up an independent expert working group which would make its recommendations by summer 2006, and that once the expert group had assessed the current guidance on VTE, the Department would ask that the Healthcare Commission look to seek conformity with this good practice.

The Department expects the report of the independent expert working group to be presented to the Chief Medical Officer shortly.

Top-slicing System

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which health trusts have received *(a)* a reduction and *(b)* an increase in funding under the top slicing system in 2006-07. [83366]

Andy Burnham: To date there have been no reductions or increases in funding relating to the transfer of surpluses between primary care trusts and strategic health authority (SHA) reserves in the 2006-07 financial year. The total planned transfers from primary care trusts to SHA reserves for 2006-07 have yet to be finalised.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the sum taken from North East Lincolnshire primary care trust under the top slicing system will be reimbursed. [83367]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Planned transfers from primary care trusts to strategic health authority reserves for 2006-07 have yet to be finalised.

Treatment Centres

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many untoward incidents there have been at independent sector treatment centres in the last five years, broken down by *(a)* specialty and *(b)* strategic health authority region. [81159]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As of 28 June 2006, 144 incidents had been reported to the Department by wave one independent sector treatment centre providers. Incidents are not collected centrally either by specialty or by strategic health authority. In addition to reporting incidents to the Department, providers are also required to report events to the Healthcare Commission under section 28 of the national minimum standards regulations.

Tuberculosis Inoculation (Schools)

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts provide tuberculosis inoculation in schools within their area. [83838]

Caroline Flint: This information is not held centrally by the Department.

Waiting Times/Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)*(i) mean waiting time and (ii) median waiting time as provided by data drawn from the hospital episode statistics and *(b)*(i) commissioner-based mean waiting time and (ii) commissioner-based median waiting time as provided by NHS organisations' monthly returns to her Department were in each year since 1988. [84016]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is shown in the table.

Inpatient mean and medians in weeks from 1988

	Korner aggregate returns (stock)				*Hospital episode statistics (flow)*	
	Median		*Mean*		*Median*	*Mean*
Year ending March each year	*Provider*	*Commissioner*	*Provider*	*Commissioner*	*Provider*	*Provider*
1988	21.7	—	28.9	—	n/a	n/a
1989	22.2	—	29.2	—	n/a	n/a
1990	20.5	—	27.7	—	5.0	12.9
1991	19.2	—	25.8	—	5.1	13.7
1992	13.9	—	20.4	—	5.6	14.5
1993	13.8	—	19.6	—	5.6	12.8
1994	—	14.4	—	20.2	5.9	13.0
1995	—	12.5	—	17.8	6.1	12.9
1996	—	11.8	—	15.9	6.0	12.6
1997	—	13.2	—	18.1	5.7	11.8
1998	—	14.9	—	20.0	5.9	12.8
1999	—	12.9	—	18.6	6.4	14.1
2000	—	12.9	—	18.7	6.1	12.9
2001	—	12.6	—	18.1	6.3	13.3
2002	—	12.7	—	17.4	6.7	13.7
2003	—	11.9	—	15.6	7.0	14.1
2004	—	10.2	—	12.4	7.1	13.6

Inpatient mean and medians in weeks from 1988

	Korner aggregate returns (stock)				Hospital episode statistics (flow)	
	Median		Mean		Median	Mean
Year ending March each year	Provider	Commissioner	Provider	Commissioner	Provider	Provider
2005	—	8.5	—	10.6	7.4	12.0
2006	—	7.3	—	8.7	n/a	n/a

Notes:
Provider based data only available prior to 1994 from Korner returns. HES figures relate to patients admitted during financial year ending March. First collected in 1989-90 Korner figures relate to numbers waiting as at 31 March.
Source:
KH07/QF01 returns, HES

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* mean and *(b)* median waiting time was for an (i) in-patient and (ii) out-patient appointment in each year since 1990, broken down by region. [78015]

Andy Burnham: Data on the median and mean waiting time, broken down by strategic health authority have been placed in the Library.

The Department does not hold information on median and mean waits on an equivalent commissioner basis prior to 1995 for inpatients and 1997 for outpatients.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time to be seen by a consultant was for people in *(a)* Yeovil constituency, *(b)* Somerset, *(c)* the South West and *(d)* England in 2005-06, broken down by clinical conditions. [83389]

Andy Burnham: Median waiting times as at 31 March 2006 by consultant specialty have been placed in the Library. Data are provided for South Somerset Primary Care Trust (PCT) (which includes Yeovil), PCTs in Somerset, and strategic health authorities in the South West.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are on waiting lists for *(a)* heart, *(b)* lung, *(c)* liver and *(d)* kidney operations in Yeovil constituency NHS hospitals. [83811]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available in the format requested. However, as waiting times information is collected by speciality, the number of people waiting for cardiothoracic surgery and urology in the South Somerset Primary Care Trust (PCT) area is shown in the following table. Figures are for March 2006.

South Somerset PCT

	Number
Cardiothoracic surgery	27
Urology	112
All specialities	1,752

Wasp/Bee Stings

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* received hospital treatment for and *(b)* died as a result of wasp and bee stings in each of the last five years. [71618]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the following tables. It is not possible directly to compare the two sets of data as one relates to calendar years while the other relates to financial years.

Number of finished consultant episodes and estimated numbers of hospital patients admitted due to contact with hornets, wasps or bees in England

Financial year	Total episodes	Total patients
2000-01	597	546
2001-02	373	340
2002-03	484	443
2003-04	458	369
2004-05	949	843

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care, using hospital episode statistics data, ICD-10 cause code X23.

Deaths from accidental contact with hornets, wasps or bees in England

Calendar year	Number
2000	2
2001	1
2002	2
2003	3
2004	8

Source:
Office for National Statistics, using ICD-9 cause code E905.3 for the year 2000 and ICD-10 cause code X23 from 2001 onwards.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85198]

Mr. Hain: From the beginning of the current parliamentary Session to 10 July 2006, 6,874 parliamentary questions have been tabled to my Department. On that date 174 of these were awaiting reply; 30 are unanswered between two and three weeks of tabling and 80 unanswered in over three weeks.

Of those over three weeks old on 10 July, most were tabled in June and many will now have been answered.

Delays in answering parliamentary questions can occur for a variety of reasons, from complications arising from the need to request information from external agencies and organisations to pressures on staff when dealing with such a large volume.

The Northern Ireland Office aims to ensure that Members receive a substantive response to their named day question on the named day and to endeavour to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of being tabled. Unfortunately, this is not always possible but my Department makes every effort to achieve these time scales.

Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what factors underlay the decision to withdraw funding from the Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre in Belfast; and if he will make a statement. [84926]

Paul Goggins: The Government are committed to funding quality services which provide the best possible support for victims of rape and sexual violence in Northern Ireland. The latest financial verification report on the Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre (NI) Ltd. indicates that the organisation is still failing to comply with the terms and conditions to which its funding is subject. This funding will be directed into quality services for victims of rape and sexual violence.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 14 July 2006

PRIME MINISTER

Oxfordshire Coroner

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials held with the Oxfordshire Coroner between 17 July 2003 and 31 March 2004. [85519]

The Prime Minister: None.

Party Funding

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Prime Minister when he last had discussions with his Special Envoy to the Middle East on matters relating to party funding; and if he will make a statement. [85416]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

TRANSPORT

A21

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made a decision on the proposed A21 upgrade; and if he will make a statement. [84872]

Dr. Ladyman: We announced on 6 July our response to the advice from the South East region about its major scheme priorities to 2011. As part of this, we have accepted the region's advice to include the A21 Tonbridge Bypass to Pembury Dualling, the A21 Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst Bypass and the A21 Baldslow Junction Improvement within the programme of schemes that we expect to be taken forward in the South East in the next five years, subject to the completion of all necessary statutory procedures and compliance with the Department's scheme appraisal requirements. The Tonbridge Bypass to Pembury and Kippings Cross to Lamberhurst schemes are already included in the Highways Agency's Targeted Programme of Improvements (TPI). The Highways Agency will be developing the Baldslow Junction Improvement scheme so that it can be considered for entry into the TPI in due course. Further advice from the South East region is expected later this year on its priorities for other major schemes in the period up to 2015-16, including other improvements on the A21.

Aircraft Carbon Emissions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the carbon emissions of *(a)* a typical short haul aircraft flying 1,000 miles and *(b)* a typical long haul aircraft flying 3,000 miles; what assessment he has made of the extent to which such emissions vary according to (i) load factors and (ii) the generation of the aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [84111]

Gillian Merron: In the context of the international debate on aircraft emissions control, the Government have supported research on inventories—the EC AERO2K project—that yield fuel consumption information. Average carbon emissions for typical journeys have not been specifically calculated, but are possible future outputs from inventory work alongside aircraft performance modelling.

Airports

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of people who took *(a)* no, *(b)* one, *(c)* two, *(d)* three or four and *(e)* five or more single or return flights (i) in total, (ii) to UK destinations, (iii) to European destinations and (iv) to worldwide destinations in the last 12 months, broken down by (A) income quintile and (B) classification of residential neighbourhoods. [84443]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows the number of flights in percentage terms taken by adults in Great Britain during the last 12 months (2005). Data are not available by income quintile, but in five broad bands as shown.

Data are not available by destination or broken down by classification of residential neighbourhoods.

Percentage

	Household income group					
Number of flights in last 12 months	*Under £10,000*	*£10,000 but under £20,000*	*£20,000 but under £29,000*	*£29,000 but under £44,000*	*£44,000 or more*	*All respondents*
None	74	64	42	38	20	48
One	15	12	21	18	16	16
Two	6	14	20	15	18	16
Three or four	4	4	13	12	21	10

Percentage

Number of flights in last 12 months	*Household income group*					
	Under £10,000	*£10,000 but under £20,000*	*£20,000 but under £29,000*	*£29,000 but under £44,000*	*£44,000 or more*	*All respondents*
Five or more	1	5	4	16	24	10
	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sample size	232	231	136	161	187	1,100

Source:
"2005 British Social Attitudes Survey" conducted by the National Centre for Social Research.
Question: How many trips did you make by plane during the last 12 months. Please count outward and return flights and any transfers as one trip.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the cost to the economy of delays of aircraft *(a)* take-off and *(b)* landing in 2005-06. [84445]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held by the Department.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average delay was for a passenger using *(a)* all UK airports and *(b)* each UK airport in each of the last five years. [84446]

Gillian Merron: Information on punctuality for 10 UK airports is collected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Table 2.3 of the DfT publication 'Transport Statistics Great Britain' summarises the CAA data for the years 1994-2004.

The latest available data (2002-Q1 2006) for each of the reporting airports for is published on the CAA website in 'news articles' at the following address:

http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/14/PN2506Quarter.pdf

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what guidelines are in place on the degree of glide slope for commercial and cargo planes when making an approach to land at each airport in Great Britain; [84424]

(2) what international guidelines are in place on the degree of glide slope for commercial and cargo planes when making an approach to land at an airport. [84425]

Gillian Merron: International guidance on the approach gradient and glide-path angle is published by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) (ICAO Pans Ops DOC 8168). In designing policy and guidance, applicable at all airports in Great Britain, the Civil Aviation Authority follows this international guidance.

Approach procedures categorise aircraft by their approach speeds and not by the purpose of the flight. The guidance sets out minimum/optimum descent gradients for standard procedures but acknowledges that there may be occasions where steeper approaches might be necessary. Such procedures are normally restricted to specifically approved operators and aircraft.

UK specific information on instrument approaches to UK aerodromes is published in the Civil Aviation Publication 32 (CAP32), the UK Aeronautical Information Publication. This publication contains approach charts for each specific licensed aerodrome which include, among other matters, information on minimum safe altitudes and minimum descent heights.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers used UK airports in *(a)* total and *(b)* broken down by airport in each of the last five years. [84447]

Gillian Merron: Information on terminal (arriving and departing) passengers at each UK airport is published by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and available on their website at the following address:

http://www.caa.co.uk/docs/80/airport_data/2005Annual/Table_10_3_Terminal_Pax_1995_2005.pdf

Bus Services

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* rural and *(b)* urban households which have access to a regular bus service. [85129]

Gillian Merron: The data requested are published in Table 5.9 in the Transport Statistics Bulletin 'National Travel Survey: 2004'. This publication is available at www.dft.gov.uk/transtat/personaltravel and a copy has also been deposited in the House of Commons Library.

Car Clubs

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many areas have car clubs; how many cars each has available; and what public funding each receives. [84501]

Gillian Merron: Information about car clubs is published on the CarPlus website at www.carplus.org.uk. According to this, there are 30 car clubs, with a total of 345 cars covering 40 towns and cities, and 9,124 users.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* the Cabinet Office regarding the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if he will make a statement. [82844]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State for Transport has had and will continue to have wide ranging and regular discussions with the Chief Secretary about preparations for the 2007 comprehensive spending review, as a matter of key importance to the Department for Transport's medium and long-term planning.

Disabled People (Blue Badge Scheme)

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of the recommendations of the Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee's review of the blue badge scheme which were accepted by the Department have been implemented; and if he will make a statement on progress towards those accepted recommendations which have yet to be implemented. [84348]

Gillian Merron: DPTAC made 47 recommendations about the blue badge scheme. Of those that were accepted, five required no further action. Provision for a power to inspect blue badges has been made through Section 94 of the Traffic Management Act 2004. The Commencement Order was made on 29 June 2006 with an implementation date of 29 September 2006.

Research is being carried out into the feasibility of setting up a national database of blue badge holders; the independent mobility needs of certain groups of people, such as those with autism or mental health problems, to determine whether there is a need for extending the eligibility for a badge; and examining the provision and use of parking spaces for disabled people in the central London area.

Work continues on the remaining recommendations. These include a number that require changes to regulations (such as extending the scheme to children under the age of two and those with temporary mobility impairments) and we will consult on a draft regulatory package later this year which will address 23 of the remaining recommendations.

Social Exclusion

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research has been conducted since 2001 by or for his Department on the links between social exclusion and transport. [84688]

Gillian Merron: The Department contributed to the Social Exclusion Unit's research into the links between transport and social exclusion ('Making the Connections', published in 2003). Accessibility planning was introduced as a result of this report, and we have taken forward a programme of further research, in liaison with other Government Departments and local authorities, to inform its development and implementation. Details of the projects conducted, and associated published reports, are on the Department's website at www.accessibilityplanning.gov.uk.

Since 2001 the Department has been funding a research project implementing 103 child pedestrian training schemes ('Kerbcraft') in 64 English local authorities in areas of deprivation. Last year the Department published the research findings into understanding community severance. The Department is currently examining the extent that voluntary and community transport contributes to reducing social exclusion, and is examining travel training schemes to improve socially excluded people's awareness of and ability to access public transport safely and independently.

The Department has two research projects in progress, findings from which will be available by the end of the year. 'Understanding the travel choices, needs, behaviours and aspirations of people in later life' is a qualitative study involving 55 depth interviews with a range of older people. As a part of this study, older people have been asked about whether they have any transport-related barriers to accessing key services and social activities. In addition, a small-scale analysis of survey data on the links between fear of crime, travel choices and social exclusion is also in progress.

The Department is also about to complete a piece of work with the Plunkett Foundation and the Community Transport Association to look at the role of social enterprise in community transport. This will include a programme of work to support those community transport operators interested in becoming more self-sustaining.

The Dealing with Disadvantage initiative was launched in October 2002, and subsequently renamed the Neighbourhood Road Safety Initiative (NRSI). DfT allocated approximately £17 million to 15 local authorities to develop innovative strategies to improve road safety in their most deprived wards. The NRSI was originally envisaged to run until March 2006, but this has been extended and central government funding will now end in March 2007. The NRSI evaluation was commissioned in January 2004 from a consortium led by University College London. The evaluation is due to be completed in October 2008.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what changes in *(a)* legislation and *(b)* guidance issued by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies there have been since the publication of the Department's report on social exclusion and the provision and availability of public transport in 2000; [84689]

(2) what changes in *(a)* legislation and *(b)* guidance issued by his Department or its agencies there have been since the publication of 'Making the Connections' final report on transport and social exclusion by the social exclusion unit in 2003. [84690]

Gillian Merron: A number of measures have been taken:

Accessibility planning

Guidance on Local Transport Plans (LTPs), issued in December 2004, required authorities to incorporate accessibility strategies in their second-round LTPs, which were submitted to the Department at the end of March 2006 and cover the period to 2010-11. At the same time, the Department published and distributed detailed guidance to local authorities on accessibility planning in LTPs.

Flexible services and the voluntary sector

In 2002, Bus Service Operators Grant (BSOG) was extended to a wide range of community transport (voluntary sector) services.

In 2002 the Department published and distributed guidance on flexible transport services, setting out the options available under current legislation.

Regulations on bus service registration were amended in February 2004 to allow "flexibly routed" and "demand responsive" bus services to be registered. At the same time these services were made eligible to receive BSOG.

Between 1998 and 2003, the rural and urban bus challenge grant schemes supported many new, innovative services aimed at improving social inclusion and accessibility.

Other Bus Initiatives

A good practice guide to assist local authorities and operators engaged in the tendering of local bus services in England was published by the Department in February 2005.

The local concessionary bus fare scheme has been extended to around one million men aged 60-64; from April 2006, off-peak local bus travel became free for older and disabled people in England; and from April 2008, a national concessionary fares scheme will be introduced for older and disabled people in England, to offer free off-peak travel on buses anywhere in the country.

Road safety

The Neighbourhood Road Safety Initiative is funding 15 councils with high child pedestrian casualty rates to deliver improvements across their deprived communities; and a research project implementing 103 child pedestrian training schemes ('Kerbcraft') in 64 English local authorities in areas of deprivation is currently being funded.

Guidance on 'Tackling the road safety implications of disadvantage' was issued at the beginning of April 2003, to all English local highway authorities.

Speed Limits

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he will publish revised guidance on Quiet Lanes following the consultation exercises conducted by his Department. [84371]

Gillian Merron: It is intended to publish the guidance as a Department for Transport circular this summer, following the publication of regulations.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Contingency Planning

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what legal measures the Government have in place to intervene in *(a)* private and *(b)* public sectors should a catastrophic breakdown of computer systems occur. [83461]

Mr. McFadden: Part 2 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 provides the Government with a last resort mechanism for making rapid temporary legislation (emergency regulations) for dealing with the effects of the most serious emergencies where existing legislation is not sufficient. This could include measures to intervene in the event of a catastrophic breakdown of private or public sector computer systems.

The Government expect all organisations forming part of the Critical National Infrastructure to have in place effective business continuity management arrangements.

Ministerial Meetings

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what meetings were held between *(a)* the Minister for the Cabinet Office and *(b)* Cabinet Office officials and the Oxfordshire Coroner between 17 July 2003 and 31 March 2004. [85521]

Hilary Armstrong: No meetings were held between the Minister for the Cabinet Office or Cabinet Office officials and the Oxfordshire Coroner between 17 July 2003 and 31 March 2004.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Veterinary Science (Hungary)

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support is available in the form of student loans for UK students studying veterinary science degrees in Hungary. [85451]

Bill Rammell: Student support is not available to higher education students who are studying courses provided wholly by overseas institutions. However, support is available to eligible students who spend a year studying abroad as part of a course offered by an institution in the United Kingdom.

As a European Union national studying in another member state, a United Kingdom national who chooses to study at a Hungarian University should pay the same fees, and be entitled to the same financial assistance towards them, as a Hungarian student. Any support for living costs would be a matter for the Hungarian authorities.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casinos

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport who the members are of the Casino Advisory Panel; and with which towns and cities they are associated through their employment. [84131]

Mr. Caborn: The members of the Casino Advisory Panel have all completed a register of interests, copies of which are available on request from the panel secretary. The panel has in place a robust system for managing any real or perceived conflicts of interest. Panel members have taken no part in the assessment of proposals from any areas with which they have a

particular connection. The areas with which panel members have declared interests—whether personal or through employment—are set out in the table.

Panel member	*Areas*
Stephen Crow (Chair)	Bath and NE Somerset, Cardiff
Chris Collison	Mansfield, Manchester
James Froomberg	Significant connections: Brent, Falkirk, Manchester, Solihull, West Dunbartonshire, Wolverhampton. Minor connections: Glasgow, Greenwich, Hull, Middlesbrough, Milton Keynes, Sefton, Sheffield, Wakefield.
Neil Mundy	Middlesbrough, Newcastle, South Tyneside, Sunderland.
Deep Sagar	Glasgow.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures have been taken to ensure that the decision-making process of the Casino Advisory Panel is transparent and objective. [84132]

Mr. Caborn: The Casino Advisory Panel is required to operate within a Framework Document and Code of Practice, which have been agreed with the Secretary of State and copies of which are available on the Casino Advisory Panel website www.culture.gov.uk/CAP.

The panel is required to provide reports to the Secretary of State at key points as it develops its recommendations. The purpose of these reports is for the panel to keep the Secretary of State in touch with its progress, and to assure the Secretary of State that the work methods the panel is adopting will result in robust and legally sustainable recommendations.

The first two such progress reports have been published on the panel's website.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport why the Casino Advisory Panel has not kept minutes of its meetings since it was formed. [84133]

Mr. Caborn: The panel has kept minutes of all of its meetings.

Once the minutes have been agreed by the panel, copies are published on its website www.culture.gov.uk/CAP.

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if the Government will instruct the Casino Advisory Panel to reopen the shortlisting process for the allocation of casino licences. [84357]

Mr. Caborn: No. The Casino Advisory Panel operates entirely independently of Government, and it is due to make its final recommendations to Ministers by the end of 2006.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what previous connections there have been between members of the Casino Advisory Panel and the Department. [84484]

Mr. Caborn: Professor Stephen Crow had no connections with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport prior to his appointment as Chair of the Casino Advisory Panel. I met Professor Crow on one occasion when I was a Minister at the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions.

Chris Collison had no previous connections with the Department prior to his appointment as a member of the panel. However, as a consultant with the London borough of Waltham Forest he represented that council on the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics Joint Planning Advisory Team.

James Froomberg made submissions to the gambling review body, which reported to the Department, on behalf of the greyhound racing industry. As a Director of Business in Sport and Leisure (BISL) and a member of BISL's gambling sub-group, until 2003 he was a member of a DCMS industry liaison group on behalf of the broader gambling industry. As Commercial Director of British Waterways, he has had a minor involvement in that company's Olympics related activities.

As director of finance and subsequently chief executive at Tyne and Wear Development Corporation up to 1998, Neil Mundy was involved in a project funded by the Millennium Commission.

Deep Sagar had no previous connections with DCMS prior to his appointment as a member of the panel.

Command Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the unnumbered Command Papers produced by her Department in each session since 1976; by what means *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public can (i) inspect and (ii) obtain copies; and if she will make a statement. [81275]

Mr. Lammy: Documents which are laid before Parliament as unnumbered Command Papers are generally restricted to Explanatory Notes to Treaties, Explanatory Memorandum to Statutory Instruments and some Treasury Minutes. All other documents are published in the numbered Command Papers series.

I have deposited in the Library a list of those unnumbered Command Papers published since 1998—the date at which the Department's searchable records begin. To go back further would entail disproportionate cost.

Copies of all unnumbered Command Papers are made available via the Vote Office.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City Regions Programme

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any funding for the city regions programme will be redirected from rural projects. [80189]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have no plans or intention to do so.

Council Tax

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to increase council tax collection rates; and if she will make a statement. [85584]

Mr. Woolas: Council tax collection rates improved for the sixth successive year in 2005-06 with 96.8 per cent. of tax due collected in-year. Local authorities also collected another £380 million of tax owing from previous years in 2005-06.

This improvement follows an earlier joint initiative between Government and the Local Government Association to help councils improve their collection rates. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister funded, through the local government e-innovations programme, a service for the exchange of data on council tax payers who move between authorities and an interactive council tax collection best practice guide

Councillors (Vexatious Complaints)

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what consideration has been given to providing councillors subjected to vexatious and malicious reporting to the Standards Board for England with means of redress; [84099]

(2) if she will bring forward measures to tackle the abuse of the procedures of the Standards Board for England by vexatious complainants; and if she will make a statement. [84310]

Mr. Woolas: The procedure whereby, before any investigation begins, the Standards Board seeks to filter out allegations without merit is the principal guard against vexatious and malicious reporting. The Board's current performance target is to filter out any such cases within 10 working days of receiving an allegation, and the Board's current track record on this is nine working days.

Following its review of the code of conduct, the Standards Board proposed that the current requirement in the code to report to the Board any breach of the code by other members should be deleted. This amendment would reduce the encouragement some feel this provision gives to the reporting of trivial or vexatious complaints by members. We intend to consult on a draft revised code of conduct for local authority members later this year, to include this proposal.

Local Government Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much block grant was paid to each local authority in England in the most recent year for which figures are available, expressed as *(a)* a total amount and *(b)* per capita. [85508]

Mr. Woolas: A table has been placed in the Libraries of the House showing the amount of formula grant allocated to each authority in 2006-07, its mid-2006 population projection and its formula grant per head, i.e. its formula grant divided by its mid-2006 population projection. Formula grant comprises Revenue Support Grant, redistributed business rates and principal formula Police Grant.

Small Businesses

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make small business rate relief automatic for all eligible small firms. [85652]

Mr. Woolas: We have recently published a consultation paper seeking views on proposals to relax the requirement for ratepayers to make an application for small business rate relief every year. The aim is to enable ratepayers to make just one application for relief between the five-year revaluations of non-domestic rateable values, provided the circumstances relating to the initial application remain unchanged. Comments are invited on the proposals in the consultation paper by 28 July.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's budget was for publicising small business rate relief in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [85653]

Mr. Woolas: There was no specific budget to publicise the small business rate relief scheme as it was included in the general publicity campaign for the revaluation of non-domestic properties that took effect from April 2005.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the take-up rate of small business rate relief in each year since its introduction; and what the estimated cost is in each year. [85655]

Mr. Woolas: On the basis of returns completed by local authorities before the start of each financial year, an estimated £390 million is expected to be claimed in small business rate relief for 2005-06 and £224 million for 2006-07. Applications for small business rate relief may be made up to six months after the end of the financial year to which the application relates, or six months from notification of an alteration to a rateable value that makes the hereditament eligible for relief. Details of the amount actually claimed for 2005-06 are not yet available.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been raised by the larger business rate multiplier on medium and large firms to fund small business rate relief in each year since its introduction. [85706]

Mr. Woolas: On the basis of returns completed by local authorities before the start of each financial year, an estimated £355 million is expected to be raised from those businesses not eligible for the relief for 2005-06 and an estimated £316 million for 2006-07. Details of the amount actually raised from those businesses for 2005-06 are not yet available.

The annual adjustment of the non-domestic rating multipliers provides the opportunity to address any difference between the amount of small business rate relief granted to qualifying properties and the amount raised from those businesses not eligible for the relief.

TREASURY

Cancer and Stroke Deaths

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the most recent rate of *(a)* cancers and *(b)* stroke was in (i) Gateshead, East and Washington, West, (ii) the North East and (iii) England. [84678]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the most recent rate is of (a) cancers and (b) stroke was in (i) Gateshead, East and Washington, West, (ii) the North East and (iii) England. (84678)

(a) Cancers—incidence

The latest available rates for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2003. Incidence rates are not available centrally for parliamentary constituencies.

Registration rates per 100,000 population, by site and sex, for (ii) the North East and (iii) England for the year 2003 are available in Table 5 of the Annual Reference Volume, Cancer statistics: Registrations, Series MB1. These are available on the National Statistics website:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=1&ColRank=2&Rank=272

Cancer incidence rates for all malignant cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer (nmsc) for 2003 are given in Table 1 below for (i) Gateshead and Sunderland, (ii) the North East and (iii) England

(b) Stroke—incidence

There is no complete register of stroke cases. Information is available centrally on emergency admission to hospital from the NHS Hospital Episode System (HES), and on death registrations.

Figures on emergency admissions to hospital for strokes can be found on the Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base website: http://www.nchod.nhs.uk/ (Table reference numbers: 10C_5281SR7CM_04-V2 (males) 10C_5281SR7CF_04-V2 (females)). Figures are available for England, Government Office Regions, Strategic Health Authorities, Local Authorities and Primary Care Organisations. The latest year for which data are available is for the financial year 2003/04.

(c) Cancers and Stroke—mortality

Mortality rates for parliamentary constituencies cannot be provided because population estimates are not available for these areas. Figures in Table 2 below are provided for the local authorities making up the requested constituency.

The introduction of ICD-10 for coding cause of death in England and Wales in 2001 means that data for cancer are not completely comparable with data for years before this date.

The effect of the change in classification in 2001 on deaths from these causes is described in a report published in May 2002: "Office for National Statistics. Results of the ICD-10 bridge coding study, England and Wales, 1999. Health Statistics Quarterly 14 (2002), 75-83".

Table 1—Incidence rates[1] per million population for all malignant cancers[2] registered in Gateshead and Sunderland local authorities, the North East Government office region and England, 2003

	All cancers excluding nmsc
Gateshead	4,131
Sunderland	3,927
North East	3,941
England	3,572

[1] Rates per million population standardised to the European Standard Population.
[2] 'All malignant cancers' are defined by codes C00-C97 excluding non-melanoma skin cancer code C44 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10).
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2—Death rates[1] for cancer and stroke[2] for the local authorities of Gateshead and Sunderland, the North East Government office region and England[3],2004[4]

	Cancer	*Stroke*
Gateshead	2,032	618
Sunderland	1,995	727
North East	2,074	646
England	1,793	573

[1] Rates per 1,000,000 population standardised to the European Standard Population.
[2] The cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), 2004. The codes used are: "Cancer—ICD10 C00-C97 & Stroke—ICD10 160-169". Deaths were selected using the original underlying cause.
[3] Usual residents of this area. The local authority of Gateshead comprises part of Gateshead, East and Washington, West constituency, the whole of Blaydon constituency plus parts of Jarrow and Tyne Bridge constituencies. The local authority of Sunderland comprises part of Gateshead, East and Washington, West constituency plus the whole of Houghton and Washington, East Sunderland, North and Sunderland, South constituencies.
[4] Deaths registered in this year.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Comprehensive Spending Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to publish the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if he will make a statement. [82847]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to what the Chancellor of the Exchequer said on the Floor of the House yesterday.

Corporation Tax

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what annual average amount of additional tax is expected to be paid as a consequence of the removal of the 0 per cent. starting rate of corporation tax by *(a)* the 720,000 companies expected to be affected by this change and *(b)* the 870,000 companies which make less than £10,000 annual profit. [70757]

John Healey *[holding answer 12 May 2006]:* The annual median increase for the 720,000 companies affected is given in the Budget 2006 Regulatory Impact Assessment (paragraph 1.23). http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ria/ria-corporation-tax.pdf. There are 370,000 companies with annual profits of up to £10,000, and their increase is included in the above.

Data Protection

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1620W, on data protection, whether all redactions made to documents in the case of subject access requests to HM Revenue and Customs are effected by the central team rather than within the sub-offices. [84938]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* All redactions made to documents in the case of subject access requests are made by the officer holding the data before it is forwarded to the central team. Any appeal against the non-disclosure of data as a result of redaction is considered by the central team.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the proceeds were from the sale of assets of his Department in each of the last five financial years. [84707]

John Healey: The proceeds from the sale of assets are disclosed in the Department's Resource Accounts, specifically the Cash Flow Statement's supporting notes. These can be found on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/resourceaccounts/resource accounts_index.cfm

The 2005-06 Accounts were laid on 29 June 2006, are due to be published by 18 July 2006 and will be available on the website by the end of July 2006.

Environmental Investment Allowance

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies have qualified for the 100 per cent. first-year investment allowance for moving from environmentally unfriendly to environmentally friendly technologies and processes in each year since 1999. [84818]

John Healey: All businesses can claim 100 per cent. enhanced capital allowances (EGA) on their qualifying spending on designated energy-saving (introduced in 2001) and water efficient (introduced in 2003) technologies and low carbon dioxide emission cars (introduced in 2002).

The total number of companies that ticked a box on their Corporation Tax returns to show a claim to EGAs is detailed as follows:

	Number of companies claiming EGAs on their corporation tax return form[1]
2001-02	60
2002-03	848
2003-04	1,549
2004-05[2]	1,754

[1] These numbers do not include claims to capital allowances made or amended after a company has sent in its corporation tax return for (CT600).
[2] Information for 2004-05 is not yet complete.
Note:
There are three EGA schemes for i) energy-saving technology, ii) low carbon dioxide emission cars and natural gas and hydrogen refuelling equipment and iii) water-efficient technology.

HM Revenue and Customs

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value was of contraband seized by HM Customs and Revenue in Wales in each year since 2003. [84593]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 11 July 2006]:* The estimated value of goods seized by HM Revenue and Customs in Wales since 2003 is:

	Total (£)
2003-04	850,598
2004-05	703,627

These figures do not include any vehicles that may have been used to transport the goods and which may have been seized. Nor do they include any VAT or duty due on the goods.

Figures for 2005-06 have not yet been published.

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when decisions are expected to be made about the long-term future of the HM Revenue and Customs office in Kendal; who will make those decisions; and what options are being considered. [84844]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) have no current plans to alter their presence in Kendal.

Decisions about how and where HMRC work is carried out are taken by the Board of HMRC in consultation with Treasury Ministers.

Income Tax

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many income tax payers in each London borough had an annual income of less than £7,185. [83680]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of income tax payers in each London borough with total annual income of less than £7,185 is set out in the following table.

London borough	*Number of taxpayers with total annual income less than £7,185 in 2003-04 (Thousand)*	*95 per cent. confidence interval lower limit (Thousand)*	*95 per cent. confidence interval upper limit (Thousand)*
Barking and Dagenham	7	5	9
Barnet	11	9	14
Bexley	9	6	11
Brent	13	11	16
Bromley	11	8	13

London borough	Number of taxpayers with total annual income less than £7,185 in 2003-04 (Thousand)	95 per cent. confidence interval lower limit (Thousand)	95 per cent. confidence interval upper limit (Thousand)
Camden	9	7	12
City of London[1]	—	—	—
Croydon	14	12	17
Ealing	13	11	16
Enfield	11	9	14
Greenwich	10	8	12
Hackney	10	7	12
Hammersmith and Fulham	9	7	11
Haringey	12	10	15
Harrow	9	7	11
Havering	13	10	15
Hillingdon	9	7	11
Hounslow	10	8	12
Islington	8	6	10
Kensington and Chelsea	6	4	8
Kingston upon Thames	7	5	9
Lambeth	11	8	13
Lewisham	13	10	15
Merton	7	5	8
Newham	14	11	17
Redbridge	13	10	16
Richmond upon Thames[1]	—	—	—
Southwark	11	9	14
Sutton	8	6	10
Tower Hamlets	9	7	12
Waltham Forest	11	9	14
Wandsworth	10	7	12
Westminster	7	5	9

[1]Sample size too small to provide a reliable estimate.

These estimates have been obtained from the Survey of Personal Incomes 2003-04 and are the latest available.

Confidence intervals have been provided due to small sample sizes. A 95 per cent. confidence interval means that if we were to take repeated samples, then 95 per cent. of the time the number of taxpayers with total income less than £7,185 per annum, would be between the lower and upper confidence interval ranges indicated in the table.

Pensioner Deaths

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of pensioners in whose death *(a)* subnormal body temperature or hypothermia and *(b)* malnutrition or deprivation of food was a primary cause in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [84621]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 13 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the number of pensioners in whose death (a) subnormal body temperature or hypothermia and (b) malnutrition or deprivation of food was a primary cause in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas. I am replying in her absence. (84621)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2004.

Most routine mortality statistics are based on a single cause for each death, the underlying cause of death which is defined by the World Health Organisation as:

(a) the disease which initiated the train of events directly leading to death; or

(b) the circumstances of the accident or violence which produced the fatal injury.

Hypothermia and deprivation of food can never be the underlying cause of death according to this definition. However, figures are available for deaths where hypothermia or 'effects of hunger' were mentioned on the death certificate.

Information is available on deaths where malnutrition was the underlying cause of death.

Table 1 below shows the number of deaths where the underlying cause was malnutrition, and Table 2 shows the number of deaths where hypothermia or 'effects of hunger' were mentioned on the death certificate, excluding those deaths mentioning 'effects of hunger' where malnutrition was the underlying cause. Figures are for deaths occurring in each year from 1997 to 2004. As retirement age differs for males and females, tables are provided separately for deaths of women aged 60 and over and men aged 65 and over.

A breakdown of the figures requested by rural and non-rural areas is not available.

Table 1: Number of deaths where malnutrition[1] was the underlying cause of death, men and women of pensionable age, England and Wales, 1997 to 2004[2]

	Men aged 65 and over	Women aged 60 and over
1997	15	28
1998	13	31
1999	12	23
2000	15	18
2001	18	30
2002	23	30
2003	19	38
2004	14	29

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-263 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 from 2001 onwards.
[2] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

Table 2: Number of deaths where hypothermia[1] or 'effects of hunger'[2] was mentioned on the death certificate, men and women of pensionable age, England and Wales, 1997 to 2004[3]

	Hypothermia		'Effects of hunger'	
	Men aged 65 and over	Women aged 60 and over	Men aged 65 and over	Women aged 60 and over
1997	114	184	0	4
1998	103	184	2	0
1999	96	162	0	1
2000	89	164	0	5
2001	79	121	0	0
2002	50	81	2	1
2003	42	98	1	0
2004	48	77	1	2

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes N991.6 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes T68 from 2001 onwards.
[2] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes N994.2 for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes T73.0 from 2001 onwards, excluding deaths where the underlying cause was malnutrition.
[3] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

Personal Debt

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total amount of personal debt in the UK was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [82901]

(2) what the total amount of personal debt was for people aged between 16 and 24 in each year since 1997 in the UK; and if he will make a statement; [82902]

(3) how many and what proportion of personal debt is due to student loans for those aged between 18 and 29 years in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [82911]

(4) what the average amount of credit card debt per person aged between 16 and 24 years was in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [82913]

(5) what the average amount of unsecured debt has been for people aged between 16 and 24 years in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [82915]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions on personal debt in the UK. (82901, 82902, 82911, 82913 & 82915)

We are unable to provide levels of personal debt by age group and do not currently publish data on personal debt split by student loans or by credit card debt.

The available information is shown in the table below.

	Total personal debt[1] (end-year) (£ million)	Secured personal debt[2] (end-year) (£ million)	Unsecured personal debt[3] (end-year) (£ million)	Other debt[4] (end-year) (£ million)	Average unsecured personal debt[5] (end-year) (£ million)
1997	586,659	429,679	88,412	68,568	1,943
1998	625,134	455,901	97,404	71,829	2,133
1999	675,599	492,854	109,208	73,537	2,381
2000	734,790	534,066	124,323	76,401	2,696
2001	810,665	590,238	140,891	79,536	3,036
2002	923,144	669,390	157,748	96,006	3,378
2003	1,046,913	772,931	163,506	110,476	3,480
2004	1,172,032	875,852	183,390	112,790	3,875
2005	1,275,740	965,515	192,905	117,320	4,042

When using Table 64 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts (web link given below) the database identifiers are [1] NNPP, [2] NNRP, [3] NNRG and NNRK, [4] NNPP-NNRP-NNRG-NNRK [5] NNRG plus NNRK/MGSL.

Note:
For the denominator in the calculation for the average unsecured personal debt the series used is population aged 16 plus (database identifier MGSL).

The balance sheet for the household sector provides estimates of the total assets and liabilities held by households. These measures are produced and published only in cash terms. These are the only measures of household sector debt that the ONS publishes.

There is no standard approach to the presentation of debt information beyond the National Accounts. Some external users construct measures of debt as a share of income, as a guide to affordability. For example the Bank of England sometimes look at household debt as a share of gross households' disposable income. A time series of these figures is shown in the table below.

	Total personal debt[1] (end-year) as a percentage of gross disposable income	*Secured personal debt[2] (end-year) as a percentage of gross disposable income*	*Unsecured personal debt[3] (end-year) as a percentage of gross disposable income*
1997	104.8	76.7	15.8
1998	107.3	78.2	16.7
1999	110.9	80.9	17.9
2000	114.2	83.2	19.3
2001	118.1	86.0	20.5
2002	130.2	94.4	22.3
2003	141.4	104.4	22.1
2004	153.1	114.4	24.0
2005	159.3	120.6	24.1

When using Table 64 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts (web link given below) the database identifiers are [1] NNPP [2] NNRP [3] NNRG plus NNRK

Note:

For the denominator in the three calculations for debt as a proportion of gross household disposable income the database identifier is QWND. Table A38 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts (web link given below).

The estimates for total personal debt, secured personal debt and unsecured debt (households' total financial liabilities other than secured debt), are national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sectors. Estimates for households alone are not available. NPISHs are legal entities which are principally engaged in the production of non-market services for households and whose main resources are voluntary contributions by households. For example, charities; relief and aid organisations; educational establishments; trade unions; professional associations, political parties and religious organisations, and sports clubs and associations.

The estimate for gross disposable income is a national accounts series which represents the income available to the household sector in a given period for spending on goods and services, for saving or for investing.

Further data are available for household sector financial assets and liabilities from table A64 in United Kingdom Economic Accounts which is available at the following address: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average personal debt in (i) rural areas and (ii) non-rural areas was in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [84618]

(2) what the average personal *(a)* unsecured debt and *(b)* total debt was in (i) rural areas and (ii) non-rural areas as a percentage of income in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [84619]

(3) what the average personal *(a)* unsecured debt and *(b)* total debt was among those working in the agricultural sector in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [84620]

John Healey: The information falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 July 2006:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions on personal debt in the UK. (84618, 84619, 84620)

We are unable to provide levels of average personal debt by region or split by sector.

The available information is shown in the following tables.

The estimates of debt and income are national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sectors. Estimates for households alone are not available. NPISHs are legal entities which are principally engaged in the production of non-market services for households and whose main resources are voluntary contributions by households. Examples of NPISHs are: charities; relief and aid organisations; educational establishments; trade unions; professional associations, political parties and religious organisations, and sports clubs and associations.

Further data are available from table A64 in United Kingdom Economic Accounts which is available at the following address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

A. Levels of debt at end of year 1997-2005

£ million

	Total personal debt[1]	*Secured personal debt[2]*	*Personal debt[3]*	*Other Debt[4]*
1997	586,659	429,679	88,412	68,568
1998	625,134	455,901	97,404	71,829
1999	675,599	492,854	109,208	73,537
2000	734,790	534,066	124,323	76,401
2001	810,665	590,238	140,891	79,536
2002	923,144	669,390	157,748	96,006
2003	1,046,913	772,931	163,506	110,476
2004	1,172,032	875,852	183,390	112,790
2005	1,275,740	965,515	192,905	117,320

B. Average debt per head (population 16+), and as a percentage of income, at year end 1997-2005

	£			Percentage	
	Average personal Total debt[1]	*Average unsecured personal debt*[2]	*Average household disposable income*[3]	*Average total debt as a percentage of income*[4]	*Average unsecured debt as a percentage of income*[5]
1997	12,894	1943	12,307	104.8	15.8
1998	13,691	2133	12,763	107.2	16.7
1999	14,731	2381	13,279	110.9	17.9
2000	15,937	2696	13,955	114.2	19.3
2001	17,467	3036	14,787	118.1	20.5
2002	19,766	3378	15,182	130.2	22.3
2003	22,277	3479	15,755	141.4	22.1
2004	24,766	3875	16,180	153.1	24.0
2005	26,730	4042	16,781	159.3	24.1

When using Table 64 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts (web link as above) the database identifiers are;
[1] NNP
[2] NNRP
[3] NNRG + NNRK
[4] NNPP-NNRP-NNRG-NNRK
[5] NNPP/MGSL
[6] (NNRG+NNRK)/MGSL
[7] QWND/MGSL
[8] (NNPP/MGSL)/(QWND/MGSL)*100
[9] (NNRP/MGSL)/(QWND?MGSL)*100
Note:
For average per head figures, the denominator is population aged 16+ (MGSL)

Plastic Bags

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1743W, on plastic bags, if he will carry out a follow-up assessment to that carried out in December 2002 of the longer-term impact of the operation of the Irish plastic bag tax since its introduction in March 2002. [84520]

John Healey: There are no current plans to re-assess the Irish plastic bag tax.

Somalia

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to include a self-identification question for Somali people in the next census. [84948]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 14 July 2006:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what plans there are for the inclusion of a self-identification question for Somali people in the next census. (84948)

We are currently undertaking a programme of consultation and testing on ethnicity and national identity. It will not be possible to confirm what questions are to be included in the 2011 Census until the consultation and testing programme is complete and formal approval is given by Parliament in 2010. There are currently no plans to include a tick-box for 'Somali' but people who wish to identify themselves as Somali are likely to be able to do so through a 'write in' response option. A White Paper setting out the Government's proposals is scheduled to be published in Autumn 2008.

A report on the findings of the initial consultation exercise was published on 8 March 2006—'The 2011 Census: Assessment of initial user requirements on content for England and Wales' and can be found on the National Statistics website at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/consultations/2011Census_response.asp

Tax Credits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value is of tax credit overpayments written off for each quarter since 2001. [76481]

Dawn Primarolo: End of year adjustments leading to an overpayment of tax credits for 2003-04 were only finally identified after April 2004 when HMRC started finalising awards for that year and the department began considering disputed overpayments in June 2004.

For the value of tax credits overpayments written off between June 2004 and March 2006, I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave him on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 101W, 10 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 282W, 27 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 497W, 15 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1214W, 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 567W and 5 June 2006, *Official Report* column 189W, and to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) on 26 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 2249W-250W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will publish estimates of tax credit fraud and error for 2004-05; and if he will make a statement. [78152]

Dawn Primarolo: The HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Error and Fraud Statistics 2003-04" was published on 11 July 2006, and is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/random-enquiry.pdf

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people have been affected by errors in administration of tax credits in each of the last three years. [79481]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available.

For HM Revenue and Custom's performance against its accuracy targets relating to tax credits for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, I refer the hon. Lady to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 19 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1626W.

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his assessment is of the sensitivity with which the tax credit computer system is used when dealing with a surviving spouse; and if he will make a statement. [81522]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC's guidance for staff handling tax credits claims involving a claimant who dies can be found at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/changes_cofc/ntc0170032.htm

Teenage Pregnancies

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many girls under the age of 16 years *(a)* became pregnant and *(b)* gave birth in the Ribble Valley constituency in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. [84757]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 July 2006:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many girls under the age of 16 years *(a)* became pregnant and *(b)* gave birth in the Kibble Valley constituency in each of the last 10 years, broken down by age. (84757)

Numbers of conceptions in Ribble Valley county district for the years 1995-2004 are shown in the following table. Figures for 2004 are provisional.

Information on conceptions is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. Figures cannot be provided by parliamentary constituency because of the risk of disclosing individual's information due to small differences with local authority boundaries.

ONS does not publish figures by single year of age below the age of 16 by either local or health authority and also does not release figures for individual years because of the risk of disclosing individual's information.

Numbers of livebirths in Ribble Valley county district for the years 1995-2004 are shown in the following table.

The total number of births to girls aged under 16 in each year is too small to be released because of the risk of disclosing individual's information. Therefore total number of births in the 10 year period (1995-2004) is given in the following table. Figures cannot be broken down by single year of age, for the same reason.

Birth figures cannot be provided for Ribble Valley parliamentary constituency for the same reason as provided for conceptions.

1995-2004[1]	*Number*
Conceptions	39
Livebirths	7

[1]Conceptions for 2004 are provisional.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many teenage pregnancies there were in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Portsmouth, *(c)* Hampshire and *(d)* the combined area of the three in each year since 1990; and what the teenage pregnancy rate was in each case. [84342]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 13 July 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the (a) number and (b) rate of teenage pregnancy was in (i) Southampton, (ii) Portsmouth,(iii) Hampshire and (iv) the combined area of the three in each year since 1997. I am replying in her absence. (84342)

Available figures are estimates of the number of pregnancies that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or termination.

Teenage conception numbers and rates for Southampton UA, Portsmouth UA, Hampshire County and for the combined area of the three from 1997 to 2004 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are given in the following table. Figures for 2004 are provisional.

Teenage conceptions: numbers and rates[1] for Southampton UA, Portsmouth UA and Hampshire county, 1997-2004

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*[2]
								(a) Numbers
								(b) Rates
Total	1,174	1,190	1,102	1,021	1,126	1,099	1,089	1,115
Southampton UA	215	216	194	201	223	240	212	204
Portsmouth UA	172	174	168	130	160	163	162	190
Hampshire County	787	800	740	690	743	696	715	721
Total	41	41	38	35	38	37	36	36
Southampton UA	61	61	57	59	66	67	58	56
Portsmouth UA	59	57	54	40	48	48	46	54
Hampshire County	35	36	33	31	33	30	31	30

[1] Rate per 1,000 women aged 15-17.
[2] Provisional.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency has spent on its automated valuation model and associated computer databases and training. [83006]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 268-69W. Work on maintaining the automated valuation model (AVM) and the associated computer database is ongoing. Expenditure on this, and the training undertaken, is not recorded separately by the Valuation Office Agency and cannot be provided without disproportionate cost.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Oral Statement of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1131-48, on Afghanistan (troop levels), if he will estimate the cost of the deployment of the additional force to Helmand Province; and whether the resources to fund the cost will be added to the Special Reserve established for the three-year Afghan deployment. [85111]

Des Browne: The deployment and equipping of additional forces to the Helmand Province is estimated at £50 million, broken down into £30 million for the deployment and £20 million for the purchase of Urgent Operational Requirements. This sum has been authorised by HM Treasury as a charge against the Special Reserve in 2006-07.

Body Armour

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what steps have been taken since September 2004 to modify enhanced combat body armour for those providing top cover on Snatch vehicles; [84532]

(2) what steps have been taken since September 2004 to modify enhanced combat body armour to provide additional protection to (a) the neck and (b) the armpit area. [84533]

Des Browne: Enhanced combat body armour (ECBA), comprises of a waistcoat cover with a para-aramid filler plus two ceramic plates. It is issued to all troops deployed on operations. The Ministry of Defence has also developed a new type of body armour to provide better protection for those undertaking Top Cover Sentry and driving duties on operations in a range of vehicles including Snatch. The Driver and Top Cover Sentry Protection Systems provide the same levels of protection as ECBA and additional protection for vulnerable areas of the upper arm and neck. In addition, a further body armour called Osprey has been developed for use by foot patrols. This also provides additional neck and armpit protection as well as other capability enhancements.

Over the past two years, we have spent £120 million improving protection for ground forces in Iraq in response to the evolving threat from Impromised Explosive Devices.

Data Protection

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of the Data Protection Act 1998 on the ability of *(a)* the Department, *(b)* the Veterans Agency, *(c)* veterans' organisations and charities, *(d)* regimental, naval and RAF associations and *(e)* the NHS effectively to co-ordinate and transfer casework; and if he will make a statement. [84839]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* The Ministry of Defence takes its responsibilities under the Data Protection Act 1998 very seriously, and has a network of Data Protection Officers across the Department to ensure compliance. The Act provides a framework for the protection of personal data, but it also allows the sharing of such data where the processing is necessary. This requires a balance between the legitimate interests of the Ministry of Defence or the third parties to whom the data is disclosed, and the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of individuals. Each case needs to be considered on its own merits, but it is certainly possible to share and co-ordinate personal data where it is warranted, subject to the relevant conditions set out in the Act.

Iraq

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the morale of troops stationed in Iraq. [82569]

Des Browne: The armed forces conduct Continuous Attitude Surveys, but it is not possible to extract from that data results specific to Iraq/Operation Telic.

Joint Personnel Administration

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 711W, on Joint Personnel Administration, how many personnel were *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid in each month since the system was initiated; and how many of those are awaiting correction. [84590]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 12 July 2006]:* There have been a number of different causes of error to pay since the introduction of JPA. Some personnel have been subjected to more than one of those causes and these errors have been aggregated to indicate whether individuals were overpaid or underpaid on a given month. Of those 6,639 incorrectly paid in April, 70 per cent. were overpaid whereas 30 per cent. were underpaid. In May of those 1,175 incorrectly paid 34 per cent. were overpaid and 66 per cent. underpaid. The June figures are still being analysed for accuracy, but early indications are that of 458 incorrectly paid, 177 (40 per cent.) were overpaid and 258 underpaid.

Low-flying Activity

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what operational low-flying activity took place in the *(a)* Highlands of Scotland tactical training area and *(b)* south west of Scotland and the Anglo Scottish border tactical training area in each year between 1998-99 and 2004-05. [84729]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answers I gave on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 260-61W, and on 13 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1084W.

Oxfordshire Coroner

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what meetings were held between *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department and the Oxfordshire coroner between 17 July 2003 and 31 January 2004. [85522]

Des Browne: No meetings were held between Ministry of Defence Ministers or officials and the Oxfordshire coroner between 17 July 2003 and 31 January 2004 in connection with Dr. Kelly. Liaison between the coroner and Government on this matter was through the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85202]

Mr. Watson: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Punishments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to prevent unauthorised or informal punishments of soldiers by non-commissioned officers. [85013]

Mr. Watson: There are two systems to deal with minor breaches of behaviour. These are "summary dealing" using disciplinary powers under the Army Act 1955 and "administrative action" using Army General and Administrative Instruction (AGAI) 67, both of which provide a range of punishments or sanctions. These sanctions and punishments are carried out in a properly regulated manner and both systems have well established appeals procedures.

Unauthorised or informal punishments within the Army are not lawful. Unofficial or unauthorised punishments may in themselves constitute criminal behaviour and would be investigated and dealt with accordingly. The administration of informal punishments could constitute harassment or bullying and all soldiers are made fully aware of the serious consequences of such action as well as being provided with well publicised facilities to complain.

Royal Ordnance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to make additional contributions to the Royal Ordnance pension scheme to ensure that the scheme assets are sufficient to provide member benefits accrued prior to the incorporation of Royal Ordnance plc. [70033]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 11 May 2006]:* I consider that sufficient funds were transferred to the Royal Ordnance pension scheme at the time of privatisation and I have no plans to make direct additional contributions to the scheme.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1274W, on pension schemes, whether the Crown guarantee to the Royal Ordnance pension scheme referred to by the Comptroller and Auditor General in his report Ministry of Defence: Sale of Royal Ordnance plc. (HC 162, 1987/88) still applies. [70145]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 11 May 2006]:* The "guarantee" given at paragraph 5 of the National Audit Report (HC 162, 1987/88) was an undertaking on benefit design for (then) current employees. It was not a guarantee for future financing of the scheme.

Services Sound and Vision Corporation

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* terms of reference and *(b)* codes of practice govern the relationship between his Department and (i) Services Sound and Vision Corporation and (ii) its subsidiary British Forces Broadcasting Service. [85066]

Mr. Watson *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* The Services Sound and Vision Corporation (SSVC) is a private company limited by guarantee and registered charity, with which the Ministry of Defence has contracted to provide a number of services related to the entertainment and the provision of training material for British Service personnel around the world. British Forces Broadcasting (BFBS) is not a subsidiary of SSVC but the designation of some of the services operated on behalf of the MOD by SSVC and has been in use with the MOD since the early days of Service broadcasts.

Sickness Absence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 263W, on sickness absence, how many staff in his Department have had two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in two or more of the years for which he has provided figures. [84038]

Mr. Watson: There were 20,150 non-industrial staff with two or more absences of less than five days during two or more of the years reported on in my answer of 5 June 2006. Of these non-industrials, 8,430 had two or more periods of absence of less than five days during all three years reported on.

There were 2,600 industrial staff with two or more absences of less than five days during two of the years reported on. No industrial staff had two or more periods of absence of less than five days during all three years.

Royal Fleet Auxiliaries, Locally Engaged Civilians and Trading Fund staff are excluded from these figures.

Veterans

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he has taken to assist organisations that support veterans to work more effectively together; and if he will make a statement. [84829]

Mr. Watson: As part of the Government programme for veterans, we have put in place consultative machinery, and work strands built on joint working, that encourage effective co-operation among those who support the country's veterans. These provide opportunities for Government Departments, the devolved Administrations and ex-service organisations to exchange views and to work more effectively together to deliver the best support possible.

The Veterans Agency has run a number of successful regional conferences on the theme of 'Reaching Out to Veterans'. These bring together delegates from a range of public and voluntary sector organisations in order to increase awareness of veterans' issues among service providers, and of the role of the Veterans Agency and ex-service charities in supporting veterans.

MOD is also working with partners from the public, private and voluntary sector on co-operative projects in support of veterans such as Project Compass, an initiative to prevent and tackle the cycle of homelessness and unemployment among socially excluded ex-service personnel. As more generally, our aim is to encourage and facilitate joint working among ex-service charities.

War Crimes

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* senior officers and civil servants have had with the Attorney-General regarding the preferment of war crime and other charges against members of the Queen's Lancashire Regiment. [84392]

Des Browne. Ministers, senior officers and civil servants have meetings with the Attorney-General on a range of matters.

Decisions on whether to prosecute Army personnel and, if so, what charges are to be faced is a matter for the Army Prosecuting Authority. No Ministers or MOD officials outside the Army Prosecuting Authority are involved in any way in these decisions.

War Pensioners

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he is taking to ensure that *(a)* war pensioners, *(b)* GPs and *(c)* consultants are informed that war pensioners may receive priority treatment on the NHS. [85309]

Mr. Watson: Notifications of all new and revised war pensions awards include details of the arrangements for NHS priority treatment in Great Britain. Information is also published at www.veteransagency.mod.uk. Priority treatment applies post-service to the condition or conditions for which an award is made under the war pension scheme or armed forces compensation scheme. Standing guidance on the right of GB based war pensioners to receive priority treatment in NHS hospitals is also circulated to senior managers of trusts, and health boards; they are asked to ensure that relevant clinical staff are aware of the provision.

Welfare Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which male models or other personalities have been used to advertise welfare services to members of the armed forces. [83916]

Mr. Watson: As far as we can ascertain, the Ministry of Defence has never employed a male model to advertise welfare services to the armed forces.

We are however, grateful to popular celebrity Nell McAndrew for giving her time to promote the confidential support line available to all members of our armed forces.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which benefits and allowances include an element for child support; and what the value of the increases awarded for each additional child is in each case. [83806]

Mr. Plaskitt: Where appropriate, child dependency increases are paid with carer's allowance; incapacity benefit; industrial death benefit; severe disablement allowance; state retirement pension; widowed mothers allowance; widowed parents allowance; and unemployability supplement.

The current rate of child dependency increase for all these benefits is £11.35 for each child. However, the Overlapping Benefits Regulations provide for the rate of child dependency increases to be adjusted where the increase is payable for the eldest eligible child for whom child benefit is also payable. In such cases, the weekly rate of the increase is reduced by the differential between the rate of child benefit payable for the oldest eligible child and that payable for any subsequent child.

Crisis Loans

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many crisis loans were granted in Crewe and Nantwich constituency in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many have been granted in 2006-07. [83338]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Crisis loans for Cheshire Jobcentre Plus district

	Number of initial awards
2003-04	12,130
2004-05	11,320
2005-06	14,230
2006-07 to 30 June	3,290

Notes:
1. Data are not available by parliamentary constituency, but only by Jobcentre Plus district.
2. Crewe and Nantwich parliamentary constituency is in Cheshire and Warrington Jobcentre Plus district, which was known as Cheshire Jobcentre Plus district until 31 March 2006.
3. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Family Benefits

Rosemary McKenna: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of families in *(a)* Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East and *(b)* Scotland are claiming (i) child benefit and (ii) income support. [83903]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested.

Child benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs, and is a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

As at November 2005, there were 3,490 people in the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East parliamentary constituency, and 222,050 people in Scotland in receipt of income support.

Financial Inclusion

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to promote financial inclusion in *(a)* Hartlepool constituency and *(b)* the North East region. [83666]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions is delivering the £36 million Growth Fund, which will increase the amount of affordable credit available from credit unions and community development financial institutions to financially excluded people, who might otherwise be forced to turn to doorstep lenders and loan sharks charging exorbitant rates of interest.

The first Growth Fund contracts have already been signed with Southwark Credit Union (London) and Enterprise Credit Union (Knowsley, Liverpool) and terms have been agreed with a further 20 organisations. Negotiations continue with all others that passed the evaluation stage of the commercial process, including Hartlepool Credit Union and others from the North East.

The move to direct payment and the introduction of universal banking services, during 2003-05, also helped to significantly increase financial inclusion through the provision of banking services to customers in many deprived areas for the first time.

Fuel Direct

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average level of Fuel Direct payment was for *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity to each supplier in (i) each region of England, (ii) Scotland and (iii) Wales in the last full year for which figures are available. [84379]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available broken down by region; the available information is in the following tables.

Average weekly payments under the Fuel Direct scheme to gas suppliers, Great Britain; 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006

Supplier	*Average payment (£)*
0000011814—Powergen	12.19
0000013614—Npower Ltd	12.62
0000013653—Npower Ltd	12.44
0000020024—British Gas Trading	12.38
0000020030—British Gas	13.25
0000025008—EOF Energy	12.23
0000025010—Environenergy Limited	13.39
0000025011—Amerada (SWEB Gas)	8.60
0000030006—EDF Energy	11.61
0000030141—Scottish Power	11.76
0000030201—Scottish and Southern Energy	11.61
0000030333—SWALEC Plc	13.48
0000030397—EDF Energy	12.75
0000030460—Powergen	12.34
0000030648—Powergen	11.92
0000030725—Calor Gas Limited	12.97
0000030928—EDF Energy	11.91
0000031043—Flogas UK Ltd	21.43
0000031099—Atlantic Electric and Gas	12.48
0000031192—BP LPG UK	23.85

Average weekly payments under the Fuel Direct scheme to electricity suppliers, Great Britain; 1 June 2005 to 31 May 2006

Supplier	*Average payment (£)*
0000010002—Powergen	11.56
0000016001—Powergen	13.28
0000016012—Powergen	14.28
0000016024—EOF Energy	12.42
0000016035—Npower Ltd	14.16
0000016037—Npower Ltd	13.20
0000016047—Scottish Power	13.59
0000016052—EOF Energy	13.23
0000016058—SWALEC Plc	14.07
0000016062—EOF Energy	13.49
0000016065—Scottish and Southern Energy	12.84
0000030393—British Gas	11.96
0000030903—EOF Energy	12.15
0000031084—Atlantic Electric and Gas	11.56
0000031289—Ecotricity	12.14

Note:
Some suppliers have more than one account to which payments are made for both gas and electricity, where this is the case the average for each account is shown.

Interwork

Mrs. Riordan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding Interwork receives from *(a)* his Department, *(b)* other Government Departments, *(c)* Government agencies and *(d)* other sources; and if he will make a statement. [81870]

Mrs. McGuire: During 2005-06 Remploy allocated £18.389 million to Interwork out of the grant in aid given to the company by the Department and from contracts awarded to the company.

Interwork also received £311,000 from the European Social Fund. Interwork received no additional funding from other Government Departments or Government agencies.

National Insurance

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of residents in each London borough issued with a new national insurance number in each of the last five years. [83531]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available in the format requested. Information on the number of national insurance numbers issued is not available broken down below national level.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(b)* failed asylum seekers who fraudulently hold national insurance numbers. [73988]

Mr. Plaskitt: There is no estimate of the number of national insurance numbers obtained fraudulently. However, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has robust procedures and checks in place to intercept fraudulent applications for national insurance numbers.

Pensions

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what requirements the Government have placed on private businesses to contribute to a safety net for pension funds. [79753]

James Purnell: The Pension Protection Fund (PPF) pays compensation to members of defined benefit schemes if their employer becomes insolvent and the pension scheme is underfunded. The PPF has also taken on responsibility for paying compensation to members of any eligible defined benefit or other defined contribution scheme where the members lose their pension due to fraud.

The Pensions Act (2004) provides for the funding of this through levies on eligible schemes.

Post Office Card Account

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in West Lancashire collect their *(a)* pensions and *(b)* benefit payments via a Post Office card account. [83465]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information showing the number of Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefit and pension payment accounts paid by direct payment into a Post Office card account for each parliamentary constituency has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to his answer of 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1603W, on the Post Office card account, if he will place a copy of the contract in the Library. [85720]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have already placed an abridged copy of the contract in the Library.

I also refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 7 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1354W.

Sure Start

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women have received a Sure Start maternity grant in Stroud constituency in each of the last two years. [83251]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Sure Start maternity grants for Gloucestershire Jobcentre Plus district

	Number of awards
2004-05	1,640
2005-06	1,510

Notes:
1. Data are not available by parliamentary constituency but only by Jobcentre Plus district.
2. Stroud parliamentary constituency is in Gloucestershire Jobcentre Plus district in 2004-05. This district merged with another district in April 2005. The figure for 2005-06 in the table is for the area covered by the former Gloucestershire Jobcentre Plus district.
3. Figures are for all awards, irrespective of whether the award was made to the mother or her partner.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Advertising Campaigns

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advertising campaigns her Department has run since July 2004; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* cost was of each. [81923]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested is as follows:

	Date	*Cost (£)*
July-December 2004		
Specialist Recruitment		
Assistant Librarian	May 2004	21,794
Legal Adviser	October 2004	14,177
Overseas Security Managers	November 2004	4,950
Head of Security Section	December 2004	3,142
Overseas Security Adviser	December 2004	3,611
Generalist recruitment		
Administrative Assistant Campaign	May 2004	33,653
FCO Services Recruitment		
IT Project Manager	November 2004	15,896
Architect	November 2004	1,154
5 Estates Maintenance Positions	November 2004	24,503
Interior Designers	November 2004	3,640
Architect	December 2004	871.90
Health and Safety Officer	December 2004	520
5 Estate Maintenance Positions	December 2004	750
General Advertising		
Diversity Advertising	July 2004	8,854
January-December 2005		
Specialist Recruitment		
Senior Manager Biometrics	January 2005	11,822
Africa Energy Adviser	April 2005	7,100
Science and Innovation	April 2005	12,744
Auditors	June 2005	10,621
Arabic Spokesperson	July 2005	9,205
HM Ambassador Holy See	July 2005	23,290
Director of UKVisas	July 2005	9,945
Director Finance	September 2005	8,640
Head of Science and Innovation	September 2005	8,315
Islamic Issues Adviser	September 2005	3,012
Overseas Security Managers	October 2005	9,941
Accountants	November 2005	71,448
Legal Adviser	November 2005	8,109
Generalist Recruitment		
Operational Officer Campaign	January 2005	53,541
Administrative Assistant Campaign	January 2005	8,050
Executive Assistant Campaign	March 2005	61,951
Operational Officer Campaign	October 2005	66,094
FCO Services Recruitment		
Head of Procurement	January 2005	7,430
IT Implementation/System/Application/Technology/Monitoring/Help Desk Officers	February 2005	15,823
Apprentice Scheme	March 2005	6,218
Administrative Assistants—Hanslope Park	April 2005	6,218
Administrative Assistants—London	May 2005	6,440
Quantity Surveyor	May 2005	5,671
Arabic Lecturer and Flexible Lecturer Posts	May 2005	3,105
French and Spanish Translators	May 2005	3,350

	Date	Cost (£)
Health, Safety and Environmental Officer	July 2005	2,577
Nursery Nurse	July 2005	694
Senior Project Managers	September 2005	23,470
IT Help Desk Officers	September 2005	24,992
Finance Manager	September 2005	5,202
Building and Civil Engineers	October 2005	15,297
Electrical Technician	October 2005	2,125
Locksmith	October 2005	735
Despatch, Goods In and Mailroom Assistant	November 2005	1,509
Consular Recruitment		
Forced Marriage Caseworker	October 2005	4,239
Legal Councillor	December 2005	10,190
Social Worker	January 2005	5,349
Generalist Advertising		
Diversity Advertising	2005	56,744
January 2006		
Specialist Recruitment		
Africa Research Analyst	February 2006	1,249
Assistant Director, Diversity and Equality	March 2006	15,605
Assistant Legal Adviser	Mar 2006	8,762
Head of Polar Regions Unit	May 2006	25,104
Research and Evaluation Officer	May 2006	6,110
Web Editor	June 2006	8,820
Generalist Recruitment		
Executive Assistant Campaign	January 2006	64,982
Administrative Assistant Campaign	May 2006	16,591
FCO Services Recruitment		
Field Investigating Officer	January 2006	10,532
Electrical Technician	January 2006	5,871
Finance Group Positions	January 2006	11,294
Human Resources Adviser to Information and Communications Technology Group	February 2006	4,907
Finance Position	April 2006	10,437
Head of Logistics	April 2006	1,949
IT Help Desk Officers	April 2006	11,923
Head of Logistics	April 2006	4,900
Executive Administrators	April 2006	7,017
Nursery Nurse	May 2006	2,270
Electrical Technician	May 2006	14,139
Technical Apprenticeships	May 2006	8,946
Electrical Tech/Carpenter/Joiner	May 2006	10,636
IT Project Manager	June 2006	19,703
Maintenance and Electrical Engineers	June 2006	3,791
Architect and Construction Project Manager	June 2006	6,734
Consular Recruitment		
Police Adviser	February 2006	3,290
Alicante Head of Post	May 2006	3,216
General Advertising		
Diversity Advertising	2006	14,953

Information on advertisement costs incurred by overseas posts and non-departmental public bodies could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Afghanistan

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what action is being taken to curb opium production in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [81227]

Dr. Howells: The UK is Afghanistan's partner nation on counter-narcotics. We are spending over £270 million over three years in support of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy. We believe the strategy represents the best means of tackling opium production and trafficking in and from Afghanistan and are working with the Afghans to sharpen delivery on the ground. I also refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement I made on Afghanistan: Counter Narcotics, 13 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 75-76WS, which includes details on progress made to date as well as the allocation of UK funding.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what quantity of opium has been seized by the Afghan Special Narcotics Force since May 2005; and what the procedure is for the disposal of opium. [84894]

Dr. Howells: According to the Ministry of the Interior of Afghanistan, the Afghan Special Narcotics Force and the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan, since May 2005, have made seizures of opiates (opium, heroin and morphine base) equivalent to 186.6 metric tonnes of opium.

In accordance with the new Afghan Counter Narcotics Law post seizure the opiates are either destroyed at site, while retaining a small sample for evidential purposes for use in criminal proceedings, or stored and destroyed centrally.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her German counterpart on ensuring that adequate vetting procedures are in place to ensure that the Afghan police are not infiltrated by the Taliban. [85108]

Dr. Howells: The Afghanistan Compact, which was launched at the London Conference in January 2006, sets out benchmarks and timelines for the next phase in Afghanistan's reconstruction process. This includes the establishment of clear and transparent national appointments mechanisms for the public sector, including vetting procedures. Implementation will be phased over five years.

I have not had recent discussions with my German counterpart on this subject but our Embassy in Kabul is in close touch with the German-led Police Project Office about the police reform process.

Africa (Peacekeeping Capability)

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contributions the UK plans to make to strengthen African peacekeeping capability following the meeting of G8 officials and donor parties in Moscow on 8 June; and if she will make a statement. [84212]

Margaret Beckett: The UK remains strongly committed to supporting the African Union's (AU) goal of enhancing African peacekeeping capacity and establishing an African Standby Force (ASF). The meeting of G8 officials and other donors on 8 June was an operational level meeting to review latest progress and further improve co-ordination of peace support operations (PSO) assistance initiatives to the AU and its member states.

The UK provides significant levels of PSO training to African national forces geared to both preparation for specific deployments and to building longer-term capacity and skills. UK support, both financial and through the provision of military training staff, to African training centres of excellence such as the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre is also helping to strengthen African regional training—an area of growing importance as the ASF regional brigades are officially formed. In collaboration with other international partners, the UK is providing technical and financial assistance to the AU's Peace and Security Department through a series of workshops in 2006 to design policy and procedure for the ASF. UK financial support for PSO capacity building projects in Africa between 2001 and 2005 has been steadily increasing and was over £24 million in 2004-05.

British Passport Holders

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonweaith Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Clegg) of 15 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1373-5W, on British passport holders, how many British passport holders are estimated to be registered at their local British representative mission. [84735]

Dr. Howells: We do not maintain a central list of British passport holders who have registered at our overseas missions. It is not compulsory to register and the numbers who do so are very low. We will shortly have available an updated online facility to allow British nationals to register electronically. We hope this will increase the number of people registering.

Bulgaria/Romania

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's plans are regarding the freedom of movement of Bulgarian and Romanian citizens into the UK upon their accession to the European Union, with particular reference to the Roma population. [84725]

Mr. Hoon: Upon accession, all citizens from Bulgaria and Romania will enjoy the same freedom of movement within the EU, including the UK, as citizens of the other 25 member states. We do not discriminate on the basis of ethnic origin.

China

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consular provision there is for British nationals in Taiwan province of the People's Republic of China. [84703]

Dr. Howells: The Government do not recognise Taiwan as a state. We do not carry out any formal consular activities in Taiwan. However, the British Trade and Cultural Office in Taipei, within the limitations of its status, provides assistance to British nationals in line with the recently published "Support for British Nationals Abroad: A Guide", copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Colombia

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Colombian Government on threats by paramilitary organisations to kill students and staff at the University of Antioquia. [83998]

Mr. Hoon: Human rights are at the heart of our policy towards Colombia. We remain concerned about the situation faced by civil society there. Although we have not made any specific representations to the Colombian Government on this issue, we keep the human rights situation in the country under constant review and frequently raise individual cases with the Government of Colombia. We also support a range of projects aimed at improving human rights in line with the spirit of UN human rights recommendations. Among our current priorities are the protection and promotion of human rights defenders, the protection of child rights and improvements in the rule of law. We will continue to engage with the Government of Colombia on human rights issues.

Mr. Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Colombian Government on the confrontation and dismantling of paramilitary groups. [83999]

Mr. Hoon: There have not been any recent discussions at Ministerial level on this issue, although we regularly raise it with our Colombian counterparts at official level. The UK and the EU have consistently called for a legal framework for the process of demobilisation, disarmament and reinsertion of illegal armed groups. In the EU Ministerial General Affairs and External Relations Council Conclusions of 3 October 2005, the UK and its EU partners recognised the importance of the Colombian Justice and Peace Law, agreed in July the same year, in providing an overall legal framework for this process. With our international partners, the UK has encouraged the Government of Colombia to implement this new law transparently so that it will have a positive impact on the peace building process. The Colombian Government announced on 18 April the completion of the formal process of demobilisation which saw over 30,000 paramilitaries demobilise. We will continue to work with our partners to help the Government of Colombia address the challenges it faces.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations have been made by the UK Government to the Government of Colombia about trade union rights. [84493]

Mr. Hoon: We remain very concerned about the human rights situation faced by civil society, including trade unionists, in Colombia. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, raised the issue of engaging with civil society with Colombian Defence Minister-designate Juan Manuel Santos when they met on 5 July with Colombian Foreign Minister Carolina Barco in the fringes of the EU/Latin America and the Caribbean summit on 12 May. In April, our embassy staff in Bogota met with the Vice President of the National Union of Hospital and Health Workers, and with the Human Rights Director of the Central Union of Workers in May. We also regularly meet British and Colombian trade unionists and other civil society groups, in the UK and Colombia, to hear their views and discuss how the Government can best support them. My noble Friend Lord Triesman met a British trade union delegation on 6 March to discuss their recent visit to Colombia and hear their concerns about human rights. In February, we also funded a working visit to the UK by eight senior Colombian trade unionists to demonstrate our support to civil society in Colombia and the important role it has to play in helping find solutions.

Departmental Resource Accounts

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 298W, on departmental resource accounts, what the items listed were; and what the reason was for the need for their disposal. [82055]

Mr. Hoon: As my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) said in his reply to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 27 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 298W, these were items which were identified as having been disposed of, but action had not been taken to remove them from the asset register. The assets were disposed of or consumed in the ordinary course of business. The disposal value was made up of a large number of assets with relatively minor values and the disposal of these items did not occur as a single event. Due to the large number of items that have been disposed of, it is not possible to list them all in this reply. However, a copy of the full list will be placed in the Library of the House. I will also arrange for the list to be sent to the hon. Member.

European Constitution

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) of 20 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 1204W, on the European constitution, which themes and regions have been identified as areas of common foreign and security policy activity for which strategic interests and objectives have yet to be ascribed. [84204]

Mr. Hoon: We understand that the question refers to EU common strategies. As my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe (Mr. Alexander) stated in his answer to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 20 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 1204W, there have only been three examples of EU common strategies, under the umbrella of Common Foreign and Security Policy: Russia, Ukraine and Euromed.

Extraordinary Rendition

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of reports that Prestwick, Shannon and Bangor airports were used for the refuelling of flights involved in either the inbound or outbound stages of extraordinary rendition operations. [80349]

Margaret Beckett: Bangor and Shannon airports, which are mentioned in the report into the extraordinary rendition of terrorist suspects published on 7 June by the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, are of course in the United States and the Republic of Ireland respectively. The Government are not therefore in a position to assess those claims. In so far as the claims about Prestwick airport are concerned, there is no evidence that any of the flights identified in the data supplied by Eurocontrol to the Council of Europe's inquiry were involved in rendition through the UK. I refer the right hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary's (Mr. Straw) written ministerial statement of 20 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS which summarises the position in respect of renditions through UK territory or airspace since May 1997.

Honours

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which individuals who are not UK citizens were awarded honours between 1 January 2002 to 31 December 2002; and what the *(a)* date of announcement, *(b)* honour concerned and *(c)* reason for the award was in each case. [84194]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* As the information requested is lengthy, I will arrange for it to be placed in the Library of the House and will also arrange for a copy to be sent directly to the hon. Member.

As honorary awards to citizens of countries where Her Majesty the Queen is not Head of State are not formally announced, the date of the Queen's formal approval of such awards has been given.

Hospitality Expenses

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 838W, on hospitality expenses, what the total cost across Whitehall was of expenditure on alcohol recorded by Government Hospitality in each of the last five years. [84591]

Mr. Hoon: Government Hospitality recorded the following expenditure on new stock for the Government cellar for the past five years:

	Expenditure (£)
2001-02	92,772
2002-03	91,860
2003-04	93,503
2004-05	60,059
2005-06	95,264

Latin America (Trade Unions)

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on trade union rights in Latin American countries. [84490]

Mr. Hoon: In view of continuing social and economic inequality, and the impact of globalisation on labour markets in Latin American countries, trade unions have a key role in protecting employment rights throughout the region. However, the extent to which unions are effective in influencing the economic and social debate, and in achieving the objectives of their members, varies hugely from country to country due to a wide range of social and political circumstances. This Government fully support the rights of trade unions world-wide. We have played a leading role in ensuring that the international framework to promote international labour rights, and to tackle abuses of those rights throughout the world, is in place, particularly through our work with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the UN specialised agency responsible for developing, promoting and monitoring labour standards. The ILO's 1998 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work commits all countries to respect, promote and to realise the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining as well as the ending of forced labour, child labour and discrimination in employment.

MI6

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the work of the Information Operations section of MI6; and what policy applies to the undertaking of operations within the UK. [84196]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 10 July 2006]:* It is the long-standing policy of the Government not to comment on intelligence matters.

The policy applying to any operation undertaken by the Secret Intelligence Service is governed by the provisions of the Intelligence Services Act (1994).

North Korea

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the nuclear missile tests undertaken by North Korea; and if she will make a statement. [84683]

Dr. Howells: On 4 and 5 July, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) conducted a series of missile launches. These included No-Dong ballistic missiles and a Taepodong II missile; the latter was the first test of this system and failed some 40 seconds after launch.

While it is possible that both No-Dong and Taepodong II missiles, correctly configured, may have the capability to carry a nuclear warhead over a long distance, we have no indication the DPRK has ever attempted to test any missile with a nuclear warhead.

Nevertheless, we are seriously concerned that the DPRK decided to go ahead with these missile launches, despite international pressure on it not to. These tests are provocative and only serve to raise tensions in the region. Following the launches, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a statement condemning them and strongly urged the Government of the DPRK to adhere to its commitment to a moratorium on missile testing.

Romania

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the human rights situation in Romania. [84728]

Mr. Hoon: Romania has made strides in improving its human rights situation since the fall of Ceausescu in 1989. The prospect of EU membership has been a vital driver for human rights reform. Some concerns remain, such as the treatment of Roma, conditions in mental health institutions, discrimination and intolerance experienced by members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, and the number of children in institutional care. Further details, including Global Opportunities Fund projects to assist Romania in its efforts, can be found in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Human Rights Annual Report which is available on our website:

www.fco.gov.uk/Files/KFile/Chapter3,1.pdf.

Sickness Absence

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1866W, on sickness absence, how many staff in her Department have had two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in two or more of the years for which she has provided figures. [84040]

Mr. Hoon: 789 staff have had two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days within two or more of the Financial Years reported: 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Szeklerland

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the UK Government has had in the last 12 months with the *(a)* Hungarian and *(b)* Romanian Governments regarding the state of Szeklerland. [84726]

Mr. Hoon: The Government have had no discussions in the last 12 months on this issue with the Hungarian or Romanian Governments.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the status of Szeklerland has been a part of discussions regarding the accession of Romania to the EU. [84727]

Mr. Hoon: The status of Szeklerland has not been part of discussions regarding Romania's EU accession. However, the Romanian Government are aware that it needs to continue to satisfy the Copenhagen Criteria, which guarantee "respect for and protection of minorities" such as the ethnic Hungarian minority in Szeklerland.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many abortions were notified as being carried out in England in each year since 1996 on women whose normal place of residence was *(a)* France, *(b)* Germany, *(c)* Italy, *(d)* Ireland, *(e)* Spain, *(f)* Israel, *(g)* Malta, *(h)* Isle of Man and *(i)* the United States of America. [83203]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is shown in the table. It is also available on the Department's website. at: www.dh.gov.uk/PublicationsAndStatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/StatisticalPublicHealth/fs/en for 2002-05 data and at: www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp%3Fvlnk%3D68%26Pos% 3D2%26ColRank%3D2%26Rank%3D640 for 1996 to 2001 data.

Number of abortions to non residents of selected countries, 1996 to 2005

Country of residence	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
France	1,073	887	435	332	299	199	176	109	53	38
Germany	56	74	71	67	48	33	46	25	16	19
Italy	427	433	395	394	416	389	302	294	266	232
Irish Republic	4,894	5,340	5,891	6,226	6,391	6,673	6,522	6,320	6,217	5,585
Northern Ireland	1,573	1,572	1,581	1,430	1,528	1,577	1,391	1,318	1,280	1,164
Spain	66	52	39	32	32	17	35	36	33	27

Number of abortions to non residents of selected countries, 1996 to 2005

Country of residence	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Israel	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Malta	61	64	59	49	67	57	69	47	67	54
Isle of Man	160	174	133	180	177	139	170	134	152	161
USA	22	19	17	19	29	35	21	20	18	26

[1] Less than 10

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the abortion rate was per 1,000 women aged 15 to 49 years in each health authority in England and Wales in 2005. [85146]

Caroline Flint: This information is contained within table 10b of the Statistical Bulletin 2006/01, "Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2005". Copies have been placed in the Library and also on the Department of Health website at www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/68/59/04136859.pdf

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake into the reasons for trends in the abortion rate in England between 2004 and 2005; and if she will make a statement. [85160]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 21 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 250W.

The 2005 abortion statistics showed the abortion rate per 1,000 resident women aged 15 to 44 and the under 18 and under 16 abortion rates stayed the same as in 2004. In addition, more abortions were performed at an earlier gestation and there were less late abortions. The Statistical Bulletin 2006/01, "Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2005" is available in the Library and also on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/13/68/59/04136859.pdf

Accident and Emergency Departments

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which accident and emergency departments have *(a)* closed and *(b)* been downgraded in each of the last three years. [80728]

Ms Rosie Winterton: National health service trusts self-report the number of accident and emergency (A and E) services they provide against definitions set by the Department for the three types of A and E. This is not collected at the level of individual hospitals. A number of trusts reported a change in the number of type one (major) A and E departments for the period requested and this information is shown in the table. This was the position at the end of March for each year.

	Type one A and E department closed/downgraded
2003-04	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
2004-05	East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust
2005-06	North Bristol NHS Trust Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust Ashford and St. Peters Hospitals NHS Trust

Notes:
As at end March of the relevant year.
If a NHS trust closes/downgrades a type one A and E department and opens another type one A and E department within the same period, our data would not be able to show this.
We cannot provide a further breakdown of whether the department was closed or downgraded from a type one A and E department.
Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust opened a new type one A and E department during 2003-04.
Source:
Department of Health dataset, QMAE

Acute Hospital Services

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has advised NHS trusts that proposed solutions for reconfiguring acute hospital services should be tested in trials before they are introduced. [85377]

Andy Burnham: The Department's advice on service reconfiguration is set out in the 2003 publication, "Keeping the NHS Local—a New Direction of Travel", and subsequent policy advice such as a recent letter to the national health service advising that proposals for service reconfiguration must have rigorous business cases with integration and benefits plans and clear accountability to drive quality and financial improvements within the NHS.

Alcohol Misuse (Funding)

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the allocation of £15 million for tackling alcohol misuse is planned to be repeated in future years. [83926]

Caroline Flint: The £15 million allocated to primary care trusts to improve alcohol services is a recurrent revenue allocation for 2007-08 onwards.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how the £15 million funding for treatment of alcohol misuse in 2007-08 will be allocated. [83927]

Caroline Flint: £15 million has been allocated to all primary care trusts (PCTs) on a weighted capitation basis to improve alcohol services from 2007-08 onwards. The Department announced 2007-08 revenue allocations to PCTs in February 2005.

Avian Influenza

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps she has taken to prepare for a potential outbreak of avian influenza. [82760]

Caroline Flint: The Department, in collaboration with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Health Protection Agency (HPA) has well-developed plans in place for the protection of public health in the event of an outbreak of avian influenza.

DEFRA has published its exotic diseases contingency plan which contains the guidance on public health protection in an outbreak for workers and others who might be exposed to infected birds. This is available on DEFRA's website: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/avianinfluenza-contplan.htm.

DEFRA also publishes and regularly updates risk assessments on the threat to UK of introduction of H5N1 from birds and its latest publication, "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 situation in Europe and potential risk factors for the introduction of the virus to the United Kingdom", can be found at: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/disease/ai/latest-situation/index.htm

The Department recently commissioned a report from the HPA: "Addressing a Quantitative Microbiological Risk Assessment (QMRA) of the Risks Posed to UK Public Health by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5NL".

The Department and DEFRA have published guidance on the handling and disposing of dead garden and wild birds.

Supplies of the anti-viral Tamiflu have been made available in each region for rapid administration to those who may be exposed to infection.

Advice for clinicians on how to deal with patients who may have been infected with avian influenza is available on the HPA's website: www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/influenza/avian/guidelines.htm

Advice for travellers on reducing their risk of exposure to minimise risk of bringing back infection has been published on the Department's website. Regular travel updates concerning affected countries is available at: www.nathnac.org/.

Breast Cancer

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the proportion of annual NHS expenditure on *(a)* breast cancer drugs and *(b)* all cancer drugs which will be required to fund the provision of Herceptin as set out in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Final Appraisal Determination; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the NHS of providing Herceptin in each of the next three financial years. [82529]

Andy Burnham: For the year ending September 2005 approximately £630 million was spent on cancer drugs prescribed in hospitals and in the community. We can not provide an estimate of the expenditure on drugs used in the treatment of breast cancer since some of the drugs can be used for a variety of cancers. The data held give no indication of why a drug has been prescribed so the cost of breast cancer drugs cannot be estimated reliably.

The cost of providing Herceptin, for a 12 month course, to all patients with early stage breast cancer for whom it is clinically appropriate is estimated at around £100 million a year. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence will be publishing, as part of its guidance on Herceptin, a cost impact report to help the national health service manage the implementation of the guidance.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which hospital trusts *(a)* provide family history clinics offering screening to women with a high risk of breast cancer and *(b)* have withdrawn such clinics in the last two years; [83331]

(2) how many primary care trusts (PCTs) commission family history clinics offering screening to women at high risk from breast cancer; and which PCTs have withdrawn the commission of these services in the last two years. [83332]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not hold information centrally on specific clinics offered by individual trusts or funded by individual primary care trusts (PCTs). The provision of services is a matter for agreement between trusts and their commissioning PCTs and the strategic health authority for the area, in consultation with local stakeholders. Plans for services should take into consideration local needs and priorities while ensuring they meet core national standards for the delivery of health services.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published a clinical guideline on familial breast cancer in May 2004. They recommended that appropriate facilities should be developed locally to meet the needs of women at risk of familial breast cancer and that women at moderate risk or greater should receive annual mammography from age 40. NICE clinical guidelines are covered by the Department's developmental standards, standards which the national health service is expected to achieve over time. The Healthcare Commission has responsibility for assessing progress towards achieving these standards.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average interval was between screenings for breast cancer in *(a)* Guildford and Waverley Primary Care Trust, *(b)* Surrey and *(c)* England in each year since 1997. [84089]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The average intervals between screenings for breast cancer by local screening units is not collected centrally. However, national health service cancer screening programmes requested data from the NHS breast screening programme on the percentage of local screening units achieving the 36-month national standard between screens for quarter four 2005-06, that is from January to March 2006.

Between January and March 2006, the Jarvis Centre, Guildford, re-screened 92 per cent. of women within the 36-month national standard. 97 per cent. of women were re-screened within 38 months.

In England during the same period, 60 per cent. of women were re-screened within the 36-month national standard. 82 per cent. of women were re-screened within 38 months.

The NHS Cancer Plan, published in 2000, stated that we would extend invitations for breast screening to women aged 65 to 70 and introduce two-view mammography at all screening rounds. Thanks to the efforts of the staff in the screening programme, these targets have now been achieved in all local breast screening units. The expansion is already showing an effect, with nearly 12,000 cancers diagnosed by the programme in 2004-05, an increase of 40 per cent. on 2001 when the expansion began.

However, the changes together represent a 40 per cent. increase in the workload of the programme. We are aware that this has had an impact on some services maintaining the three-year interval for screening and we are taking steps to bring all screening intervals back to three years.

The Department's cancer programme board, chaired by the National Cancer Director Professor Mike Richards, has taken a particular interest in this area. The board is considering a course of action with the support of the Department's recovery and support unit.

Cancer Patients

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what programmes are in place to assist cancer patients with the financial effects of their illness; and if she will take further steps to lessen such effects. [82796]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Financial assistance is available to patients through the hospital travel costs scheme and the national health service low income scheme. Patients with cancer, as with any serious illness, may also be eligible for benefits support from the Department for Work and Pensions.

The Government recognise that finance is an issue of great importance to people with serious illness. Departmental officials are working with those in the Department for Work and Pensions, which has the expertise and knowledge to inform people about arrangements for claiming benefits and their entitlement to different benefits, to take steps for patients to be signposted to the assistance that is available.

Carers

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* carers of people with a learning disability, *(b)* children with a learning disability and *(c)* adults with a learning disability in Lancashire receive a short break service; [82757]

(2) how many hours short break service, on average, were provided on behalf of people with a learning disability in Lancashire who received the care component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* highest, *(b)* middle and *(c)* lowest rate in the last period for which figures are available; [82758]

(3) how much was spent on short break provision in Lancashire in the last year for which figures are available; and how many hours break this provided in total. [82759]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally. It is the responsibility of local commissioners to ensure appropriate provision of services to meet their community's needs.

Cervical Cancer

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of women attended cervical cancer screening in *(a)* Guildford, *(b)* Guildford and Waverley Primary Care Trust, *(c)* Surrey and *(d)* England in each of the last five years. [84049]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The available requested information is in the table. Data are not held centrally for Guildford alone or for Surrey alone. Data on the other countries of the United Kingdom are a matter for the devolved administrations.

	Guildford and Waverley primary care trust (PCT)		*Surrey and Sussex strategic health authority (SHA)*		*England*	
	Eligible population (thousand)	*Coverage (percentage less than 5 years since last adequate test)*	*Eligible population (thousand)*	*Coverage (percentage less than 5 years since last adequate test)*	*Eligible population (thousand)*	*Coverage (percentage less than 5 years since last adequate test)*
2002-03	61.2	84.0	651.2	83.8	12,686.4	81.6
2003-04	60.5	82.2	645.0	82.3	12,714.8	80.6
2004-05	60.5	82.0	645.0	81.8	12,714.8	80.3

Notes:
Prior to 2002-03 Guildford and Waverley PCT and Surrey and Sussex SHA were not in existence. Coverage in England was 81.6 per cent. in 2001-02 and 83 per cent. in 2000-01

Source:
Statistical Bulletin: Cervical Screening Programme, England: 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05

Connecting for Health

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what elements have changed from being funded by Connecting for Health to being funded by departmental central budgets since the inception of Connecting for Health; [79758]

(2) how much funding was moved from the Connecting for Health budget to the departmental central budgets in 2005-06 to pay for the choose and book appointments line. [79787]

Caroline Flint: None in both cases. However, in 2005-06 NHS Connecting for Health funded a proportion of the cost of running the choose and book management service, which is otherwise funded from the Department's central budgets. The sum involved was £1.57 million.

Dentistry

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect on *(a)* the throughput of and *(b)* access to NHS dentistry of the implementation of the new dental contact and agreement on 1 April; and if she will make a statement. [77050]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Management information indicates that, as at 1 April 2006, primary care trusts (PCTs) had commissioned services representing around 96 per cent. of previous levels and had begun steps to commission additional services, both to replace the small minority of contracts rejected and to expand service provision.

The recent reforms are designed to support PCTs in improving access to services in a number of ways. First, the resources now devolved to PCTs represent a £400 million increase in investment compared with 2003-04. Second, when a dentist chooses to stop providing national health service services locally, the money spent on these services now remains with the local PCT so that it is spent on commissioning new services from other dentists to replace lost capacity. Third, the new contractual arrangements are based on the expert clinical guidelines produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical excellence. These recommend that dentists recall patients at intervals of between three and 24 months depending on their oral health needs. In our view, this is likely to mean that many patients with good oral health who have traditionally attended at typically six-monthly intervals will not need to attend as frequently as they have done in the past. This will free up additional capacity and enable dentists to treat a greater range of patients.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the new dental contracts on the provision of domiciliary dental care and the provision of dental care to people living in care homes. [79558]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The funding devolved to primary care trusts (PCTs) for commissioning primary dental care services from April 2006 built on all such expenditure during the reference period of October 2004 to September 2005, including expenditure on domiciliary services. The new arrangements give PCTs greater flexibility to commission and develop domiciliary dental services and other primary care services to reflect local needs.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* dental practices and *(b)* dentists have opted out of the NHS in the last 12 months, broken down by London borough. [82948]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data on the number of general dental services (GDS) or personal dental services (PDS) practices that have left the national health service are not collected centrally. However, the number of practice addresses at the end of each year is known.

The number of GDS or PDS dental practices by London borough is shown in the following table.

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Number of GDS or PDS dental practice addresses by London borough as at 31 March each year

London borough	2005	2006
City of London	4	5
Barking and Dagenham	20	21
Barnet	88	91
Bexley	36	35
Brent	67	65
Bromley	57	59
Camden	60	62
Croydon	63	63
Ealing	56	57
Enfield	52	53
Greenwich	39	40
Hackney	33	34
Hammersmith and Fulham	43	43
Haringey	53	53
Harrow	54	54
Havering	38	38
Hillingdon	42	43
Hounslow	50	51
Islington	32	32

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Number of GDS or PDS dental practice addresses by London borough as at 31 March each year

London borough	*2005*	*2006*
Kensington and Chelsea	33	34
Kingston upon Thames	30	32
Lambeth	46	49
Lewisham	37	40
Merton	37	37
Newham	34	33
Redbridge	52	52
Richmond upon Thames	49	50
Southwark	38	38
Sutton	41	42
Tower Hamlets	31	34
Waltham Forest	34	36
Wandsworth	61	59
Westminster	78	73

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* general dental services contracts and *(b)* personal dental services contracts signed by or on 1 April on an in dispute basis remain in dispute, broken down by strategic health authority (SHA) area; and what proportion of the total contracts signed in each SHA area this represents. [84018]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Provisional management estimates on the number of contracts signed in dispute and the proportion of the total contracts signed that this represents by strategic health authority is shown in the table. A contract may be for either a practice or an individual dentist. These estimates were made in April.

Further management information on the position at the end of May will be available shortly.

Strategic health authority	*Number of contracts signed in dispute*	*Proportion of contracts signed in dispute to all contracts signed (percentage)*
England	2,884	34.4
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	111	33.2
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	162	50.0
Birmingham and the Black County	177	44.6
Cheshire and Merseyside	88	23.9
County Durham and Tees Valley	33	21.2
Cumbria and Lancashire	65	20.3
Dorset and Somerset	43	18.9
Essex	77	31.7
Greater Manchester	232	48.0
Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	84	30.2
Kent and Medway	106	41.9
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Rutland	118	45.7
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	88	24.6
North Central London	122	46.0
North East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	30	14.2
North East London	99	42.1
North West London	87	22.7
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	44	22.1
Shropshire and Staffordshire	163	40.9
South East London	123	50.2
South West London	57	22.7
South West Peninsula	52	19.3
South Yorkshire	122	62.2
Surrey and Sussex	134	26.6
Thames Valley	129	35.5
Trent	113	33.5
West Midlands, South	73	32.6
West Yorkshire	152	51.2

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 209W and the answer to question 81211, on NHS dentistry, why information on the number of people registered with an NHS dentist in each constituency available on 29 June was not collected. [84352]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Patient registration was part of the remuneration arrangements under the former system of general dental services up to 31 March 2006. Under the new system, the concept of registration no longer forms part of the remuneration system. The Department is therefore introducing a comparable means of monitoring the number of patients covered by national health service dental services, but the transition to the new arrangements has meant that it will be some months before the new measure is available.

As set out in the answer to question 81211 information will be available in due course via the NHS Business Services Authority on the numbers of patients who receive care or treatment from NHS primary care dentists on one or more occasions within a given period. This will provide a measure that is broadly similar to that of patient registration under the former system of CDS. We expect the first information to be available in the autumn.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many dentists who signed the new NHS dental contract who are *(a)* in dispute and *(b)* not in dispute had (i) withdrawn and (ii) given notice of their intention to withdraw from the contract by 1 July; [85315]

(2) how many and what percentage of dentists who signed the new NHS dental contract in dispute remained in dispute on 1 July. [85318]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no centrally available information on the number of dentists who have withdrawn from national health service dental contracts or given notice of their intention to withdraw.

Provisional management information on the number of contracts signed in dispute and the proportion of the total contracts signed that this represents by strategic health authority (SHA) is shown in the table. A contract may be for either a practice or an individual dentist. These estimates were made in April.

Primary care trusts are working with dentists to resolve as many disputes as possible locally.

SHA	*Number of contracts signed in dispute*	*Proportion of contracts signed in dispute to all contracts signed (Percentage)*
England	2,884	34.4
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	111	33
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	162	50.0
Birmingham and the Black Country	177	44.6
Cheshire and Merseyside	88	23.9
County Durham and Tees Valley	33	21.2
Cumbria and Lancashire	65	20.3
Dorset and Somerset	43	18.9
Essex	77	31.7
Greater Manchester	232	48.0
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	84	30.2
Kent and Medway	106	41.9
Leicestershire, Northants and Rutland	118	43.7
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	88	24.6
North Central London	122	46.0
North East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	30	14.2
North East London	99	42.1
North West London	87	22.7
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	44	22.1
Shropshire and Staffordshire	163	40.9
South East London	123	50.2
South West London	57	22.7
South West Peninsula	52	19.3
South Yorkshire	122	62.2
Surrey and Sussex	134	26.6
Thames Valley	129	35.5
Trent	113	33.5
West Midlands South	73	32.6
West Yorkshire	152	51.2

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists had completed *(a)* 100 per cent. *(b)* 75 per cent. and *(c)* 50 per cent. of their allocated annual units of dental activity on 1 July. [85316]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of NHS paying patients treated were under the new NHS dental contract in each of the three payment bands on 1 July. [85317]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest available data are from 1 April to 31 May 2006. The following table sets out the percentage of completed national health service treatments in England within each of the bands processed during the period 1 April 2006 to 31 May 2006.

Payment band	*Percentage of NHS treatments*
Band 1	60
Band 2	29
Band 3	3
Urgent	6
Prescription issue (free)	2

Notes:
1. Data shown are from activity forms processed in April and May 2006.
2. Activity forms are processed by the NHS Business Services Authority within a monthly scheduling programme. The data represent activity entered onto the system between these dates and do not represent treatment actually carried out during the period.
3. Complicated courses of treatment take longer to complete. The reported activity for the early months of the new contract is therefore more heavily weighted towards simpler treatments.
4. All data are provided by The Information Centre for health and social care.

Source:
NHS Business Services Authority

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health why items prescribed under band 3 will be grouped together as band 3 prescriptions and not measured as individual items under the new NHS contract for dentists. [83892]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Providers of general dental service and personal dental services are no longer paid by item of service but have an agreed annual contract value, which is paid in 12 monthly instalments. In return for this contract value, the provider carries out over the course of the year an agreed number of units of dental activity that correspond to overall courses of treatment. The provider therefore no longer has to submit data on the individual items of service within each course of treatment. Any items prescribed within a course of treatment are a matter for individual clinical judgment. This approach is intended to help promote more clinically appropriate practice, with less emphasis on the quality of individual interventions and more time available for preventative care.

Diabetes

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that there are adequate numbers of diabetes nurses in West Lancashire. [83486]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The "National Service Framework for Diabetes: Delivery Strategy" states that diabetes services need to ensure that there are enough staff with appropriate skills who are well-led, supported, and deliver high-quality care. It is up to local diabetes teams to decide, based on the needs of their local population, how best these teams are constructed to provide local services for both adults and children.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diabetes nurses are employed by West Lancashire Primary Care Trust. [83487]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

District General Hospitals

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been carried out by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* the NHS into the minimum population required to sustain a full district general hospital, including accident and emergency facilities. [80731]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Each district general hospital will serve a uniquely different population, both in terms of underlying health need and in terms of the population's capacity to access services. The hospital infrastructure required to support London versus rural Cornwall will be very different. The Department has not sought to prescribe or recommend minimum population sizes for hospitals.

Domiciliary Care

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* each region (i) met and (ii) did not meet the required standard at each stage in the registration of domiciliary care providers in the last year for which figures are available. [81681]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I understand from the Chair the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the information is not available in the precise form requested. The number of domiciliary care agencies (DCAs) registered with CSCI in the year 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 are shown in table 1.

As DCAs go through each stage of the registration process, CSCI considers whether they meet regulatory requirements. In terms of DCAs which have been refused registration in 2005-06, agencies are either issued a refusal notice or advised to withdraw their application. There were no refusal notices issued for the most recent calendar year, 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006. The total number of DCA applications withdrawn is shown in table 2.

The following tables show the figures requested by region.

Table 1: DCA registrations in 2005-06

Region	*Number*
North East	44
East Midlands	130
South West	94

Table 1: DCA registrations in 2005-06

Region	Number
West Midlands	91
North West	125
London	103
South East	129
Eastern	101
Yorkshire and Humberside	72
England total	889

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database

Table 2: Registration applications from DCAs withdrawn in 2005-06

Region	Number
North East	4
East Midlands	3
South West	4
West Midlands	17
North West	5
London	1
South East	10
Eastern	7
Yorkshire and Humberside	8
England total	59

Source:
CSCI registration and inspection database

Domiciliary Oxygen Provision

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultation was conducted with *(a)* service users and *(b)* health professionals in West Lancashire prior to the recent change in domiciliary oxygen provision. [83488]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Following an announcement of plans for change in July 2003, the Department worked with patients' representatives and health professionals to develop the service specification, which took into account the recommendations of a Royal College of Physicians' working group on the assessment and prescribing of oxygen therapy in the home. The specification was included in tender documents issued in October 2004. The Department also included representatives of the British Thoracic Society, which has developed clinical best practice guidelines on home oxygen therapy, and the British Lung Foundation, which campaigns and supports patients with lung disease, on a central panel that evaluated tenders received for the service. Regional national health service panels, which included healthcare professionals and other NHS staff, undertook a second stage assessment. These panels included NHS representatives for the north-west service region, which includes West Lancashire.

Drug Rehabilitation

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average expenditure per patient was for drug rehabilitation in *(a)* Ribble Valley and *(b)* Lancashire in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [82746]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a decision on whether to renew funding for the research by the MDEX consortium into Duchenne's muscular dystrophy before the summer recess. [83997]

Andy Burnham: We are already supporting the research by the MDEX consortium into Duchenne's muscular dystrophy. The contract for £1.6 million runs until December 2008. Any decision about future funding would be taken in light of the findings of the current research.

Equality and Diversity

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Department has spent in each of the last eight years on promoting equality and diversity. [81618]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department is fully committed to the equality and diversity agenda and has policies and processes in place to ensure that there is no unfair discrimination. The promotion of equality and diversity has become an integral component within many wider policy initiatives and it is not possible to disaggregate spending.

Fertility Treatment

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many eggs have been obtained from patients since the enactment of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990; how many have been used for research; and how many have been used for fertility treatments; [85153]

(2) what data are collected on *(a)* hyperstimulation syndrome and *(b)* other adverse clinical effects when eggs are obtained at fertility centres. [85154]

Caroline Flint: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) holds data on egg collections from 1 August 1991 to 31 March 2004. They indicate that the total number of eggs collected from patients was 3,080,812. For data collected between 1 August 1991 and 31 March 1999, this related to eggs collected solely for treatment purposes. From 1 August 1991 to 31 March 2004, 2,806,764 eggs were mixed with sperm for treatment purposes.

From 1 April 1999 to 31 March 2004, 393 eggs were donated to research. The data held by the HFEA on eggs collected for donation to research are limited because the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 and the remit of the HFEA only extends to research involving the use of human embryos.

The HFEA requires clinics to indicate on the treatment report form if a patient has experienced ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome in two sets of circumstances: first, where no eggs were collected when an egg collection was attempted and second, where no

embryos were transferred back to the patient even though viable embryos were available for transfer. Reporting clinics also give details of any other adverse clinical effects recorded in these circumstances.

GP Vacancies

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many reported GP vacancies there were in the last year for which figures are available; and how many applicants on average there were for each vacancy. [81700]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The estimated three-month general practitioner (GP) vacancy rate is 2.4 per cent., and the average number of three-month GP vacancies per 100,000 patients is 1.4 per cent. in England as recorded in the "GP Practice Vacancies Survey 2005, England and Wales". The number of applicants for each vacancy is not collected centrally.

Heathrow Airport

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans she has for the future of the health screening unit at Heathrow airport; [85223]

(2) what assessment the Government have undertaken of the requirement for health screening of visitors entering the UK via Heathrow airport; [85224]

(3) how many people arriving at Heathrow airport were identified by the Heathrow health screening unit as having tuberculosis in each of the last five years; [85230]

(4) whether the levels of resources allocated to the health screening unit at Heathrow airport are to be reduced. [85235]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The health control unit at Heathrow airport carries out medical examinations under the Immigration Act 1971 and also has port health responsibilities under the Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations 1979. There is a continuing need for both functions.

Following a review of operational arrangements for both functions, reported in my reply to the hon. Member for Westbury (Dr. Murrison) on 22 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1587-90W, the Health Protection Agency is taking the overall operational lead at points of entry in England to ensure that there are appropriate arrangements for medical examinations under the Immigration Act 1971 and for human health input into port health functions. It is working closely with Hillingdon Primary Care Trust and the London borough of Hillingdon to achieve this.

Hip Replacements

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time for a hip replacement was in the Greater West Lancashire Primary Care Partnership area in each of the last five years. [83485]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the average waiting time for hip replacement operations in West Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) in each year since the PCT was formed.

	Total episodes	*Waiting time (days)*	*Mean waiting time (days)*
2002-03	132	35,049	266
2003-04	155	35,077	226
2004-05	180	34,476	192

Notes:

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Time waited (days)

Time waited statistics from hospital episode statistics (HES) are not the same as the published waiting list statistics. HES provides counts and time waited for all patients admitted to hospital within a given period whereas the published waiting list statistics count those waiting for treatment on a specific date and how long they have been on the waiting list. Also, HES calculates the time waited as the difference between the admission and decision to admit dates. Unlike published waiting list statistics, this is not adjusted for self-deferrals or periods of medical/social suspension.

All operations count of episodes

These figures represent a count of all finished consultant episodes where the procedure was mentioned in any of the 12 operation fields in a HES record. A record is only included once in each count, even if an operation is mentioned in more than one operation field of the record.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data: the data arre ungrossed.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Home Births

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of births in each primary care trust were home births in each of the last five years. [84435]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the national statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 13 July 2006:

As the National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question about what proportion of births were home births in each primary care trust for each of the last five years. (84435)

The latest year for which data on maternities are available is 2004. The enclosed table, which has also been placed in the House of Commons Library, shows the figures requested for the years 1997 to 2004.

Hospital Mergers (Cheshire and Merseyside)

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will provide an opportunity for hon. Members in the Cheshire and Merseyside strategic health authority area to ask questions directly to the authors of the report on the potential for mergers of hospitals in Liverpool, Southport and Ormskirk NHS trust; [83469]

(2) how many organisations her Department considered in awarding the contract to carry out the review of the potential for merging hospitals in Southport, Ormskirk and Liverpool; which organisation was selected; what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of compiling the report; and what measures are in place to ensure that the report will be *(a)* independent and *(b)* published in full. [83470]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The former Cheshire and Merseyside strategic health authority (SHA), which is now part of the NHS North West SHA, awarded the contract to support its work around preparing national health service trusts to apply for NHS foundation trust status. Therefore, this is a matter for the NHS North West SHA.

Information Technology

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors account for the difference between the forecast national expenditure on the National Programme for Information Technology, as stated in paragraph *(a)* on page 25 of the National Audit Office Report the National Programme for IT in the NHS, HC1173, published on 16 June 2006, and the figure given by her Department's Director of Health and Social Services Delivery in oral evidence to the Health Committee in answer to Question 163 on 1 December 2005. [80304]

Caroline Flint: The figure given to the Health Committee as the value of the core national procurement programme contracts placed in 2003 and 2004 was £6.2 billion. This figure has not increased since the contracts were let, and is confirmed in the National Audit Office (NAO) report. The forecast national expenditure figure of £9.2 billion referred to by the NAO includes this sum, but in addition includes other elements, some of which are costs not directly associated with the national programme for information technology.

The other elements are made up of £382 million for contracts and projects added to the original scope of the programme; £239 million for additional services beyond the scope of the core national contracts; and a further £337 million pro rata extrapolation of the cost of the core contracts to cover the period to 2013 to 2014. This last figure is a purely notional sum to allow total expenditure to be projected over 10 years, and needed because two contracts (choose and book, and the new national broadband network—N3) reach the end of their life before the end of 10 years, requiring further provision to take forward the services.

In addition, a further £1.9 billion represents centrally managed expenditure on centrally managed projects and services within the national programme, and the cost of running the Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency. Some of these costs relate to agency responsibilities other than the national programme, including all of the information technology service delivered by the former NHS Information Authority (NHSIA). The NHSIA spent some £219 million in its last year. NHS Connecting for Health will be spending relatively less centrally and doing much more over 10 years.

We expect that actual expenditure will be very significantly less than £1.9 billion since, once the initial stages of system development and deployment are complete, the role and size of the agency will reduce accordingly.

All of these sums are itemised and described in the NAO's report.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the document, Delivering 21st century IT support for the NHS, when it was decided to move away from the recommendation for a choice of compliant systems for critical local applications. [76390]

Caroline Flint: No such decision has been taken. The strategy for the national programme for information technology requires the integration of multiple systems and applications operating together to functional and technical interoperability standards. Interoperability standards are shared with existing suppliers who are required to demonstrate compliance.

We have always said that general practitioners would have the option of an alternative system to that supplied by the local service providers (LSP), providing the system meets the necessary compliance standards. Under the proposed 'GP systems of choice' initiative, and subject to the same compliance requirements, general practitioners (GPs) will in future have an even wider choice of systems from approved existing GP system providers as an alternative to that provided by their LSP.

The aim of the new initiative is to enable GPs to either choose to upgrade their current clinical system, or migrate to an LSP-provided system in order to continue on the path to integration with the NHS Care Records Service. Providing GPs with this wider range of choice, and a clear roadmap to future integration with the NHS Care Records Service has been widely welcomed by the profession.

The commercial and organisational models chosen for delivering the national programme have produced exceptional value for the taxpayer by avoiding multiple procurements and significantly reducing unit costs for applications and systems. The National Audit Office report acknowledges an independent evaluation that confirms that £4.5 billion has been saved by central rather than local procurement and also acknowledges a further £860 million of savings achieved through centrally negotiated enterprise wide arrangements.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1539W, on Connecting for Health, what targets she has put in place for the roll-out of detailed care record access to *(a)* the originating organisations, *(b)* local care communities and *(c)* larger areas. [80958]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1539-40W.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the answers of 26 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 2333W, on Arm's Length Bodies, and 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1537W, on Connecting for Health, what the reasons are for the different figures given for the budget for Connecting for Health. [81018]

Caroline Flint: The budget figure of £178 million for NHS Connecting for Health (CfH) in 2005-06, quoted in my answer on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1537W, included recurrent cash items. These items were as follows.

	£000
Capital charges	52,510
Non-recurrent funding	10,260

These items were excluded from the budget figure of £115.23 million for CfH in 2005-06 quoted in my answer on 26 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 2333W. Non-recurrent funding is for a single year. Capital charges are a non-cash resource; that is no physical cash is used.

Jury Service

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her estimate is of the cost to the NHS of engagement in jury service by *(a)* doctors and *(b)* other NHS employees in each of the last three years. [85242]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 July 2006]:* We do not hold this information centrally.

Macmillan Nurses

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to increase the numbers of Macmillan nurses working for the NHS in West Lancashire. [83448]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is for national health service trusts to decide how many nurses, including palliative care nurse specialists, are employed in each specialty within hospitals. It is for local cancer networks, working in partnership with primary care trusts, strategic health authorities and their work force development directorates, to assess, plan and review their work force, education and training needs for all staff linked to the delivery of local and national priorities for cancer.

Maternity Statistics

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* live births and *(b)* abortions there were in (i) Essex and (ii) Bedford and Hertfordshire strategic health authority in 2005. [85152]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the table.

Strategic health authority	*Live births*	*Abortions*
Essex	19,064	5,047
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	21,052	5,207

ME/Chronic Fatigue

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what specialist myalgic encephalomyelitis/encephaliopathy and chronic fatigue syndrome services are being provided under the public patient initiative; and if she will make a statement. [84860]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are not aware of any specialist chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis services provided under the public patient initiative (PPI). The PPI is an initiative to engage local people in monitoring the quality of health trust activities and service delivery.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her policy is on the future provision of specialist myalgic encephalomyelitis and encephalopathy services by primary care trusts; [85020]

(2) whether funding for specialist myalgic encephalomyelitis and encephalopathy (ME) services is contained within the baseline budgets of primary care trusts; and what assessment she has made of the impact of the forthcoming restructuring of primary care trusts on the continued funding for specialist ME services; [85021]

(3) what assessment she has made of *(a)* the impact of any reduction in myalgic encephalomyelitis and encephalopathy (ME) services on the continued viability of whole service provision to people with ME and *(b)* the availability of other treatments by non-specialists to mitigate such reductions; [85022]

(4) what assessment she has made of the contribution made by specialist myalgic encephalomyelitis and encephalopathy services to the public and patient involvement initiative. [85023]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The national service framework for long-term conditions set out a clear vision of how health and social care organisations can improve the quality, consistency and responsiveness of their services and help improve the lives of people with neurological conditions, including chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME).

Funding for specialist CFS/ME services is included in the baseline budgets for primary care trusts. No assessment of the impact of any restructuring of primary care trusts on the continued funding of these services has been made.

There are no plans to reduce CFS/ME services, and hence no assessment of the impact of any hypothetical reduction in services has been made.

We have made no assessment of the contribution made by specialist CFS/ME centres to the public and patient involvement initiative.

Mental Health Act

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to seek *(a)* to repeal and *(b)* to amend section 117 of the Mental Health Act 1983 in the forthcoming Mental Health Bill. [80842]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The current Government plans for amending the Mental Health Act 1983, as announced in March 2006, do not include repeal of section 117. The provisions of section 117 will in addition apply to patients on supervised community treatment.

Mesothelioma

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are receiving treatment for mesothelioma in each local health authority in England. [82655]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of patients being treated for mesothelioma in each local health authority in England, for 2004-05.

Health authority of treatment	*Total patients*
Avon	108
Barking and Havering	32
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey	16
Barnsley	6
Bedfordshire	13
Berkshire	30
Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich	37
Birmingham	60
Bradford	26
Brent and Harrow	6
Buckinghamshire	15
Calderdale and Kirklees	7
Cambridgeshire	70
Camden and Islington	7
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	26
County Durham and Darlington	29
Coventry	21
Croydon	6
Doncaster	22
Dorset	32
Dudley	13
Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow	13
East Kent	36
East Lancashire	9
East London and the City	59
East Riding and Hull	40
East Surrey	10
East Sussex, Brighton and Hove	40
Gateshead and South Tyneside	25
Gloucestershire	35
Herefordshire	2
Hertfordshire	38
Hillingdon	10
Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and South East Hampshire	76
Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster	123
Kingston and Richmond	6
Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham	70
Leeds	60
Leicestershire	96
Lincolnshire	12
Liverpool	60
Manchester	98
Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth	28
Morecambe Bay	25
Newcastle and North Tyneside	101
Norfolk	51
Northamptonshire	18
North and East Devon	39
North and Mid Hampshire	13
North Cheshire	18
North Cumbria	16
North Derbyshire	8
North Essex	38
North Nottinghamshire	12
North Staffordshire	18
North-West Lancashire	47
North Yorkshire	25
Nottingham	42
Oxfordshire	26
Redbridge and Waltham Forest	14
Rotherham	7
Salford and Trafford	13
Sefton	4
Sheffield	39
Shropshire	6
Somerset	16
Southampton and South West Hampshire	57
South and West Devon	48
South Cheshire	33
Southern Derbyshire	24
South Essex	49
South Humber	11
South Staffordshire	12
St. Helens and Knowsley	20
Stockport	8
Suffolk	31
Sunderland	29
Tees	59
Wakefield	15
Walsall	6
Warwickshire	21
West Kent	40
West Pennine	26
West Surrey	40
West Sussex	18
Wigan and Bolton	11
Wiltshire	9
Wirral	50
Wolverhampton	12
Worcestershire	12

Ministerial Meetings

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library the record of discussions made by her officials of her recent meeting with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church; and if she will make a statement. [85123]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 4 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 975W.

National School Fruit Scheme

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of fruit supplied to schools in West Lancashire under the National Fruit Scheme was sourced from *(a)* suppliers within 25 miles of the school supplied, *(b)* national suppliers and *(c)* overseas suppliers, over the period September 2004 to September 2005. [83659]

Ms Rosie Winterton: From September 2004 to 2005 schools in West Lancashire received fruit and vegetables under the school fruit and vegetable scheme from two distribution depots located in Wigan and Skelmersdale. Five United Kingdom based suppliers supplied eight different types of fruit and vegetables to the depots. We do not collect information about the distance of suppliers in relation to the schools they supply. No overseas suppliers are participating in the school fruit and vegetable scheme.

New Critical Care Hospital (St. Helier)

Sir Paul Beresford: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to the response from the Epsom and St. Helier hospital trust to her announcement that the new critical care hospital will be built on the St. Helier site. [85314]

Caroline Flint: The Department has received the response from the local national health service on St. Helier and is currently considering the situation.

NHS Professionals

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who pays the superannuation of temporary staff supplied through NHS Professionals to NHS trusts. [84710]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 12 July 2006]:* National health service employees are entitled to access to the NHS pension scheme.

NHS Professionals recover the costs of the employer's contribution to the NHS pension scheme from the employing trust.

Nurses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason there are active programmes recruiting people for training as a nurse abroad. [79634]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government do not actively recruit nursing students from overseas to train in the national health service. Admissions criteria for nursing courses are the responsibility of individual higher education institutions.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses work in NHS hospitals in the West Lancashire primary care trust area; and how many of them were employed via agencies in the last period for which figures are available. [83447]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In September 2005, Southport and Ormskirk hospital national health service trust employed 868 qualified nurses (headcount).

Information on the number of nurses employed via agencies is not held centrally.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care, non-medical workforce census

Nut Allergies

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the reasons for the trend in the number of people suffering from a nut allergy. [84265]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Studies suggest that the prevalence of food allergy in the United Kingdom may be increasing, especially in children, in line with the general increase in allergic diseases. There are many possible explanations for the apparent rise and there is currently no definitive answer. The Food Standards Agency is currently funding several studies aimed at identifying the prevalence of individual food allergies, including nut allergy. These projects should also give clues as to the possible reasons for the apparent rise in food allergy. The first of these studies is expected to be published in the scientific literature later this year and the second is part of a larger Europe-wide study on food allergy prevalence and factors that influence development of food allergy and will finish in July 2009.

Out-patient Appointments

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many out-patient appointments have been booked by GPs in West Lancashire since April 2005. [84885]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is shown in the following table.

Number of new out-patient bookings, April 2005 to May 2006

Org ID	*Name*	*Total*	*Proportion to be mapped to 5F3 (percentage)*	*Total*
RVY	Southport and Ormskirk hospital NHS trust	37,593	65	24,669
RRF	Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS trust	63,364	25	17,091
REM	Aintree hospitals NHS trust	53,244	10	5,324

Number of new out-patient bookings, April 2005 to May 2006

Org ID	Name	Total	Proportion to be mapped to 5F3 (percentage)	Total
5F3	West Lancashire primary care trust	—	—	47,085

Source:
Department of Health, Monthly Monitoring Returns (provider based)

Physiotherapists

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many physiotherapists were working in the NHS in each year since 1997. [81804]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of qualified physiotherapists employed in the national health service in England has increased by 5,754 or 40 per cent. since September 1997 which is shown in the following table.

England

	Headcount
1997	14,243
1998	14,699
1999	15,070
2000	15,608
2001	16,212
2002	16,885
2003	17,922
2004	19,139
2005	19,997

Source:
The Information Centre for Health and Social Care, non-medical workforce census

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of its Directed Enhanced Services budget allocation each primary care trust *(a)* received and *(b)* spent in 2005-06. [70129]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The 2005-06 budget allocations made to primary care trusts (PCTs) do not separately identify the directed enhanced service (DES) amounts. However, information on 2005-06 DES spend, based on latest available PCT forecasts, has been placed in the Library. These figures are provisional and unaudited.

Private Sector Provision

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of healthcare provision in England is provided by the private sector. [75145]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2004-05 expenditure on the purchase of healthcare from non-NHS bodies was £3.666 billion, approximately 5 per cent. of the total national health service budget but that excludes longstanding arrangements relating to the general medical, pharmaceutical and optical services and the purchasing of pharmaceutical products and medical devices from the private sector.

Psychiatric Care

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many psychiatric patients were discharged from in-patient care in each year since 1990. [83377]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of psychiatric patients discharged from in-patient care by the national health service in England for each year between 1997-98 and 2004-05 is shown in the following table.

Information about other years is not available.

NHS patients in England discharged from inpatient care with primary diagnosis of a psychiatric condition between 1997-98 and 2004-05

	Number
2004-05	147,044
2003-04	143,826
2002-03	142,542
2001-02	139,690
2000-01	144,407
1999-2000	150,615
1998-99	159,382
1997-98	160,306

Notes:
1. A patient discharge episode, where the patient is discharged from hospital, includes transfers to other hospitals and patient deaths, where applicable.
2. The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital. The data do not represent patient numbers because an individual may have more than one episode of care within the same year.
3. The term psychiatric condition is all diagnoses as defined by the international classification of mental and behavioural disorders (ICD-10) codes F00-F99.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Reproductive Health

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions of the morning-after pill were issued in each primary care trust area in each year since 1993, broken down by age of patient. [81277]

Caroline Flint: The information on the number of prescriptions for emergency hormonal contraception prescribed by general practitioner practices in each primary care trust has been placed in the Library. Data by complete years are not available prior to 2002 and it is not possible to break the data down by age.

The data on emergency hormonal contraception dispensed by family planning clinics could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Skin Cancer

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the use of photodynamic therapy in skin cancer treatment; and if she will make a statement. [84495]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is not the role of the Department to assess the relative costs and patient benefits of this or other treatments. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has been set up to issue

clinical guidance to the national health service including: interventional procedure guidance to assess if a procedure is safe for routine use in the NHS; technology appraisals to assess if a treatment is clinically and cost effective; clinical guidelines to advise on the diagnosis and management of certain conditions; and, cancer service guidance to advise on how services should be organised to ensure good outcomes for patients.

In February 2006, as part of its programme of work on interventional procedures, NICE issued guidance on the use of photodynamic therapy (PDT) in the treatment of non-melanoma skin tumours. It noted that the procedure was generally safe and did not cause major problems although, in theory, it could start off cancerous changes in the skin. NICE also stated that patients need to understand the risks of this treatment before they agree to have PDT and that further treatment may be necessary.

Also in February 2006, NICE published guidance on "Improving Outcomes for people with skin tumours, including melanoma". This guidance includes recommendations on the management of patients with suspected precancerous or cancerous skin lesions. It describes PDT including the advantages and disadvantages of this type of treatment and notes that, at present, there is little information available on long-term cure rates. It does however recommend that a number of surgical and non-surgical procedures for the treatment of skin cancer, including PDT, should be available for use by clinicians in relevant teams, subject to locally agreed standards of competence.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the NHS treatment of skin cancer is undertaken with the use of photodynamic therapy. [84496]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect information centrally on the proportion of national health service treatment of skin cancer undertaken with the use of photodynamic therapy (PDT).

However, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has issued guidance on the use of PDT in the NHS as part its programme of work on interventional procedures. NICE also addressed the use of PDT in its guidance on "Improving Outcomes for people with skin tumours, including melanoma".

Both pieces of guidance were published in February 2006 and can be found on NICE's website.

Social Services Care

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Department's recommended criteria are for the categorisation of the level and extent of care required by each recipient in relation to social services care provided by local authorities. [84878]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's recommended criteria to local authorities on setting of eligibility criteria for provision of services to all adults seeking social care support is set out in the "Fair Access to Care Services Guidance on Eligibility Criteria for Adult Social Care" which is available on the Department's website at: www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/01/96/41/04019641.pdf.

The guidance prioritises the risks faced by individuals into four bands, critical, substantial, moderate and low, and requires councils to adopt these bands in determining the criteria.

Terminal and Palliative Care

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many terminally ill and palliative care beds were available in each primary care trust in *(a)* London and *(b)* England for (i) adults and (ii) children in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [82970]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not routinely collect data on palliative care beds in each primary care trust. Primary care trusts are responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including palliative care beds. However, Hospice Information, an independent organisation shows the number of beds available.

Palliative care places	*Beds*	*NHS beds*	*Voluntary beds*
London—adult	394	86	308
England—adult	2,624	496	2,128
London—children	9	0	9
England—children	204	0	204

Source:
Hospice information January 2006: An independent service provided by Help the Hospices.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what targets her Department has set for tariff pricing for palliative care services; what progress she has made against those targets; and whether the tariff will reflect the cost of the care provided by *(a)* voluntary organisations, *(b)* the state and *(c)* the private sector. [83050]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Work to develop health care resource groups (HRGs) for specialist palliative care is ongoing. Currently, payment by results tariffs only apply to certain services provided by national health service trusts. Further work will need to be done before tariffs can be introduced for community, independent sector and third sector services.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the Health White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say", when the Government will bring forward proposals on the *(a)* kinds of services required and *(b)* the mechanism by which funding will be allocated for community-based palliative care and hospice at home services; [83051]

(2) how much the Government have allocated to palliative care in 2006-07; and what plans she has for expenditure on palliative care. [83053]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not routinely collect data requested on national health service funding of palliative care.

PCTs are responsible within the NHS for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including palliative care. It is for them to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations.

Ministers have asked the National Cancer Director, Professor Mike Richards, supported by Professor Ian Philp, National Director for Older People, to prepare a comprehensive strategy to develop and progress end of life care. The strategy will establish the means whereby the Government's manifesto commitment on palliative care and also the end of life care strategy outlined in the White Paper "Our health, Our Care, Our Say" will be delivered. Professor Richards has been asked to report back to Ministers in the autumn.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department is committed to full cost recovery for palliative services that are commissioned by the state. [83052]

Ms Rosie Winterton: HM Treasury's "Cross Cutting Review" recommended that funders should recognise that it is legitimate for voluntary and community sector providers to include the relevant element of overheads in their cost estimates for providing a given service under a contract or service agreement. In the context of hospice care, this does not mean the full costs of the hospice, but rather those services provided by the hospice that are commissioned by the primary care trust. National health service commissioners should be moving towards implementing the Treasury's recommendation on full cost recovery on those services they commission from the voluntary sector. The emphasis should, therefore, be on effective negotiation between contracting partners as contracts and service level agreements come up for renewal.

Tuberculosis

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of tuberculosis were reported in each of the last five years in the Southport and Ormskirk hospital NHS trust area. [83442]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the following table by primary care trust (PCT) area of residence for the latest years for which data is available.

	Southport and Formby PCT	*West Lancashire PCT*
2000	2	0
2001	4	1
2002	2	1
2003	3	2
2004	5	1

Note:
Data as at 7 July 2006
Source:
Health Protection Agency, enhanced tuberculosis surveillance scheme

UK Pensioners (Overseas Health Care)

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral arrangements the United Kingdom has with (i) Estonia, (ii) Finland, (iii) France, (iv) Germany, (v) Greece, (vi) Hungary, (vii) Ireland, (viii) Italy, (ix) Latvia, (x) Lithuania, (xi) Luxembourg, (xii) Malta, (xiii) Netherlands, (xiv) Poland, (xv) Portugal, (xvi) Slovakia, (xvii) Slovenia, (xviii) Spain and (xix) Sweden on the provision of health care for UK pensioners resident in that country. [84399]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There are arrangements co-ordinating the social security and health care systems of all the member states of the European Union (EU). This is covered by Regulation (EEC) 1408/71 which is a multilateral instrument.

It provides that pensioners living in another EU member state who are receiving a United Kingdom state retirement, long-term incapacity or bereavement pension, are entitled to health care on the same basis as that country's own insured persons.

Urinary Reflux

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department has *(a)* undertaken, *(b)* plans to undertake and *(c)* evaluated into the (i) number and (ii) age of (A) males and (B) females who have urinary reflux; and if she will make a statement. [85151]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not evaluated, undertaken, or has plans to undertake, research into the number, age and sex distribution of those with urinary reflux.

Walk-in Centres (Funding)

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had on the review of walk-in centre funding arrangements; what was discussed at each meeting; and if she will publish research her Department has (i) undertaken, (ii) commissioned and (iii) received as part of that review process. [79671]

Caroline Flint: These matters have been discussed at a number of meetings and proposals will be coming to Ministers shortly. No new research has been undertaken, commissioned or received.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Abattoirs

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 9W, on abattoirs, how many abattoirs there were in England in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [81800]

Barry Gardiner: The number of red and poultry meat slaughterhouses recorded in England for the years 1997 to 2005 are shown in the following table.

	Red meat	*Poultry meat*
1997	375	131
1998	360	131

	Red meat	Poultry meat
1999	339	119
2000	316	111
2001	300	116
2002	298	109
2003	282	111
2004	264	105
2005	250	98

Source:
Food Standards Agency—December 2005

The number of slaughterhouses in England has reduced since 1997, reflecting a longer-term trend for consolidation. For example in 1987 there were 790. The Government recognise the importance of an adequate network of slaughterhouses to ensure that all sustainable production needs can continue to be met. I also refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my predecessor as Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight), on 9 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 476W.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many abattoirs there are in Yeovil constituency; and how many there were in 1997. [82181]

Barry Gardiner: The Department does not keep data on the number of abattoirs by constituency but it is understood that, of the 12 abattoirs in the County of Somerset, one lies within the Yeovil constituency. We have no corresponding data for 1997.

Agency Staff

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what average hourly rate was paid by his Department to each employment agency for staff employed through agencies in 2005-06. [81497]

Barry Gardiner: Information is not held centrally on the average hourly rate paid by the Department to each employment agency for personnel engaged through agencies in 2005-06. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Air Conditioning/Heating

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the carbon emissions resulting from *(a)* the generation of heating for buildings and *(b)* the powering of air conditioning in buildings per head of population (i) in total and (ii) broken down by region. [84071]

Ian Pearson: The information requested is set out in the following tables:

Estimated annual carbon emissions from the space heating of domestic and non-domestic buildings per capita

	Kilograms
Great Britain	503
England	497
Scotland	526
Wales	577

Estimated annual carbon emissions from the air conditioning of domestic and non-domestic buildings per capita

	Kilograms
Great Britain	23
England	23
Scotland	20
Wales	19

For Northern Ireland, the annual carbon emissions from the space heating of non-domestic buildings are estimated at 142 kg per capita, and for air-conditioning it is 20 kg. We do not currently have figures for the carbon emissions of homes in Northern Ireland.

Air Quality

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made towards meeting the Government's Air Quality Strategy targets for *(a)* carbon monoxide, *(b)* lead, *(c)* nitrogen dioxide, *(d)* particles, *(e)* sulphur dioxide, *(f)* benzene and *(g)* 1,3 butadiene. [85459]

Mr. Bradshaw: Provisional results for 2005, issued at the beginning of this year, show that the UK maintained and met the Air Quality Strategy's targets for carbon monoxide, benzene and 1,3-butadiene and lead. We missed objectives for nitrogen dioxide (2005) and ozone (2005) and very marginally missed those for particulates (2004) in some parts of the UK. However, we are meeting our current objectives for all air pollutants in most parts of the country—up to 99.5 per cent. in some cases—and only a limited number of hot spot areas remain.

However, based on present measures, more work will be needed to meet the targets for particles and nitrogen dioxide in some parts of our towns and cities. We are currently working with other Departments to review the Air Quality Strategy and explore what additional policy measures could help move us closer to meeting air quality targets. A public consultation on the review of the Air Quality Strategy was launched in April this year and is available from the following address:
http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/airqualstrat-review/index.htm

Angling

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much angling contributes to the Exchequer; and how much is paid out to assist with angling-related activity. [84676]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no exact figures on how much angling contributes to the Exchequer, but estimates suggest that the annual economic activity associated with angling is up to £2.75 billion, directly employing around 20,000 people, either full or part-time.

The Department provides Grant in Aid of £5.8 million to maintain, improve and develop freshwater fisheries in England, part of which is paid out to assist with angling-related activities.

I understand that Sport England provide £185,000 in funding to Angling Governing Bodies.

Beaches

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* bathing and *(b)* non-bathing beaches are (i) measured and (ii) not measured for (A) beach and (B) water quality standards; whether each beach which is measured met each standard at its last inspection; and what plans there are to strengthen the (1) monitoring and (2) standards. [84096]

Ian Pearson: Bathing waters are identified according to the criteria set by the 1976 EC Bathing Water Directive (1976/160/EEC). There are 405 identified coastal bathing waters in England, which are monitored in accordance with the Directive during the bathing season, which runs from mid-May to the end of September. In 2005, 98.8 per cent. of these met the mandatory standards of the Bathing Water Directive, with only five waters failing to meet the minimum requirements. There are also nine identified inland bathing waters in England, all of which met the mandatory standards. A list of these sites is presented in Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC) Detailed Summary of 2005 Survey Results United Kingdom, which has been placed in the Library of the House. It is also available at: http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/quality/bathing/pdf/report05.pdf

The monitoring of water quality and the meeting of water quality standards is not required at sites which do not meet the directive's criteria for a bathing water.

With regard to the strengthening of monitoring and other standards, a revised Bathing Water Directive was recently adopted by the EU and entered into force in March 2006. This revised version will bring a closer focus on the protection of public health and tighter water quality standards to identified bathing waters by 2015.

The duty to clear litter and refuse under section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, only applies to 'relevant land' above the high water mark. However, beach quality standards are an important element of the international Blue Flag Award administered in the UK by ENCAMS (Environmental Campaigns), and of the UK-wide ENCAMS Seaside Award scheme recognising clean, safe and well-managed beaches.

Each year local authorities can apply for a Blue Flag or Seaside Award, or both, for any of their beaches. Each application, which is assessed by an independent panel of judges, must satisfy rigorous criteria which covers a broad range of factors pertaining to the management of the beach. The applications for 2006 are as follows:

	Number
Number of blue flag applications in England	79
Number of successful blue flag applications in England	[1]77
Number of seaside award applications in England	[2]229
Number of successful seaside award applications in England	229

[1] Two failures due to water quality testing technicalities.
[2] 150 seaside award only applications plus 79 joint blue flag/seaside award applications.

A full list of Blue Flag Award beaches (including marinas) can be found at http://www.seasideawards.org.uk/bf_list.asp. For seaside awards, the link is http://www.seasideawards.org.uk/list.asp

Southwold Pier gained a Blue Flag England and Boulevard Beach, Blackpool gained a Seaside Award England. They are not showing on the website due to ongoing building work which has over-run its schedule.

Monitoring and standards for beaches will be strengthened in a new Quality Coast award scheme, developed by ENCAMS and supported by Defra, that will replace the seaside awards for applications from the end of this year. This scheme will provide a broader framework for beach operators to assist in managing the needs of different users and the beach environment. Local environmental quality standards will be a key component of the award, and will be monitored using survey methodology based on the Local Environmental Quality Survey of England which also forms the basis for street cleansing best value performance indicators BV199A-D.

Biofuel Crops

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs why energy aid top-up grants for biofuel crops are not available to crops grown on set aside land. [85311]

Barry Gardiner: The €45 per hectare Energy Aid payment was introduced by the European Commission in 2004 as part of the Common Agricultural Policy reform, to encourage the production of biofuels. At the time, certain energy crops grown on set-aside land were eligible for the set-aside payment.

The Commission has given a commitment in its Biomass Action Plan to review the implementation of the payment by the end of this year.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many problem herds were involved in his Department's pilot study of the gamma interferon bovine tuberculosis test; and how many cattle *(a)* there were in each herd, *(b)* tested positive to the standard intradermal skin test, *(c)* tested positive to the standard intradermal skin test and showed visible lesions or were bacteriologically positive, *(d)* were inconclusive to the standard intradermal skin test, *(e)* were inconclusive to the standard intradermal skin test and subsequently slaughtered, *(f)* were inconclusive to the standard intradermal skin test, were subsequently slaughtered and showed visible lesions or were bacteriologically positive, *(g)* tested negative to the standard intradermal skin test but positive to the gamma interferon tuberculosis test and *(h)* tested negative to the standard intradermal skin test but positive to the gamma interferon tuberculosis

test and, on slaughter, showed visible lesions or were bacteriologically positive. [70954]

Mr. Bradshaw: An initial report providing an analysis of the data from the field study should be published shortly, once it is finalised.

In line with standard practice, the report will be freely available, but I have asked my officials to ensure my hon. Friend receives a copy as soon as it is ready.

British Sugar Factory, York

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what representations he has received on the impending closure of the British Sugar factory in York in 2007; [84304]

(2) what discussions he has had with British Sugar on the implications for farmers in North Yorkshire of the closure of the sugar factory in York; [84305]

(3) what assessment he has made of the implications for local farmers of the closure of the British Sugar factory, with particular reference to the cost of transporting sugar beet to factories. [84306]

Barry Gardiner: In addition to a meeting which my noble Friend, Lord Rooker, the Minister for Sustainable Farming and Food had with the National Farmers' Union on 12 July, we are receiving a number of correspondence cases about the implications for growers in the area concerned.

British Sugar has written to us explaining the background to its decision and informing us that it is currently in discussion with the National Farmers' Union on these issues and with its own staff about the employment consequences at the factory itself. We have asked to be kept informed about progress.

Coastal Defences

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the funds earmarked for sea coastal defences in *(a)* Clacton-on-Sea and *(b)* Holland-on-Sea have been allocated; and what assessment he has made of the balance of priorities between river and sea flood defences in Essex. [84301]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given on 10 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1402W.

From April 2006, all local authority flood and coastal erosion capital improvement projects are funded by direct grant aid from Defra. Defra funding is allocated to individual capital improvement projects across the country through a priority scoring system, which looks at the benefits of potential projects compared with the costs. River and sea defences are treated equally within this process.

Environment Agency budgets for coastal and fluvial funding are drawn up in September, for spending in the following financial year. These figures are based upon asset and watercourse inspections and historical levels of expenditure. There may, in some years, be raised levels of expenditure depending on situations such as storm damage, high rainfall events and varying levels of weed growth in watercourses. Where repairs to damage sustained are above the budgeted level, these works are funded from within the overall area maintenance budget by reprioritising programmed works.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total amount paid under the Common Agricultural Policy to *(a)* limited companies and *(b)* individuals was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [82794]

Barry Gardiner: Details relating to payments made to both limited companies and individuals can be found on the following website: www.rpa.gov.uk/about.rpa/CAP payments for EAGGF 2003-04

Data relating to the EAGGF 2004-05 are being prepared and will be available on the RPA website in the near future.

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers in the UK received Common Agricultural Policy subsidies of *(a)* 0 to 5,000, *(b)* 5,000 to 50,000 and *(c)* more than 50,000 euros in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06. [82795]

Barry Gardiner: The number of farmers in England can be found on the following website for the EAGGF year 2003-04: www.rpa.gov.uk/about.rpa/CAP payments for EAGGF 2003-04

Data relating to the EAGGF year 2004-05 are being prepared and will be available on the RPA website in the near future.

Analysis for the EAGGF year 2005-06 will not be available until after the year closes in October 2006.

Please note that all the above data are prepared in sterling as this is the required reporting currency to the EC.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Treasury and *(b)* the Cabinet Office regarding the pre-comprehensive spending review report; and if he will make a statement. [82845]

Barry Gardiner: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, has had and will continue to have wide ranging and regular discussions with the Chief Secretary about preparations for the 2007 comprehensive spending review, as a matter of key importance to Defra's medium and long-term planning.

Credit Unions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will provide information and membership forms for credit unions to its employees. [79940]

Ian Pearson: The Government welcome the contribution made by the various savings institutions in providing for greater choice and diversity in the financial services sector.

The Government's guiding principles are to ensure impartiality and to help create a level playing field for all providers of financial services in order that their specific attributes can be properly harnessed.

It would therefore be inconsistent for a Government Department to favour credit unions above other financial institutions.

Employees are of course free to join in credit unions if they meet their relevant membership criteria and Departments may provide appropriate levels of support if employees wish to set up a credit union.

Departmental and Agency Staff

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Rural Payments Agency, *(c)* the Countryside Agency, *(d)* the Environment Agency and *(e)* English Nature have been previously employed in (i) agriculture and (ii) a related industry. [85136]

Barry Gardiner: Records of the previous employment of members of staff are not held electronically and therefore if the information requested was available, it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what draft Bills have been produced by his Department since October 2005; how many were (a) examined and (b) are planned to be examined by (i) a Departmental Select Committee and (ii) a Joint Committee; which draft Bills are still to be produced by his Department; when each is expected to be published; how many clauses each has; and if he will make a statement. [81296]

Barry Gardiner: No draft Bills have been published since October 2005.

Announcements on future legislation and future draft legislation which will be subject to pre-legislative scrutiny will be indicated in the Queen's Speech.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his practice is regarding meeting, discussing and taking into account the views and opinions of *(a)* private individuals and *(b)* representatives of organisations when drawing up and framing legislation to be introduced by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [81297]

Barry Gardiner: Defra is committed to strengthening its stakeholder engagement and developing a relationship of trust and confidence with customers, partners and other stakeholders. The Department always seeks a full range of views when drawing up and framing legislation. Consultation is a key part of the policy-making process, both informal and formal. The Department holds regular meetings with representatives of the principal stakeholder groups for our policy areas, actively seeking the involvement of minority groups, and with relevant experts. Organisations and individuals can also contribute to the Department's formal consultations which abide by the Code of Conduct on Consultation. Known stakeholders are alerted to the fact that a formal consultation is taking place, with key stakeholders contributing to the content of the consultation document. All contributors should receive an acknowledgement from the Department, and may be invited to further discuss their comments. As required by the Code, the Department then gives feedback on the responses received and on how the consultation process influenced the policy decision.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the Deposited Papers placed in the Library by his Department since 2000; and when each was published. [81299]

Barry Gardiner: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Select Committee Recommendations

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what actions have been taken by his Department to implement Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee recommendations since the 2001-02 session; and if he will make a statement. [78839]

Barry Gardiner: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, the Government do make clear in its response to Select Committee Reports whether or not the Committee's recommendations are accepted.

Departmental Staff

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many disabled staff in his Department received support through the Access to Work scheme *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* in 2006-07. [82226]

Barry Gardiner: Defra does not hold information centrally on the use of the Access to Work scheme. Managers access the scheme directly and liaise with their local service provider.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 152W, on departmental staff, how many members of staff in his Department had two or more periods of sick leave of less than five days in 2003 and 2004. [84030]

Barry Gardiner: Information on sickness absence in DEFRA in 2003 and 2004 at the level of detail requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electrical Appliances (Stand-by Mode)

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the annual level of UK carbon emissions resulting from electrical appliances being left in stand-by mode. [84073]

Ian Pearson: The most recent analysis of the energy consumption of equipment in households and commercial properties was undertaken by DEFRA's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) last year. This estimated that the level of carbon emissions resulting from electrical appliances left in stand-by mode was just over one million tonnes of carbon per annum.

The report, "Estimated UK standby Electricity Consumption in 2004 (BNXS36)" can be found at: http://www.mtprog.com/ApprovedBriefingNotes/BriefingNoteTemplate.aspx?intBriefingNoteID=393

MTP is currently in the process of updating this information.

FIFA World Cup

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which matches *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department attended at the FIFA World Cup 2006 in Germany in their Ministerial capacity; at what cost to public funds; and with what contributions from third party organisations. [83625]

Barry Gardiner: Neither the Secretary of State nor any Minister in Defra attended any matches at the FIFA World Cup 2006.

Fly-tipping

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimates for fly-tipping incidents recorded by Flycapture were for 2005-06. [85709]

Mr. Bradshaw: Results from Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, for the first year showed that an average of over 88,500 fly-tipping incidents per month were reported in the period April 2004 to March 2005.

Data for 2005-06 are currently being analysed and will be published shortly. No estimates are available.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under what circumstances the biotechnology company, organisation or person holding a consent to market a genetically modified organism (GMO) would be considered an "operator" under the terms of the Environmental Liability Directive; and whether the marketing consent holder would be liable for environmental harm arising from the use of a licensed GMO by doctors, veterinarians or farmers. [84479]

Ian Pearson: The definition of an 'operator' in the Environmental Liability Directive means that a biotechnology company and an organisation marketing a genetically modified organism (GMO) would be regarded as an operator for the purposes of the Directive.

Under the Directive, operators are, in principle, liable for environmental harm caused by their own actions. However, the way that this liability will apply in practice will be dependent in part on decisions following the outcome of the consultation on transposition of the Directive, which the government will be conducting later this year.

Whether any individual marketing consent holder would be liable for environmental harm arising from the use of a licensed GMO would be dependent on the individual circumstances of the case, in particular the nature of the relationship between the consent holder and the user, and how the environmental damage occurred.

Ivory

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the *(a)* control of ivory stock piles and *(b)* reopening of the trade in ivory. [81928]

Barry Gardiner: The UK has been closely involved in the debate surrounding proposals for one-off sales of stockpiled ivory, through our involvement in the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES).

(a) CITES has placed a number of strict preconditions that have to be met before one-off sales of ivory stock can take place. In addition the proceeds have to be used exclusively for elephant and community conservation projects within, or near, the areas where the elephants reside. The UK will not support the proposed one-off sales if we are not entirely satisfied that the strict conditions have been met.

(b) The international ban on trade in ivory remains firmly in place and is fully supported by the UK Government. We remain clearly of the view that the illegal and unsustainable trade in ivory should not be permitted. We will not support any resumption in the commercial trade in ivory until we are satisfied that this will not result in an increase in the illegal killing of elephants, or undermine the conservation of elephant populations elsewhere in the world.

To assist any considerations I have asked the International Fund for Animal Welfare to prepare estimates of the cost of improving conservation measures to combat elephant poaching commensurate with ensuring that any stimulus that such one-off sales of stockpiled ivory might give to the black market trade would be more than offset by the improved conservation.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the plans under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species for a one-time sale of ivory stocks. [82158]

Barry Gardiner: The UK continues to be closely involved in the debate surrounding calls for one-off

sales of stockpiled ivory, through our involvement in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The convention has set a number of strict pre-conditions that have to be met before one-off sales of ivory could take place. In addition, parties to CITES have stated that the proceeds would have to be used exclusively for elephant and community conservation projects within, or near, the areas where the elephants reside.

The UK will continue to work with EU member states and CITES parties so that no decision to allow the proposed one-off sales can take place unless the strict conditions I have referred to have been met.

To assist any considerations I have asked the International Fund for Animal Welfare to prepare estimates of the cost of improving conservation measures to combat elephant poaching commensurate with ensuring that any stimulus that such one-off sales of stockpiled ivory might give to the black market trade would be more than offset by the improved conservation.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will oppose proposals for sales from the ivory stockpile at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species Standing Committee meeting on 2-9 October 2006; and if he will make a statement. [84285]

Barry Gardiner: The one-off sales were agreed in principle back in 2002 at the 12th CITES Conference of Parties but the Parties set a number of strict pre-conditions that have to be met before one-off sales of ivory can go ahead.

This will be discussed at the next CITES Standing Committee in October and the UK will continue to work with EU member states and CITES parties so that no decision to allow the proposed one-off sales can take place unless the strict conditions I have referred to have been met.

To assist any considerations I have asked the International Fund for Animal Welfare to prepare estimates of the cost of improving conservation measures to combat elephant poaching commensurate with ensuring that any stimulus that such one-off sales of stockpiled ivory might give to the black market trade would be more than offset by the improved conservation.

Levy Boards

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will make a formal announcement on the reconstitution of the UK levy boards. [84098]

Ian Pearson: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by my noble Friend, Lord Rooker, the Minister for Sustainable Farming and Food on the levy boards on 28 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 61WS.

Morecambe Sea Defences

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been allocated to Morecambe Sea Defence Scheme for the latest phase of work. [85035]

Ian Pearson: The final two phases of the Morecambe Sea Defence Scheme were approved in October 2005. The approved grant eligible cost is £13.8 million.

North Sea (Carbon Sequestration)

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the potential for carbon sequestration within abandoned North Sea fields; and if he will make a statement. [84275]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given on 4 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 50W.

Nuclear Waste

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the burial of nuclear waste on the environment around the site of burial. [84235]

Ian Pearson: The independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM), which was appointed by the Government in November 2003, has considered existing research into the environmental effects of the disposal of nuclear waste. The options CoRWM is considering include the geological disposal of radioactive wastes. It will publish its report at the end of July.

Palm Oil

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will carry out a study into the feasibility of producing an emblem to show which foods are not being produced using palm oil. [83093]

Barry Gardiner: Defra actively encourages manufacturers and retailers to improve the use of claims and labels to cover the environmental impact of their products.

However, as palm oil is used in a very wide range of goods, from food to personal care products, and each of these products falls under a different and complex piece of labelling law, it is currently not practical to demand individual products to be labelled. Instead we are focusing on the level of wholesale suppliers and supporting initiatives such as the Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) which has developed criteria to assess sustainable palm oil production.

For information on the RSPO go to: http://sustainable-palmoil.org/

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many parliamentary questions tabled to his Department were

awaiting a reply on 10 July 2006; which of those had been waiting longer than *(a)* two and *(b)* three weeks for a reply; and what the reason for the delay was in each case. [85204]

Ian Pearson: At 10 July Defra had received 5,031 parliamentary questions:

4,035 were ordinary written;

747 were named day; and

249 were Commons orals.

We had 141 questions awaiting reply, of which 126 had been waiting longer than two weeks and 15 were waiting longer than three weeks.

We aim to give Members a substantive response to any named day question on the named day and to answer ordinary written questions within a working week of them being tabled. This is not always possible, but Ministers are keen to hold the Department to these levels of performance in general.

Patio Heaters

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the *(a)* carbon dioxide and *(b)* greenhouse gas emissions created by outdoor patio heaters in (i) the most recent year for which information is available and (ii) each of the next five years. [84065]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 6 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 500W to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans).

Pet Fairs

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to change the regulations relating to the sale of pets at pet fairs and other informal markets. [84415]

Mr. Bradshaw: Our proposal to license pet fairs is detailed in the Regulatory Impact Assessment which was published alongside the Animal Welfare Bill. The Bill is currently being considered by Parliament.

The Department will consider any implications that the findings of the recent Judicial Review may have on our proposals to regulate pet fairs. We also intend to undertake a full public consultation before any regulations in this area are made.

Poultry Farmers

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* market conditions for the poultry industry in the UK and *(b)* the level of consumer confidence in poultry. [82713]

Barry Gardiner: Sales of poultry remain high in this country and the market is recovering generally across the EU. The Government and particularly their relevant agencies, continue to reassure the consumers of the food safety aspects of poultry products. Consumers have been rational in terms of consumption of poultry and eggs, helped by clear advice from the Food Standards Agency.

Regulatory Simplification

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulatory simplification proposals his Department has received since the start of the initiative; which stakeholders have been consulted on each proposal; and if he will make a statement. [81032]

Ian Pearson: Since the launch of the Government's regulatory simplification initiative on 15 September 2005, the Department has received 44 proposals from 21 organisations including the National Farmers Union, Construction Products Association and GlaxoSmithKline. Of these, 28 relate to or have implications for environmental regulations. Where appropriate, the Department has carried out further consultation with stakeholders on these proposals.

The Government are engaging with stakeholders from private, public, and voluntary sectors as part of a radical programme of reform to reduce unnecessary and burdensome regulation. The Government welcome suggestions from stakeholders for regulatory simplification.

Single Payments Scheme

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers are still to receive payment advice from the Rural Payments Agency. [83720]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency provides payment advice at the point it is ready to make payment to claimants. All claimants to the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) have received notification of their entitlement position. In the majority of cases these entitlement statements are supported by a fully validated claim. As of 4 July 2006, approximately 8,500 claimants to the 2005 SPS had yet to receive any payment or payment notification, over 8,000 of which are each due to receive less than €1,000.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers have not yet had single farm payment scheme application forms dispatched to them. [76179]

Mr. Bradshaw: Single Payment Scheme (SPS) application forms were dispatched to all known customers by 25 April 2006. A small number of new customers or existing customers requesting an additional copy of their form occurred after this date, all of which have been dispatched.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the error rate for single farm payment forms was for 2006; and if he will make a statement. [77815]

Barry Gardiner: By 15 June, the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) had received approximately 110,000 claim forms to the 2006 Single Payment Scheme. To assist customers and reduce processing time, RPA has been undertaking manual checks to ensure that claims contain sufficient information to process. Around 11 per cent. of the claims received did not contain the

requisite information, and the claimants have been contacted by RPA. With the exception of unsigned claims, which had to be returned to the customer, claimants were asked to provide the missing information to facilitate processing of their claim.

The remaining claims will be paid as soon as legally possible following the positive action set out in my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's oral statement on 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1478.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the largest single farmer subsidy, including EU subsidy, paid in Yeovil constituency was in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005. [82183]

Barry Gardiner: The largest subsidy payment made in the Yeovil constituency for the periods is given in the table:

	£
2003-04	190,195.36
2004-05	200,308.43

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of farmers are still to receive their single farm payments. [83718]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State's written statement on 5 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 43WS.

Sugar Beet

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to increase bioethanol production at sugar beet factories. [84124]

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential for developing sugar beet as a source of biomass and biofuels. [84307]

Ian Pearson: The Government support the use of bio-energy as part of the strategy for improving sustainability and reducing the impact of climate change. We recognise that the production of biofuels offers farmers an alternative market for sugar beet and are keen to develop this. British Sugar are building a biofuel processing plant in Norfolk that will use sugar beet as one of the feedstocks.

The Government are promoting the production of bioethanol through a 20 pence per litre duty rate cut. To further develop the supply of biofuels, a Renewable Transport Fuels Obligation will be introduced to require 5 per cent. of fuel sold in the UK to come from a renewable source by 2010. An enhanced capital allowance scheme is also being considered for the cleanest biofuels processing plants. This would allow the cost of capital assets to be written-off against taxable profits. Following the reform of the sugar regime, farmers can claim the EU's €45 per hectare Energy Aid payment for sugar beet grown on non set-aside land.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the viability of sugar beet as a rotation crop. [84308]

Barry Gardiner: The implications for UK growers of the reform of the EU sugar regime were included in the final Regulatory Impact Assessment which my Department submitted to Parliament following formal adoption of the agreement earlier this year.

Sustainable Competition

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the Department of Trade and Industry on the inclusion of the promotion of sustainable development within the remit of the Competition Commission; and if he will make a statement. [84638]

Ian Pearson: The Department has had no such discussions.

Tallow

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the categorisation of tallow as a waste product as defined by the Animal By-products regulations and the Waste Framework Directive. [83343]

Ian Pearson: Whether or not a substance is "waste" within the meaning of Article 1 (a) of the Waste Framework Directive (WFD) (75/442/EEC as amended) is a matter that must be determined on the facts of the case and the interpretation of the law is a matter for the Courts. It is not a function of the Government to classify or declassify any particular substance as waste or non-waste.

The EU Animal By-Products Regulation lays down rules governing the use and disposal of tallow, as well as other processed animal by-products, and requires that where tallow is subject to incineration or co-incineration (for example, used as a fuel), it must be disposed of as waste in accordance with the Waste Incineration Directive.

On 21 December 2005, the European Commission published its Thematic Strategy on the prevention and recycling of waste together with a proposed revision of the WFD. The draft revised WFD contains a proposal which would enable the Commission to adopt environmental and quality criteria for specified waste streams. Where these criteria are met, the effect would be to deem that the recovery of the specified waste had been completed and that it had ceased to be waste. The Commission's Thematic Strategy proposes that, subject to the outcome of an environmental study which the Commission is currently undertaking, the waste streams addressed by this system should include the use of tallow as a fuel.

Televisions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect of predicted future sales of high end television sales, including plasma screens, on carbon dioxide emissions from their use comparative to existing television use. [84072]

Ian Pearson: The Government's Market Transformation Programme (MTP) estimates that in 2005 the 63 million television sets in use in the UK consumed around 9.6 Terra Watt Hours (TWh) of electricity—equivalent to 1 million tonnes of carbon. By 2010, MTP estimates that the number of television sets will increase to around 67 million, consuming around 15.7 TWh of electricity—equivalent to 1.7 million tonnes of carbon.

MTP analysis indicates that, at present, new "traditional" cathode ray tube (CRT) televisions (larger than 24 inches) consume around 250 KWh per annum whereas "newer" flat screen plasma and LCD TVs (larger than 24 inches) consume an average of around 900 KWh per annum.

In 2005, MTP estimates that 56 million (88 per cent.) televisions were CRT sets and 6 million (10 per cent.) were plasma or LCD screens. In 2010, MTP expects that 51 per cent. of televisions will be CRT, 28 per cent. LCD, 10 per cent. plasma, and 11 per cent. other technologies.

Beyond 2010, newly emerging television technologies such as Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) screens, will offer potential energy savings in both manufacture and use, compared to existing LED technology. The MTP indicates that commercial OLED televisions will be available by 2010.

The issue of increasing emissions from new generation television sets and the potential impact of emerging technologies was assessed in a report published for Defra in June 2005, entitled "An Assessment of Emerging Innovative Energy Efficient Technologies as part of the Energy Efficiency Innovation Review". This report is available on the MTP web site at: www.mtprog.com

Timber (Papua New Guinea)

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to tackle illegal logging in Papua New Guinea; and if he will make a statement. [78898]

Barry Gardiner: Trade in illegal timber is unacceptable.

As the world's fourth biggest net wood product importer, the UK recognises that it can play an important role in influencing timber markets. The Government are committed to tackling illegal logging and its associated trade.

At the international level, the UK engages in a number of bilateral and multi-lateral fora. In particular we are working with other major G8 timber consuming countries to follow up commitments made to tackle illegal logging at the G8 Environment and Development Ministerial in March 2005.

Trees

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of trees in each country *(a)* had full crowns, *(b)* had slight defoliation, *(c)* had moderate defoliation, *(d)* had severe defoliation and *(e)* were dead in the most recent survey of tree health in Europe under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution. [84061]

Barry Gardiner: Surveys on defoliation are undertaken by the International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests—a body operating under the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution.

The most recent published results are those for the survey undertaken in 2004. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor as Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for South Dorset (Jim Knight), on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 432W. The results of the survey undertaken in 2005 are not expected to be published until September 2006.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps *(a)* have been taken and *(b)* are planned to improve tree health. [84062]

Barry Gardiner: The need to maintain, and improve where necessary, the health and vitality of trees is integral to the Government's approach to sustainable forest management. We have set this out in the UK Forestry Standard and its supporting literature, which contain many specific measures for protecting woodland and improving tree health. All woodland management by the Forestry Commission is consistent with this standard and we expect private woodland owners that receive grant aid from the Forestry Commission to also meet the standard. The Government have encouraged the development of the voluntary UK Woodland Assurance Standard that provides an independent verification of compliance with good practice and measures to ensure the continuing good health of woodland. We shall continue to ensure compliance with the UK Forest Standard in those woods managed by the Forestry Commission and encourage it in the private sector.

We will also continue to improve, through research, our knowledge of factors affecting tree health and we shall maintain a vigilant guard against the establishment of non-native pests and diseases.

The prospect of changing climate is a threat to the continuing good health of long-lived organisms like trees. We have a number of long-standing research programmes the results of which are being fed into adaptation policies for woodland. plans are well advanced for instituting more such research. Mindful of the changing potential risks from non-native pests, we have taken the steps necessary to make the UK a 'protected zone' within Europe for a number of pests

and diseases, most recently for a fungal blight of sweet chestnut. We are planning to implement measures, in accordance with an EU Commission decision which will apply throughout the community, against an insect pest of the same species, the oriental chestnut gall wasp.

In improving tree health, we are conscious that the use of chemicals against pests and noxious weeds may itself be a less than perfect solution. Therefore in 2004 we published guidance on reducing pesticide use in forestry and support moves to find other means of control. Examples are the recent deployment of a predatory beetle to control outbreaks of the great spruce bark beetle and continuing development of "integrated pest management" techniques against one of our most serious forest pests, the Hylobius weevil.

Warm Front

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will revise the Warm Front eligibility criteria to make low-income householders caring for a severely disabled adult eligible for assistance with heating and insulation improvements. [83896]

Ian Pearson: The Warm Front Scheme is designed to provide support to those households which are most at risk of fuel poverty. The eligibility criteria for the scheme are designed to identify those households through receipt of specified income or disability related benefits.

We regularly review the scope and delivery of the scheme and will consider this request as part of that process.

Waste

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many tonnes of *(a)* aluminium, *(b)* wood, *(c)* paper, *(d)* green waste, *(e)* glass, *(f)* steel and *(g)* textiles there were in the municipal waste stream in each year since 2004-05; and how much of each he estimates was (i) recycled, (ii) landfilled and (iii) sent to energy from waste facilities (A) in total and (B) broken down by local authority area. [84066]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on tonnages of specific materials in the municipal waste stream is not available, other than when separately collected for recycling. However, composition analysis of household waste carried out for the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report "Waste not, want not", published in November 2002, provided proportions of individual materials in the waste stream. These proportions have been applied to the 2004-05 WasteDataFlow results to produce estimated totals for England which are shown as follows. A breakdown of results for each local authority is not available.

2004-05

	Tonnes (thousand)
All cans	667
Scrap metal and white goods	1,157
Paper and card	4,746
Green waste (compost)	5,255
Glass	1,757
Wood	1,067
Textiles	750

Data on the tonnages of different materials from household sources collected for recycling in England since 2003-04 are not available.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total volume of *(a)* domestic, *(b)* commercial and *(c)* other waste was in each region in each year since 2002-03; what this represents per head of population; and what proportion was (i) sent to landfill, (ii) incinerated and (iii) disposed of by other means in each case. [84248]

Mr. Bradshaw: The estimates (data) for municipal waste (of which approximately 90 per cent. is domestic waste) arisings and management shown in the following tables are taken from the annual DEFRA Municipal Waste Management Survey for 2002-03 and 2003-04. Provisional municipal waste estimates for 2004-05 are from WasteDataFlow.

The figures for both commercial waste and industrial waste are taken from the Environment Agency's Commercial and Industrial Waste Survey and are available for 2002-03 only. Results for other types of waste are not available broken down at regional level. 'Other' includes waste recycled and/or composted. Totals may not add up due to rounding.

Municipal waste

Thousand tonnes

	Arisings	*Tonnes per head*[1]	*Landfill*	*Incinerated*	*Other*
2002-03					
East Midlands	2,449	0.58	1,899	142	408
East of England	3,012	0.56	2,369	43	600
London	4,446	0.60	3,163	873	410
North East	1,657	0.65	1,261	232	164
North West	4,344	0.64	3,625	112	607
South East	4,538	0.56	3,467	16	1,055
South West	2,901	0.58	2,263	3	635
West Midlands	3,046	0.57	1,650	968	428
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,000	0.60	2,372	217	411

Municipal waste

Thousand tonnes

	Arisings	Tonnes per head[1]	Landfill	Incinerated	Other
2003-04					
East Midlands	2,445	0.57	1,791	151	503
East of England	2,944	0.54	2,203	36	704
London	4,342	0.59	3,021	827	494
North East	1,636	0.64	1,147	216	273
North West	4,380	0.64	3,491	109	779
South East	4,529	0.56	3,310	93	1,125
South West	2,876	0.57	2,166	4	695
West Midlands	3,031	0.57	1,594	928	509
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,931	0.59	2,212	237	482
2004-5					
East Midlands	2,537	0.59	1,684	167	685
East of England	3,054	0.56	2,116	35	902
London	4,378	0.59	2,865	871	642
North East	1,669	0.66	1,103	229	337
North West	4,305	0.63	3,226	107	972
South East	4,635	0.57	3,138	187	1310
South West	3,000	0.60	2,098	3	898
West Midlands	3,124	0.59	1,530	952	643
Yorkshire and the Humber	3,033	0.60	2,141	275	618

2002-03 Commercial waste

Thousand tonnes

	Arisings	Tonnes per head(1)	Landfill	Incinerated	Other
East Midlands	2,322	0.55	1,178	113	1,031
East of England	3,308	0.61	1,389	111	1,808
London	5,604	0.76	2,520	286	2,798
North East	1,199	0.47	589	121	489
North West	3,833	0.57	2,035	133	1,665
South East	5,271	0.66	2,547	223	2,501
South West	2,967	0.60	1,549	47	1,371
West Midlands	3,019	0.57	1,457	99	1,463
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,797	0.56	1,261	64	1,472

2002-03 Industrial waste

Thousand tonnes

	Arisings	Tonnes per head[1]	Landfill	Incinerated	Other
East Midlands	5,771	1.37	2,550	145	3,076
East of England	3,256	0.60	857	202	2,197
London	1,902	0.26	482	88	1,332
North East	3,400	1.34	1,293	181	1,926
North West	4,502	0.66	1,867	226	2,409
South East	3,581	0.45	1,310	192	2,079
South West	2,589	0.52	802	63	1,724
West Midlands	4,246	0.80	1,457	135	2,654
Yorkshire and the Humber	8,339	1.67	2,574	89	5,676

[1] Calculated using mid-year population estimates from the Office of National Statistics.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for a variable charge for household waste; and what recent discussions he has had with the Local Government Association on this issue. [85096]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 3 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 749W.

The Secretary of State invited the Local Government Association (LGA) and local authorities to share their views on household waste charging when he addressed the LGA conference earlier this month. Neither I nor the Secretary of State have had further discussions on the issue with the LGA.

Water

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of residue from *(a)*

anti-depressant and *(b)* other drugs in waste water which has passed through sewage treatment plants. [84053]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 7 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 234W.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers Ofwat has to take action against overcharging of water customers; and what steps he plans to take in this area. [84684]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat reviews and sets overall price limits, which balance the need for individual water and sewerage companies to carry out their functions with customer interests. In December 2004, Ofwat set price limits for each company for the period 2005-10.

Companies are responsible for deciding individual charging schemes, but these must be approved by Ofwat every year. Detailed information on this is published in the "Water and sewerage charges report": http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/aptrix/ofwat/publish.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/tariff_report06.pdf/$FILE/tariff report06.pdf.

The established principle is that charges should broadly reflect the cost of the service provided. If necessary, Ofwat can take regulatory action to ensure that customers do not pay for services that have not been delivered.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will amend the building regulations to take account of the lower water infrastructure connection charges for new properties meeting high water efficiency standards; and if he will make a statement. [83932]

Ian Pearson: This summer, the Government will consult on proposals to revise regulations to secure improved water efficiency in new housing, following the Sustainable Buildings Task Group recommendations.

Within the Water Saving Group, Ofwat is looking at developing incentives to improve the promotion of water efficiency by water companies. Specifically, Ofwat is investigating infrastructure charges and the possibility of water companies offering housing developers incentives, in terms of reduced infrastructure charges, to install water efficient devices in new buildings. Ofwat is in the process of convening a small group of water companies and housing developers to discuss and assess the issues surrounding such incentives and the possible use of differential infrastructure charges.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* percentage and *(b)* volume of clean water was lost through leaks in public pipes in Guildford in each of the last five years; what cost was incurred due to the loss of water; and if he will make a statement. [84091]

Ian Pearson: Thames Water provides the water supply for the majority of consumers in Guildford, with some consumers being supplied by Three Valleys Water. Ofwat collects information on leakage on the basis of company supply area only. Specific figures relating to percentage, volume and cost of leakage in Guildford are not available. Water company leakage performance is published annually by Ofwat in the "Security of supply, leakage and the efficient use of water reports".

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average monthly cost to consumers was of *(a)* water services and *(b)* sewerage services in each water supply area in 2005-06; and what the average monthly cost was to (i) metered and (ii) unmetered customers. [84055]

Ian Pearson: Ofwat is the economic regulator for the water and sewerage industry in England and Wales. In December 2004 it set price limits for the period 2005-10.

The following table sets out the average monthly cost of water and sewerage services in 2005-06, for metered and unmetered customers. Each figure is based on the annual average bill for the particular service. Individual bills can be more or less than the average. More information can be found in Ofwat's "Water and sewerage charges 2006-07 report", available on their website at:

http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/aptrix/ofwat/publish.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/tariff_report06.pdf/$FILE/tariff_report06.pdf

2005-06

(£)

Water and sewerage companies	*Un-metered water*	*Un-metered sewerage*	*Metered water*	*Metered Sewerage*
Anglian	13	17	10	12
Dwr Cymru	13	17	9	9
Northumbrian	9	—	8	—
Essex and Suffolk	13	—	10	—
Severn Trent	11	10	9	10
South West	15	27	10	16
Southern	9	17	9	14
Thames	13	9	11	8
United Utilities	12	13	10	12
Wessex	13	15	10	11
Yorkshire	11	12	9	10

2005-06

(£)

Water and sewerage companies	Un-metered water	Un-metered sewerage	Metered water	Metered Sewerage
Water only companies				
Bournemouth and W	11	—	10	—
Hampshire	11	—	10	—
Bristol	10	—	8	—
Cambridge	13	—	12	—
Cholderton	11	—	7	—
Dee Valley	15	—	11	—
Folkestone and Dover	13	—	10	—
Mid Kent	7	—	7	—
Portsmouth	14	—	11	—
South East	9	—	8	—
South Staffordshire	13	—	10	—
Sutton and East Surrey	17	—	12	—
Tendring Hundred	12	—	10	—
Three Valleys				